



RUSSIA

Terror attack kills 35 at Moscow airport

35 people have been killed by an explosion in Moscow's busiest airport international arrivals hall. Other officials reported that 130 people were injured in what looked like a suicide bombing.



AUSTRALIA

Another week of heavy floods ahead

Australia's deadly flood crisis forced more people to flee their homes as a vast swath of muddy water spread further across the country's southeast, threatening to swamp rural communities.



MEXICO

Report: US questioned detained migrants

Newly released U.S. diplomatic cables indicate Mexico allowed U.S. officials to question undocumented migrants detained in Mexican territory as part of anti-terror efforts.

New building a welcome change for faculty, students

NICOLAS SARAVIA
Staff Writer

After the reconfiguration of an existing pond, landscape changes and redirected utility lines, the \$40 million project equipped with classrooms and administrative offices officially opened for the spring semester.

Completed two years after its official groundbreaking, the new home of the School of International and Public Affairs is a 58,400-square-foot complex specifically designed to comply with the Silver Category of the Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design.

LEED is an accreditation that recognizes improved environmental quality and responsibility.

The Ruth K. and Shepard Broad Auditorium has a capacity for 484 students—making it the largest space of its kind on campus.

The two-story auditorium has a unique 10,000 square foot green roof, which is the first in the University and currently the largest in South Florida.

The College of Arts and Sciences is currently hosting a campaign to name each of the auditorium seats for a donation.

A VIP section seat is available for naming for a \$1,000 gift, while the remaining seats can be purchased for \$100.

Destined to become a venue for high profile events and lectures, the auditorium will be outfitted with top of the line broadcast media equipment.



ESRA ERDOGAN/THE BEACON

(Starting clockwise) Thomas Breslin, professor of International Relations working in his four floor office. Students wait for class in the building's main lobby. The 484-capacity auditorium lets out students from class. Outside of SIPA's auditorium, students relax by an adjacent garden.

The SIPA building has become the new home to several departments and their administrative offices.

The Department of Global and Sociocultural Studies and the Department of Politics and International Relations have moved to the third and fourth floors

respectively.

Middle East, Asian, and European Studies programs have now relocated to the fifth floor of the new complex.

Faculty members moving from *Deuxième Maison*, their former office spaces to their new places in SIPA have certainly noted a

difference.

"I had a windowless box office before, so obviously I think it is fabulous. The more light in my life the better," said Caroline Faria, assistant professor at the Department of Global and Sociocultural Studies.

"The space is beautiful, bright and comfortable. In my previous office in DM, I could only accommodate one student, and here I will be able to meet with up to four," said Liliana Goldin, professor of social and economic

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Newly developed fee aims to save law students money

MELISSA CACERES
Staff Writer

A new fee is being developed for students at the College of Law, though, with more emphasis on saving them money instead of costing them money.

Recently approved by the FIU Board of Trustees, the new Test Preparation Fee brings lower costs for prep courses such as Kaplan and Barbri used by many law students in order to study for the Florida Bar Exam.

Based on actual tests costs, the fee amount could range from \$100-\$3,000 and only apply to students who, as part of their graduation requirement, are expected to obtain specific preparation for a practice based exam, according to the Florida Board of Governors website.

"It's hard for a student to write a check for \$5,000 straight out of law school," said College of Law Dean R. Alexander Acosta, who proposed the mandatory fee to the BOT. "With this, it becomes part of the cost of your education."

The Test Preparation Fee, as part of a degree program requests, is said to "increase the accessibility of students to test preparation courses and to lower the cost of the preparation courses through negotiated contracts." By including the fee as part of their degree requirements, students may be eligible to pay for the course through financial aid.

"Most university students will be taking these prep courses and by including it as part a required program, we can lower the cost by doing a contract negotiation or perhaps eventually even offering these

"Most university students will be taking these prep courses, and we can lower the cost by doing a contract negotiation or eventually even offering these programs ourselves."

Kenneth Jessell
Chief Finance Officer



programs ourselves," said Chief Finance Officer Kenneth Jessell, during the FIU Board of Trustees meeting on December 9.

According to the request sent to the Board of Governors, there have been informal focus-group discussions with students on

the desirability of the fee and the results "have been very positive."

"As long as the rate is better than if I came on my own and it's a part of my

PREP FEE, page 2

WEIRD NEWS

Padded Underwear for Men Gives Booty More Bounce

For the many men who suffer from severe “flat butt,” here’s some uplifting news: One line of padded underwear specifically for guys is meant to give the illusion of a little more junk in the trunk.

The padded underpants are manufactured by a Canadian company appropriately dubbed BottomsUp, which operates under the motto: “Building a Better Bottom.”

The company offers all kinds of shape-enhancing undergarments for both women and men but places a special emphasis on the male derriere.

Burglars Snort Man’s Ashes, Thought it was Cocaine

Burglars snorted the cremated remains of a man and two dogs thinking they had stolen illegal drugs.

The ashes were taken from a woman’s home in Silver Springs Shores. The thieves took an urn containing the ashes of her father and another with ashes of her two Great Danes.

“The suspects mistook the ashes for either cocaine or heroin. It was soon discovered that the suspects snorted some of the ashes,” the sheriff’s report said.

Once they realized their error, they threw them in a lake because they thought their fingerprints were on the containers.

Phone Keeps Ringing in Crocodile’s Upset Tummy

The crocodile in “Peter Pan” went “tick-tock” after swallowing an alarm clock but a crocodile in Ukraine has been a little less fortunate.

Gena, a 14-year-old crocodile at an aquarium in Dnipropetrovsk, has been refusing food and acting listless after eating a cell phone dropped by Rimma Golovko as she tried to photograph him.

Employees later heard the phone ringing from the inside of Gena’s stomach.

While the crocodile has not had a bowel movement in four weeks and seems depressed, Golovko hopes she can get her SIM card back from the alligator’s stomach.

