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# PUTTING THE WINDS TO WORK

DANIELLA BACIGALUPO  
IRENE PORTILLO  
Beacon Staff



GIO GUADARRAMA/THE BEACON

**BREAKING POINT:** Graduate students Muhammad Azhar Saleem and Yilei Shi, doctorate students in civil engineering, apply pressure to aluminum beams until they break. The beams may be used in drawbridge construction.

Nakin Suksawang, assistant director of the SCL, explained that the size of the lab is important because while most structural labs scale down their models, the SCL allows full-scale structure testing. The results using scaled

models might not reflect “the actual behavior” of a full-sized structure in a storm, said Suksawang.

“The lab is quite unique,” Mirmiran said. “This is the only lab in the state of Florida that

allows [us] to test a bridge inside a lab – up to a 65-foot bridge. The lab allows us to test the entire house inside the lab under uplift that is generated by wind.”

LAB, page 2

# MAILROOM EMPLOYEES PROTEST POSSIBLE LAYOFFS

DANIELLA BACIGALUPO  
Staff Writer

With their future uncertain due to unprecedented budget cuts at FIU, mailroom employees are worried their protests are falling on deaf ears.

“This is hard and it’s hard for everyone,” said Vivian Sanchez, senior vice president for Finance and Operations. “We are really trying to do the right thing.”

Frustrations over the possibility of the postal services being outsourced have resulted in outspoken protest by mailroom employees.

Sanchez, as well as University President Modesto Maidique and Provost Ronald M. Berkman, have been steadfast in communicating with the University community that nothing has been decided and that all options are on the table.

However, emphasis is being placed

in the “need to protect the educational and instructional part of the institution,” Sanchez said, adding that finding internal “deficiencies” and external “investment dollars” is necessary to keep the University growing academically.

For years, the mailroom has sent proposals to different department heads in attempts to implement ideas that would save the University money, said Assistant Post Manager Livio Dominguez.

One of his ideas is to update and correct mailing lists. The turnaround rate – rejected mail that is returned at a fee – costs the University around \$20,000 a year, he calculates. The search for investment dollars led the University to consider sending out Request for Proposals to various multinational vendors to outsource a package of services including mailing.

This launched the subsequent

verbal protests by mailroom employees during the University Services and Personnel Senate meeting on April 9 and the President’s Town Hall meeting on April 14.

According to Catherine Vasquez, assistant to the Post Manager, mailroom employees were approached three weeks ago and told about the possibility of outsourcing. The following Monday after the announcement, she said, vendors were surveying the mailroom.

Vasquez calls the move “unfair” because mailroom employees’ desires to make it more efficient and economical were attempted for years but were ignored by the University.

Senior Clerk Thomas L. Piacente, said when the employees were told about the outsourcing, none of the representatives from Facilities could answer their questions.

Sanchez said she never heard of

# Vice provost Fernandez resigns

EDDITH SEVILLA  
BBC Managing Editor

Biscayne Bay Campus Vice Provost Damian Fernandez announced his resignation to University President Modesto Maidique and Provost Ronald Berkman on April 14.

Fernandez, who served as interim vice provost and nominal head of BBC for almost two years, has accepted the position of provost and executive vice president at The State University of New York in Purchase, effective Fall 2008.



FERNANDEZ

“It’s a fantastic opportunity ... But at the same time, it’s bittersweet. We’ve all been committed to FIU in general, but to BBC in specific,” Fernandez said. “Despite the current budget challenges, I know that the momentum that we inaugurated here years ago will continue.”

With the help of Witt/Keifer, an executive search firm that helps individuals find jobs within the university system, Fernandez accepted the position.

“I read the advertising and I called the person. I had been approached in the past by another member in that firm so it was a mutual interest,” he said.

Fernandez said the budget cuts the

FERNANDEZ, page 3

any proposals from the mailroom until an April 16 *Beacon* interview with Nicolas Diciacco, director of Facilities Operations, said that he had only received one from the Biscayne Bay Campus mailroom a few years ago.

For the sake of transparency and communication, Sanchez said, she organized the April 22 meeting after the mailroom sent her a letter in protest of the outsourcing.