– Compiled by Alexandra Camejo

Test prep fee awaiting final approval

PREP FEE, page 1

financial aid, I’m all for it,” said Iris Elijah, a third year law student at the FIU College of Law.

In Florida, a complete bar review course with Kaplan, one of the leading companies in test preparation, would cost \$3,245. The application needed for the Bar Exam is \$600, if the student applies early and \$1,000 when they do not. Also, there is an extra \$100

fee for those who wish to use their laptop during the test.

“Once you graduate, you face the cost of applying to and sitting for the Bar which is equal to almost a semester of tuition and that’s a lot of money for students,” said Acosta. “The test prep fee will make sure that studying for the Bar exam is affordable and will help make sure they get the best possible rate because we are now

negotiating on behalf of all our students.”

While the extra fee will be mandatory automatically, students shall have the option of being excluded; which can be done by filling out the needed paperwork.

“As long as the rate is better than if I came on my own and it’s a part of my financial aid, I’m all for it,” said Iris Elijah, a third year law student at FIU who plans on practicing enter-

tainment law.

Currently, the University is waiting to hear from the Florida Board of Governors for its final approval of the fee.

“FIU is about providing the students with the best possible education at a reasonable cost. That can’t just be in class,” Acosta stated. “We also have to think about what the students need to do to become lawyers and this is a large part of it.”

Students to be guided to preferred job

HAMPTON, page 8

is important students learn the groundwork of techniques and basics, but they must know how to adapt with the times.

“For example, we still have to know how to boil water, but what else is being done to create dining experiences that are leading edge? Molecular gastronomy mixes the disciplines of chemistry and cooking,” Hampton said.

Personal guidance and mentoring

for every student is the first change that will take place. Hampton is setting up an advising plan that looks at students’ resumes as a living document.

“The resume is an advising tool of what the student can bring to an employer. We want students to start thinking in the direction of their ultimate goal.”

The new advising style will prepare students to identify internships or other experiences with organizations which prepare them for

their preferred job. Faculty will work to set students up with contacts in the industry and with mentors who have excelled in their sector. Students will be encouraged to attend conferences and see the bigger picture of their industry. Finally, once all of this is mastered, HTM will work to get them in front of the right people so they have a proactive foot in the door before they even graduate.

“It’s a big responsibility to go in somewhere and show them that they have someone here.” Hampton said.

Occupants embrace building’s facilities

SIPA, page 1

anthropology. “We often need to meet with groups and this is one of the best features of the new space.”

“It is also a plus to be able to control the room temperature,” added Goldin.

Classes hosted in the SIPA building range from several disciplines such as English to biology, but primarily focus on SIPA related courses.

The building’s new

features, both interiorly and exteriorly, have impressed students coming through for class.

“I particularly like this building because, since it is new, everything is very nice and clean,” said Junior Christine Foulks.

The building was designed by the Architectonica firm, which has worked on projects such as the Bronx Museum of Arts, the American Airlines Arena and the United States’ embassy in Lima,

Peru.

Its location on the Modesto Maidique Campus has some students questioning the building’s functionality, but its modern style continues to draw in student approval.

“The building is very nice, offers a lot of facilities and classrooms that will be very helpful to the school. I have two classes there and it’s great,” said Richard Castro, freshman and business administration major. “The only down-

side is that it’s a bit out of the way from other more utilized classrooms like in the Graham Center or the Chemistry and Physics building.”

Although the building has been operational since Jan. 10, the SIPA building project is not over.

Outside of the auditorium, SIPA hopes that a future Japanese garden will “serve as an educational and healing tool as well as aesthetic attraction and event venue.”

THE BEACON

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STRING THEORY



ESRA ERDOGAN/THE BEACON

The FIU graduate string quartet, led by Paul Tulloch (left) and featuring guest Adam Sugarman (right) on clarinet, performed classics by Mozart and Beethoven at the SpecialTea Lounge & Cafe on Wed. Jan 19.

MEN'S BASKETBALL

FADING FAST

Road woes continue for Panthers in road defeat

JACKSON WOLEK
Staff Writer

All season long, the road has been a rough place for the Golden Panthers.

They were hoping to change that trend over the weekend, but it was just more of the same for FIU as they once again fell behind early to South Alabama.

The Panthers were unable to mount a comeback in an 86-78 loss Saturday, Jan. 22.

The team struggled to find scoring in the first half as leading scorer Eric Frederick got into foul trouble for the second consecutive game and saw a limited amount of action.

With Frederick playing just 17 minutes before fouling out and Dominique Ferguson fouling out with just nine minutes, it hurt the team down low significantly.

This was FIU's fourth straight loss and they have now fallen to 1-8 on the year away from home.

"We can't win games with those two fouling out and not being able to play in that certain period of time," Head Coach Isiah Thomas explained.

The Jaguars outscored FIU 18-6 in the paint in the first 20 minutes and held them to a dismal 30 percent from the field.

There were no major scoring runs from either team, but South Alabama always



REBECCA VILAFANE/THE BEACON

Eric Frederick [middle] had five rebounds and five points in the loss to South Alabama on the road. Frederick played a total of 17 minutes before fouling out.

held the lead and built it up to 13 by the time the buzzer sounded for halftime.

In the second half, The Golden Panthers (8-11, 3-4 SBC) made a valiant effort to dig themselves out of the hole they dug themselves into in the first half

and at many points were successful in doing so.

With 10:58 left to go, they were only down by one before South Alabama (8-

MEN'S, page 4

SWIMMING & DIVING

Panthers fall to FGCU in home meet

MALCOLM SHIELDS
Contributing Writer

On a chilly, 67-degree and overcast day, the Golden Panthers swimming and diving team returned back to competition against the Eagles of Florida Gulf Coast University.

This meet was the fourth of five consecutive home meets that were being held at the Bay Vista Aquatics Complex since the beginning of the 2011 portion of the team's schedule.

Divers Sabrina Beaupre, Namiko Shibata, and Jamie Stinson did not compete in Saturday's one meter and three meter events.

The Panthers would fall to FGCU by a score of 178 to 75 on Jan. 22. After the meet, Coach Randy Horner gave his assessment of his team's effort.

"We swam very tired today," Horner said. "Pretty much where we are right now; getting ready for the end of the season we're training really hard. We swam like that. We didn't really do anything great as far as any times, but its kind of where we expect to be right now. It's all about just sucking it up and being tough right now at this point of the season."

In the 200-yard Medley relay, the Golden Panthers relay team of Danielle Sneur, Erin Pavlick, Yesica Rojas, and Mariangela Macchiavello began slightly off the pace in second about half way through the competition.

The relay team would finish second just behind FGCU with a time of 1:50.56, earning four points for the Golden Panthers.

Senior Joanna Pomerantz had an overall

SWIMMING, page 4

WOMEN'S BASKETBALL

Second half struggles sink FIU in road loss against South Alabama

RICO ALBARRACIN
Asst. Sports Director

Although the Golden Panthers held tough in the first half against one of the toughest defensive teams in the Sun Belt conference, the second half was a different story.

FIU suffered their second consecutive loss on Jan. 22, as they lost 60-42 at South Alabama.

Freshman Jerica Coley led the Panthers in scoring with 15 points while junior Rakia Rodgers added 10 points of her own.

Both players led the team with five rebounds each.

FIU(7-14, SBC 2-5) got off to a hot start, as the Panthers were able to jump out to a quick 9-4 lead.

It was short lived, as USA (12-

7, SBC 4-3) came back with a 13-2 flurry to take a 17-11 lead.

The Panthers would go on an 11-4 run, to take a 22-21 lead off of a Liene Jekabsons layup.

Her layup would be the last point FIU scored in the half.

The Panthers went scoreless for the remaining 1:10 of the first half as the Jaguars retook the lead and went into halftime with a 25-22 lead.

FIU would not see another deficit that small. USA put pressure on the Panthers by going on a 11-2 run to start the second half.

The Panthers could only manage 20 second-half points, all while allowing 35 points to the Jaguars. A lot of it was attributed to second-chance points and fast-break opportunities for the Jaguars, as the

Panthers did not score any points in transition during the game.

The FIU Panthers will look to fight off their current losing streak and get back in the win column, as they take on Western Kentucky on Jan 26 at U.S. Century Bank Arena.

BOXSCORE

	FIU	USA
Field Goals	17-50	22-55
3-Point FGs	2-18	6-23
FG%	34	40
3-point FG%	11.1	26.1
Rebounds	28	41
Blocks	4	0
Assists	7	13
Turnovers	15	12



KRISTI CAMARA/THE BEACON

Jerica Coley [above] scored a team-high 15 points in the FIU loss to South Alabama

MEN'S BASKETBALL



KRISTI CAMARA/THE BEACON

Dominique Ferguson [right] fouled out in nine minutes of play, stifling his offensive production and hurting FIU under the basket.

Taylor to make home debut against Western Kentucky

JACKSON WOLEK
Staff Writer

FIU will head back home to try to put an end to their current four-game losing streak on Jan. 27 against Western Kentucky. Despite WKU's average Sun Belt Conference record, the Hilltoppers could possibly be the team's toughest test this year.

The Hilltoppers (7-11, 2-4 SBC), winners of the Sun Belt Conference tournament in 2008 and 2009 and winners of three NCAA tournament games in the past three seasons, have not been playing like the championship team of the past.

The 2010-2011 season has been a little different for WKU. The Hilltoppers are currently in fourth place, right behind the Golden Panthers, in the SBC East Division standings.

Despite being in the middle of the pack in the standings, Isiah Thomas still hopes to play for a bye in the conference tournament.

"The top two teams in the conference get byes going into the (first round of the) tournament, so this is a big game for us," said Thomas on

Thursday's matchup.

CONTAINING KERUSCH

For the Panthers (8-11, 3-4 SBC) to come out with a win, they must be able to stop or at least contain the third leading scorer in the Sun Belt.

Sergio Kerusch has averaged over 15 points a game this season and has been on a roll as of late. The senior forward scored 32 points the last time they met.

The Panthers will try to limit the amount of touches he gets, especially from offensive rebounds. Kerusch averages four of the team's 13 offensive boards a game (a conference best), which in turn give Kerusch more opportunities to shoot the ball.

"I actually played him my sophomore year at Illinois," said Legion, who was part of the 2008-2009 team that lost to Western Kentucky in the first round of the NCAA tournament. "He's very athletic and I've heard that he's worked on his jump-shot so we just got to keep him off the glass, I know he plays hard."

FOUL TROUBLE

Foul trouble has been a problem for FIU the last couple of games, and is an area that the team is certainly trying to avoid getting into.

Despite having foul troubles, the Panthers will face the worst free-throw shooting team in the conference. WKU is dead last with a 64 percent from the charity stripe.

"For whatever reason when we foul guys, they could be a 50 percent foul shooter but they go 8-10 for the night," said Thomas. "We'll err on the side of just playing good defense and getting the rebound."

TAYLOR'S HOME DEBUT

Newcomer to the team, point guard Phil Taylor will be making his highly anticipated home debut this game.

Taylor played eight minutes in a loss at South Alabama on Saturday, and could be a great complement to starter Phil Gary.

"I feel that if you get us both out there at the same time it could be pretty dangerous, you've got two quick guards and two guards that could harass the ball on defense," Taylor said.

Despite comeback effort, FIU drops fourth straight contest

MEN'S, page 3

10, 2-5 SBC) quickly made it a nine-point deficit in just a matter of three minutes.

The Panthers would roar back again and eventually take the lead for the first time since going up 2-0 early in the first.

They would lose the lead for the last and final time, as they they committed some costly fouls down the stretch.

It was a tale of two halves for Marvin Roberts, Alex Legion

and DeJuan Wright as they would combine for just 14 points in the first half and 45 points in the second.

All three were big parts of the Panthers runs, as well as newcomer to the team Phil Taylor, who made his first appearance in an FIU uniform.

"He helped us out a lot," Legion said of Taylor's performance. "He was part of that run where we were able to push the ball and get the comeback."

Taylor would play eight

minutes in the game, due in part to being new to the team and just getting used to the offense.

With all the new players who have entered the team this year halfway through the season, FIU has not had the opportunity to practice and play with each other as much as any other Sun Belt teams have.

"Every game we're just going to learn and just keep on fighting to get a good seed in the conference tournament to give ourselves a chance to win," Roberts said.

Seniors prepare for final home meet

SWIMMING, page 3

solid day. She began her day with the 1000-yard freestyle. She would finish fourth with a time of 10:52.25. Pomerantz would also finish in first place in the 200-yard Individual Medley with a time of 2:15.69; securing nine points for FIU. Pavlick would also finish in second in the 200-yard IM with a time of 2:21.53.

"I was excited. I was really excited about my 1000," Pomerantz said. "I felt really good about having a constant pace and to get back in the water. It felt great."

In the 200-yard freestyle, Macchiavello and Rojas would finish in second and fourth with times of 1:56.73 and 1:57.18 respectively.

"It was good," Rojas said of her day. "I swam events that I didn't swim before. I am really happy

about my times right now."

In the 100-yard butterfly, the Panthers would finish 1-2-3 as Kayla Derr would secure first place with a time of 1:01.86. Chelsie Kidd finished second with a time of 1:02.01 and Melissa Moreno finished third with a time of 1:02.21.

In the 200-yard freestyle relay, the FIU team of Macchiavello, Kariann Stevens, Vicnan Torres, and Derr finished in second to FGCU by only .06 hundredths of a second, with a time of 1:38.66.

Horner also talked about the importance of rounding his team into form with the Sun Belt Conference tournament coming up in February and finishing the season against FAU.

"Our conference championship is our number one focus," Horner said. "It's always good to swim a familiar opponent [in

Florida Atlantic]. It's going to be real special to finish off our dual meet season. Hopefully everyone will come out and cheer them on."

When the Panthers meet with FAU on Jan. 29, it will be the final home meet for Seniors Erin Pavlick, Joanna Pomerantz, Yesica Rojas, and Danielle Sneur.

"I'm excited for me, my seniors and my team... I'm pumped," Pomerantz said.

Pavlick also spoke about her last time swimming for FIU and her thoughts on Horner's impact on the program in his first season.

"It's really exciting. I'm excited for the team because of the new transition this year," Pavlick said. "It's just cool to be a part of the history making. I think [Horner] is great. We needed the change."

SUN BELT MEN'S BASKETBALL STANDINGS

TEAM	OVERALL	CONF	PCT
East Division			
FAU	15-6	7-0	.714
Middle Tennessee	9-11	4-3	.450
FIU	8-11	3-4	.421
Western Kentucky	7-11	2-4	.389
South Alabama	8-10	2-5	.444
Troy	4-15	2-5	.211
West Division			
Denver	10-10	6-1	.500
North Texas	16-4	5-2	.800
UALR	12-10	4-3	.545
Arkansas State	10-12	4-4	.455
Louisiana-Lafayette	5-14	2-5	.263
ULM	6-15	1-6	.286

*All records up to date as of Jan. 24



DANTE WILLIAMS/THE BEACON

Sabrina Beaupre [above] dives in a home meet earlier this season.

CAMPUS GEMS

Sculpture home to decade-long tradition

ALEXANDRA CAMEJO
Asst. News Director

Some students will go to any length to assure a good grade on an exam—whether it’s going over material weeks in advance, forming a study group, or even hiring a tutor—for some, the final fate of their grade is all in the hands of a quick spin.

“Marty’s Cube,” as it was officially titled by sculptor Tony Rosenthal, has stood outside of Deuxieme Maison since 1998. While it was originally intended to stand as a piece of art, the spinning sculpture took on a whole different purpose several years ago.

According to Student Alumni Association Tradition, a group of chemistry students studying for finals under the cube decided to spin it for a bit of fun.

Two weeks after that night, each member of the group learned that they had inexplicably earned a perfect score on their exam.

Attributing their grades to the cube, they decided to repeat this study habit the following semester. After studying and spinning the cube, each group member earned an A on their exams once again.



ESRA ERDOGAN/THE BEACON

Andrew Fricke, a junior mechanical engineer major, spins “Marty’s Cube” on his way to class. Spinning the cube has become a superstition for students since its installation in 1998.

As the next semester came, this group of students decided to test the true power of the cube. Going against their previous studying ritual, they did not spin “Marty’s

Cube” on the week of their final exams. Not only did each student fail their exam, they were forced to repeat the class altogether.

From that moment on, all

students have been advised by campus tour guides and upper-classmen alike to spin the 15 foot sculpture about 24 hours before an exam to guarantee the perfect

score bizarrely achieved so long ago.

Thatine Cargo, assistant director of the student and campus outreach program, claims that the spinning cube’s tale has been passed down to incoming freshmen since the early 2000s. As part of SAA tradition, “Marty’s Cube” has become an influential symbol during midterm and finals week at Modesto Maidique Campus. It is still included in the Student Government Association’s Cram Jam at MMC every year.

While the success rate of this cube truly lies in the preparation of its spinner, for some it simply provides a sense of security during exam week chaos.

“As ridiculous as it might seem to others, I just feel better going into each exam after spinning that cube,” said junior and advertising major Beatriz Sanz. “It’s a way for me to send my anxiety out and leave it in the cube.”

The tale of the cube has left some students, such as sophomore and engineering major Ray Vargas, skeptical of the sanity of students who rely on “Marty’s Cube.”

CUBE, page 6

STUDENT PROGRAMMING COUNCIL

Last Lecture series the newest addition to SPC lineup

ASHLEY LAPADULA
Staff Writer

Dedicated to organizing events catered to students and raising school spirit, the Student Programming Council, better known as SPC, has come up with a new lecture series to give students the opportunity to get better acquainted with the University community.

The SPC-MMC will debut a new lecture series called “What Would You Say” at the GC Ballrooms on Jan. 26 at 6:30 p.m.

“This lecture is unlike anything FIU has seen before,” director of the event, SPC’s Vice President of Campus Relations, Andrea Rodriguez said. All students are invited to join the event and admission is free.

The keynote speaker and honoree of the evening will be Dr. Kenneth Claus, an English professor. Dr. Claus’ topic of choice and “Last Lecture” will be: “Hyper Activity As An Art form.”

It is an FIU version of the “Last Lecture,” which allows professors the opportunity to speak about whatever they have an inclination towards.

It is based around the idea that the keynote speaker is giving a lecture as if it were his or her final speech to the student population. This lecture will be the kick-off of a new SPC tradition for students and the community.

Dr. Claus began teaching at the University 15 years ago around the fall term of ‘95. By the fall of 2000, he was the first adjunct in the English Department to win FIU’s Excellence In Teaching award. By spring 2010, he was showered with outstanding ratings from a popular college web site, www.RateMyProfessors.com.

As his popularity grew, his classes quickly reached capacity as the comments on the website surfaced. Students blogged and commented about Dr. Claus’ classroom experience. “He is by far one of the best teacher’s I have ever had. He cares about his students and most importantly makes the class engaging for all,” one student commented on the site.

With more than 100 affirmative comments on this college board web site,



BURKE HILL/THE BEACON

Comedian Erik Rivera started off SPC’s Week of Welcome events on Monday Jan 10 in GC. Rivera is known for his autobiographical style of humor and as a talented Latino comedian. Rivera is originally from New York.

he was listed as the 19th best professor in the United States.

In addition, he is best known throughout FIU as the “Harry Potter Professor” because he uses Harry Potter books as a teaching utensil.

In order to choose the honoree of the year, SPC held online polls, where students nominated and voted for

their favorite choice. In conjunction with Dr. Claus, some of the other nominees were: Margo Berman, Bruce Hauptli, Darden Pyron, Elizabeth Nicoli Suco, Stephen Winkle and more.

The Student Programming Council (SPC) is an organization that schedules free events for students and its community throughout each

semester to make the college experience enjoyable.

Events range from comedy shows to movies, pool parties, concerts and lectures. The council works with other organizations on campus to provide a more diverse series of events to students.

Not to mention, members of SPC have the opportu-

nity to gain leadership experience, network and learn how to schedule a variety of events.

If you’d like to find out more about upcoming SPC events, visit www.fiu.edu/~spc and www.facebook.com/fiuspc.

For more information visit GC 2304 or e-mail us at spc@fiu.edu.

FOOD FOR THOUGHT

South Beach café offers good food at a high cost

On any given night in South Beach, street side restaurants send their hostesses out to sucker-excuse me-convince customers to come eat at their (sometimes mediocre) establishment with a variety of dinner and drink specials. Recently, I fell into one of their traps.

COLUMNIST



JASMYN ELLIOTT

Sea Cafe, 740 Ocean Dr. Miami Beach, only a few steps away from the Colony Hotel, is a place that prides itself on its extensive

cocktail menu and their strong-hold on paella.

On this Friday night, customers could either choose to dine on paella for \$19.95 per plate, 20 percent off an entrée purchase or two-for-1 cocktails. Unfortunately, the restaurant doesn't allow customers to combine the offers.

I, for one, took advantage of the drink special by ordering two "Rok'n Rosé" sangrias, made with rosé, pineapple, oranges and lemon. The lighter variety of wine lent itself to a more refreshing take on this bar standard, but it also took away the characteristically sweet flavor.

As it turns out, this is the very thing that made it a worthwhile pairing with my dinner.

I decided upon their seafood spaghetti, which was riddled with clams, shrimp mussels and calamari topped with a light olive oil-garlic sauce-according to the menu.

In reality, the calamari dominated the dish while the other seafood varieties made a guest appearance. I am happy to report, however, that the calamari wasn't at all tough and could easily be cut with a fork. Overall, the simplistic flavors melded well for a great meal.

My brother ordered the paella

and was generous enough to let me have a few bites. Although the presentation looked nothing like the spiffy one on display, the taste made up for it.

The variety of seafood was much more apparent and the bright flavor of the saffron and savory spice of the chorizo was the perfect compliment. I will admit that there was a lot of broth used, almost to the point that it looked more like soup with rice, but it served the purpose of blending the flavors together.

Another dish of note is the salmon farfalle with vodka sauce. The portions of fish in the dish were very generous and very

fresh. I was pleasantly surprised to taste a smoky quality to the vodka sauce instead of the usual tomato-based bite I expected. It gave the pasta a mellow flavor that I hope I will encounter once again.

With all this being said, I cannot justify the cost of the entrées, as a meal at the Sea Café costs at least \$25 outside of the Friday night paella special. In the event you make the trek to South Beach to try this place out, but make absolute sure that it's on a pay day.

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

Habitual wardrobe a part of studying superstitions

CUBE, page 5

"If any student thinks that spinning a giant cube is going to contribute to an A, they really must have not studied. Nothing guarantees an A except for studying, and I don't see much point to it," said Vargas.

While depending on a gigantic cube may appear unorthodox, this SAA tradition is not the only superstition University students follow on exams week.

"After receiving a perfect score on my physics test, I was beyond happy, but it wasn't until I got the same grade on my chemistry test that I realized a connection—I was wearing the same pants on both test days. Ever since then, these pants go on me to every exam," said Ana Rivas, sophomore and biology major.

Hoping to absorb the study material

at all hours, Senior and business major, Gonzalo Lopez, has stuck review notes under his pillow since he was a senior in high school.

"I don't know if it's osmosis or if it's my mind playing tricks on me, but putting those notes under my pillow has become such a habit that I won't let go now," said Lopez.

Whether it's a habitual wardrobe, a note-filled slumber, or even a spin of "Marty's Cube," this test week routine, according to author and Vice President of Actex Publications, Nicholas Mocchiolo, could actually have an affect on a student's test performance.

In his book, *Making the Grade: The Aspiring Actuary's Guidebook to Consistent Exam Success*, he suggests that "reasonably insignificant superstitions"

should be indulged instead of discouraged. Describing it as highly "personalized weaponry," Mocchiolo mentions a student's insistence on buying new pens for every test because an old one had written something "incorrect at some point in its life."

"Whether real or imagined, they can help all of us find comfort during the most stressful times in our lives."

Staying true to Mocchiolo's advice, students continue to show up around exam

time outside of DM to rest their fate on the oversized sculpture.

Call it magic or superstition, but at some point in the future, whether it be today or whether it be two weeks from now, there will be a student sending the hopes for their test for a spin on "Marty's Cube."

Campus Gems is a series of features on University traditions and landmarks.

THIS WEEK ON CAMPUS

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 26, 2011

SPC LECTURE PRESENTS: WHAT WOULD YOU SAY?



WHEN: 6:30 p.m.
HOW MUCH: Free
WHERE: MMC GC Ballrooms

SPC: GUITARIST AUSTIN KYLE



WHEN: 4 p.m.
HOW MUCH: Free
WHERE: BBC Panther Square

TIME MANAGEMENT WORKSHOP

WHEN: 2-3 p.m.
HOW MUCH: Free
WHERE: BBC AC-1 160

SGA BBC MEETING

WHEN: 3:30-5 p.m.
HOW MUCH: Free
WHERE: BBC WUC 155

FIU WOMEN'S BASKETBALL VS. WKU

WHEN: 6-8 p.m.
HOW MUCH: Free
WHERE: U.S. Century Bank Arena

TARGET WEDNESDAY AFTER HOURS

Designed to complement Frost exhibitions, the events give visitors the chance to engage with art, live music, talks, films, dance performances, poetry slams and performance art.

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

MORNING YOGA



WHEN: 8-9 a.m.
HOW MUCH: Free
WHERE: TBD

MIAMI JEWISH FILM FESTIVAL: PROTEKTOR



WHEN: 9 p.m.
HOW MUCH: \$9-\$11
WHERE: Regal South Beach Cinema 18

SGC MMC CABINET MEETING

WHEN: 4-5 p.m.
WHERE: GC 211A

THURSDAY, JANUARY 27, 2011

HOLOCAUST REMEMBRANCE DAY

SPC: Community Cinema: For once in my life
WHEN: 7 p.m.
HOW MUCH: Free
WHERE: BBC WUC Theater

ROBERT FARBER LECTURE



Robert Farber's style has helped to influence a generation of photographers through vast public exposure of his work.

WHEN: 2:30 & 5 p.m.
HOW MUCH: Free
WHERE: Frost Art Museum

"MEET AND GREET"

Hosted by Tri-Beta Biology Honor Society.
WHEN: 6-8 p.m.
HOW MUCH: Free
WHERE: MMC GC 155: Porter Davis Game Room

ASU'S FIRST GENERAL MEETING

WHEN: 3:30-6 p.m.
HOW MUCH: Free
WHERE: MMC 287B

NEW WORLD SYMPHONY'S OPENING CONCERT



WHEN: 7:30 p.m.
HOW MUCH: \$100
WHERE: New World Symphony

RUSSELL SIMMONS



WHEN: 8 p.m.
HOW MUCH: Free
WHERE: Books & Books

ADVISOR TRAINING

Hosted by Council for Student Organizations.
WHEN: 9 a.m.-4 p.m.
HOW MUCH: Free
WHERE: MMC GC 1235

If you would like to have your event featured in the calendar, email us at calendar@fiusm.com.

TACO RICO



ALEXIA ESCALANTE/THE BEACON

Jocelyn Cardenas, a junior accounting major and SPC member, is all smiles as she passes out tacos on Jan. 24 in the GC Pit. SPC is responsible for Week of Welcome and the "What Would You Say?" lecture series.

Internet regulation necessary for growth

GISELLE RODRIGUEZ
Staff Writer

On Dec. 21, 2010, the Federal Communications Commission passed landmark legislation for Internet regulation. The idea of net neutrality has been brought up and discussed repeat-

There has been several petitions begging the FCC to reconsider its position and keep net neutrality from taking place. This, however, is nonsense.

edly over the past few years, especially in light of the Internet's growing part in our lives.

Now used as a tool by everyone from businessmen and government officials to elementary school students, the Internet was long overdue for some basic guidelines. As anyone who has ever been on the Internet can attest, it is not a place generally known

for its upholding of the law and, like anything else in this country, it too needs some regulations to make it safe for everyone.

There has been a lot of talk online about the imposition of the Net Neutrality rules, as well as several petitions begging the FCC to reconsider its position and keep net neutrality from taking place. This, however, is nonsense.

The Net Neutrality rules, as imposed by the FCC, are relatively simple. They call for transparency on the part of the broadband providers, no blocking of any legal site and no unreasonable discrimination against local, legal network traffic.

The rules are relatively easy to understand and are there to ensure the Internet will continue as we know it. The broadband companies brought this upon themselves. By insinuating they would be creating a "fast track" of service for certain sites depending on how much they paid, they interfered with how the Internet works.

The FCC even acknowledges this in its statement to the public, citing that

"the Internet has thrived because of its freedom and openness – the absence of any gatekeeper blocking lawful uses of the network or picking winners and losers online."

The FCC's rules are there to make sure that the Internet continues to be a place for innovation and competition, regardless of background. We live in a country where anyone is able to create something and sell it. Starting your own business is encouraged, and someone who comes from modest means can become someone with everything. The Internet has helped make that possible.

By attempting to change the very fabric of the Internet and its appeal for so many, the broadband companies essentially betrayed the trust of their consumers. In a case like this, it is the job of the government to step in and take action to ensure that our freedoms are not taken away.

The FCC rules stop the broadband companies from taking over without overstepping the bounds of the law.

Software licensing puts users at a disadvantage

GIOVANNI GONZALEZ
Staff Writer

Everyone who has purchased software has come across an agreement contract between the developer and the end user meant to protect the interests of both parties. Most of us simply scroll to the bottom and click "Accept" while trying to get to our software as soon as possible. Recently, it is becoming more common for the software developers to include more fine print that benefits them and less that benefits consumers.

It is not right for software developers to draft these contracts in their favor while knowing that most users don't read them in the first place. These End User License Agreements are typically used to ensure that software is not copied or changed after purchase. All software development companies have different stipulations in their contracts and some heavily favor the developer over the consumer.

One such condition was a Digital Rights Management clause in the iTunes EULA. The condition stated that all songs purchased from the iTunes store would be protected by DRM and could only be used on iTunes and other Apple products. This meant copying songs, playing them in other programs and using them within any products not cleared by Apple was prohibited. This severely limited the songs purchased by users. As a result of public disagreement, DRM protection was lifted in 2009.

Apple also has the right to remove applications from the iTunes App Store without notifying a user, even after the app has been purchased. If, for any reason, users want to re-

download the app, it will be unavailable and they will have nothing to show for what they paid. Conditions like these are covered in the software agreements.

Some software developers will go as far as instituting installation limits on their programs to ensure that they are not installed on multiple computers. EA Games, Windows and Microsoft all impose limits to how many machines can run their programs and how many times they can be installed. Although it is covered by the contract agreement that one must accept before installing the program, it is completely unreasonable to limit a program installation to only a few times.

Countless things can happen that can cause a program to need a re-installation. After the final one, users must purchase another copy of the program if they wish to keep using it. This clearly favors the developer because, in the long run, it will lead to repeat purchases of the same product.

EULA also curb originality and innovation because many prohibit copying or making changes to the program. This stops experienced users from improving the programs they like to use. A customer should not be denied the ability to customize a product for improved efficiency and usability just because the software developers disagree with it.

It is discouraging to see large software development corporations take advantage of their customers by making them follow silly rules before they can even use their products. The EULA were meant to protect both the user and the developer, but it seems that the users are getting the short end of the stick after paying good money for products they cannot control.

College study has merit, but flawed methodology

CRISTINA MIRALLES
Contributing Writer

According to The Huffington Post, a study conducted on more than 2,300 undergraduate students showed that 45 percent of them performed poorly in areas such as critical thinking, complex reasoning and writing. I think there are different reasons that explain why students do not learn enough about these areas in college. Among these, are having unqualified professors, technology and the involvement in extracurricular activities.

Having unqualified professors contributes to the reason why students may not have a positive learning experience in college, especially when some courses are taught by the professor and the teaching assistant. I think there should only be one person teaching each class, because more than one person communicating the same information will only confuse the students.

Another thing I have noticed is that a lot of the professors are just as lost as some of

the students. Sometimes, they seem like they do not know what they are talking about and give out a lot of information that does not make sense.

For example, I had a professor who would constantly change the syllabus and let the students change her mind. Her grading and assignments on Blackboard were never up to date, and she would have to pause after each sentence to look at the book, as if she didn't know what she was talking about. To me, this is an unqualified professor. Instructors should not have to look at the book every other minute like they have no idea what to say next.

After gaining some college experience, I have seen that another reason many students do not learn is because of technology. When you walk into a classroom in most universities today, you notice that almost every student has a laptop. While the professor is teaching, many students, are on Facebook, watching videos and even emailing other professors and completing assignments.

Some think they are able to multitask but, in reality, it is hard to do more than two things at once.

Technology today takes over many aspects of our lives. Students do not have to put in a lot of effort to research a particular topic. All they have to do is go to Google, type in what they are looking for and then receive over 100 results.

Being a part of extracurricular activities and having off-campus jobs can also be reasons why students do not learn much today. Many students join more than one club or organization and lose track of their studies. Having an off-campus job is difficult, since most of the time students have to choose their classes according to their work schedule.

Sometimes, it may come to a point where the student is so overwhelmed and tired that he does not feel like completing any assignments. This leads to failing courses, falling asleep in class and possibly having to repeat a course or two.

I found it interesting that The Huffington Post talks about part of its research being based on giving students a standardized test in order to see what level they reach. As a result, they found that the average student scores increased by seven percent from Fall 2005 to Spring 2007. In my opinion, students' knowledge should not be based on the results of a standardized test. I, for one, am a good student with good grades, but I struggle with test taking, and I am sure this is the case for many others.

Going to school takes time and dedication, and I think these are two big factors that take a part in academic performance and learning. Having an off-campus job, taking three classes and being part of a club will hold you back a little.

College is a main step toward achieving your final career, and it takes a lot of effort to complete. However, every student is different and has a different lifestyle and way of learning, so generalizing based on test scores does not provide accurate results.

DISCLAIMER

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

SEND US YOUR LETTERS

Have something on your mind? Send your thoughts (9500 words maximum) in 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 (500 words maximum) regarding or in response to its editorials, send them to opinion@fiusm.com

VERBATIM

"If it weren't for the coffee, I'd have no identifiable personality whatsoever."

David Letterman



CUBA

Mail service of US suspended

Cuba suspended indefinitely all mail service to the United States on Friday, extending a ban announced in November and expanding it to cover letters as well as packages.



DOMINICAN REPUBLIC

President: Duvalier should face justice

Haitian President Rene Preval said Saturday that ex-dictator Jean-Claude "Baby Doc" Duvalier had every right to return home from exile, but must now face an investigation of alleged abuses during his reign.



VENEZUELA

Chavez supporters and foes stage rallies

Allies and adversaries of President Hugo Chavez took to the streets of the capital by the thousands Sunday, staging rival demonstrations to commemorate the 53rd anniversary of Venezuela's democracy.

HOSPITALITY AND TOURISM MANAGEMENT

Mike Hampton details some of his plans for HTM

CHARITY VERGARA
Contributing Writer

Mike Hampton is not afraid of experimenting with the formula for teaching hospitality, and he's looking at a world-renowned bicycle race as a possible model. "We gotta take the lead and I'm not shy so I don't mind getting out there and trying things!" said Hampton, the new dean for the School of Hospitality and Tourism Management.

Just one of the possibilities Hampton is tinkering with is following the Tour de France, learning about wine, lodging and food on the go. As a longtime cycling enthusiast and Tour de France fan, he might have extra motivation for that study abroad program.

During a recent interview with Student Media, Hampton explained what he's been doing his first weeks as dean of HTM, which included letting HTM students know he's available to them, learning the concerns of HTM students and faculty, and setting up a new plan for advising.

A man whose presence exceeds his size, Hampton's energy radiates and intoxicates everyone around him.

"He's the epitome of hospitality," gushes his secretary Dawn Minisall. "He's so hands-on."

One of his first actions was to move his desk closer to the door



ELIZABETH BRUNA PINEDA/THE BEACON

Mike Hampton, seen here in the Carnival Student Center, was appointed dean of the School of Hospitality and Tourism Management in November 2010. He started his term as dean this semester.

of his office so people can easily see if he is available. Redoing his office is symbolic for his motto "keeping an open dialogue."

Many HTM students have already received his business card.

He's been giving students his card with his mobile number on it saying, "If you need to text me or call me, you do that."

"The thing that we have to do for the school is to create an environment where students are better engaged," Hampton said.

Minisall relayed the story of Hampton's good deeds at the school's "Welcome back BBQ."

"He went to every table and talked with every student. I've never seen someone do that before," she added, "He's a great boss. He's smiling and always happy."

"I've gotten a very warm welcome," Hampton said. "The students had been with an interim dean for such a long time. Students and faculty were very anxious to see what direction the school was going to take."

That direction aligns with the University's "Worlds Ahead" strategy.

"And it was completely coincidental," Hampton continued,

"At this point I'm very busy gathering information. Assessing capacities, human resources, physical resources, and fiscal resources. [The Kovens Conference Center], China, [the South Beach Wine and Food Festival]... I'm in fact finding mode right now. The short term goal is to get an assessment on what we have and what we need to start working on."

Fact finding mode to maximum capacity is what Hampton's been up to his first three weeks as dean.

He has been in meetings with everyone from faculty, to inves-

tors, to students, to faculty of other schools.

The brainstorming within HTM has led to the creation of a long wish list.

The wish list consists mainly of facilities and research funds.

Faculty would like more research labs. Graduate students want their own building to accommodate the learning style of their programs.

Hands-on facilities like a model hotel room, a spa, or events management labs.

Students need funds to do study abroad.

"The wish list will be prioritized and then quantified," Hampton said.

The dollar amount for the list reaches into the seven-figure range.

"Definitely in the millions," Hampton said. However, it is too early to speculate what will be done. The five-year strategy is still in the stage of the first strokes of a pen to paper for a blueprint.

For now, students are encouraged to engage with HTM faculty and especially their new dean, a man who thrives off personal connection.

Hampton's foremost priority is teaching students the critical thinking skills they'll need to make their college education impervious to obsolescence. It

HAMPTON, page 2

Celebration breakfast to honor life of Cuban activist

MALCOLM SHIELDS
Contributing Writer

For the eleventh consecutive year, the University will celebrate the life, vision, and poetry of one of Cuba's greatest activists: Jose Marti.

The Jose Marti Celebration Breakfast will take place on Friday, Jan. 28 at the Wolfe University Center on the Biscayne Bay Campus.

Marti was born in Havana, Cuba in 1853.

Throughout his life, he was an outspoken opponent of Spanish colonialism in Cuba.

Marti would be exiled from his homeland to Spain after expressing his political views that were critical of the ruling Spanish colonists.

While in exile, his vision for an independent Cuba was intensified by seeing other Latin Amer-

ican countries receiving their independence.

Marti began a movement for Cuban independence in 1892. In 1895, he would return to Cuba and would be killed fighting alongside other Cuban revolutionaries against the Spanish.

Jan Solomon, development officer in the Office of the Vice Provost at BBC, put into context the significance of Marti's accomplishments in Cuban history as well as his importance to the Cuban American community here in South Florida.

"He is remembered as a great patriot for Cuba," Solomon said. "He was a writer, a poet, a journalist and an activist for human rights and political rights."

"He is just remembered as in a way [Americans] have Martin Luther King – Cubans have Jose Marti.

He is a person to be remembered for freedom and he really represents freedom for the Cuban people."

The festivities will begin at 8 a.m. at Panther Square. Cuban food and refreshments will be provided to those who attend the ceremony.

After the meal, the ceremony will move into the Mary Ann Wolfe Theater where a musical performance by David Lawrence Upper Academy will be conducted in tribute to Marti.

The musical showcase will be performed completely in Spanish. The performance will be about thirty minutes long.

The event's theme this year is focused on universal human rights and responsibilities.

A panel consisting of former Cuban political prisoners Adolfo Fernandez Saiz, Pedro Pablo,

Alvarez Ramos, and Omar Ruiz will speak about living under the harsh rule of communist Cuba.

"They will speak about the experience as well as ... what Jose Marti means to them, what this day means to them and the importance of human rights," Solomon said.

University professors Fernando Figueredo, Uva de Aragon, and Teresa Pointe will conduct the question and answers portion of the ceremony with the political prisoners.

"It will be a real learning experience for whoever is there," Solomon said.

At the conclusion of the ceremony, three scholarships will be presented to three University students who were nominated to receive the Jose Marti Scholarship.

It is based on high academic achievement.

Each scholarship awarded will be \$500 to each recipient courtesy of the Jose Marti Scholarship Fund.

Applicants for the scholarship had to have a minimum 3.0 GPA and had to complete a one page essay explaining what are the main values to universal human rights and the definition of global citizenship.

The event is free to the public.

JOSE MARTI BREAKFAST

- Time: 8 a.m.
- When: Jan. 28
- Where: Wolfe University Center