The lack of communication will be brought up, as well as the instructions given by the Facilities administration that forbid the entire mail room from speaking to *The Beacon*, Vasquez said. Sanchez eventually lifted the ban when she became aware of it.

When *The Beacon* expressed concern that administration may not be acting as transparent as it claims, Sanchez said that accusation “rings to the core of what we are, and it’s a little bit offensive.”

# Meyer/LaPointe to face cuts; cabinet spots open

**BEN F. BADGER JR.**  
Asst. News Director

With elections over, the new executive board of University Park's Student Government Council has been left with several challenges to face next year.

"Every year you come in not knowing what's going to happen," said Marbely Hernandez, SGC-UP president.

Arthur "AJ" Meyer and Paige LaPointe, president and vice president elect, will face budget cuts while trying to fulfill as many campaign promises as possible.

"We are working with a difficult budget year," Meyer said. "We plan to work as hard as we possibly can with our budget and trying to accomplish our many initiatives."

While hopeful of completing all of his campaign promises, Meyer said that fulfilling all of them may not happen during his tenure.

"It's not necessarily that every one of our platform points will be accomplished this upcoming year," Meyer said. "If we don't fully accomplish them, the foundation will be set for future administrations to come in and accomplish those initiatives."

Aside from budget concerns, securing a complete cabinet is another objective for Meyer's new staff.

Normally, cabinet positions are appointed by the SGC-UP president, but following a tradition started by Hernandez, positions are open to any students who wish to apply. Applications for cabinet positions are now available on the SGC-UP office located in Graham Center room 211. The deadline to complete and submit applications is April 22.

This year, there will be 13 different cabinet positions and two

assistant positions to the Chief of Staff and Student Advocate.

According to Anthony Rionda, this year's chief of staff, one of the most important new cabinet positions is the Coordinator of Parking and Campus Safety, since one issue brought up at nearly all SGC-UP forums has been safety.

Other challenges that await Meyer and LaPointe include the integration of a new constitution and a new governing council, the Council of Student Organizations.

Despite challenges, LaPointe is confident in her administration.

"I'm very excited," LaPointe said. "There are a lot of new transitions and I am more than confident that we will do a great job."

Hernandez, who has worked with closely with Meyer and LaPointe for the last year, is also confident of that the pair will surpass any challenges thrown at them.

"I wish them the best of luck," Hernandez said. "They are very well prepared for this position and are just taking what they know and their love for this organization and going with it. I know they both can do it."

## Honors College exhibit censored

**EDUARDO MORALES**  
Staff Writer

While the Honors College's art exhibition in the Green Library caught the attention and eyes of several hundred students this year, one of the more important and provocative pieces was hidden under the veil of a blanket.

"We sent a copy of the piece to the dean [Lesley A. Northup] with an e-mail as to why we wanted to put it up, and what it meant to us so that she'd be prepared for it when she came back to school," said Natalie Zamora, junior. "We knew it would come as a surprise to the library and the dean."

The photograph titled, "You're Not Like We Are," created by Maritza Molina, depicts a shy, young girl (Molina) covered in cloth-

ing and surrounded by voluptuous women with their skirts extended above their heads. The photograph is meant to speak out to a society that tells woman how they should look, dress and feel.

Since the students weren't sure how the faculty would receive the photograph's depiction of female nudity, it was covered with a blanket during a large duration of the show. Molina's work was finally uncovered and as a result, extended the art show's stay for another week.

Molina was represented by Zamora and Jose Otero, two third-year Honors College students.

The photograph and two other pieces by Molina can be seen on the second floor of the Green Library until April 20.

## Athletics hosts first book drive

**CHER MALONE**  
Contributing Writer

In a new effort to fight illiteracy among Latin American youth, FIU has partnered with Worldfund for the University's first "Better World Books" book drive.

"Education is power," said Office Manager of the Student Athlete Academic Center Helen Gonzalez, who is helping to organize the event.

Worldfund is an organization working to end poverty through high-quality education for children.

Founded just five years ago, the organization has already provided \$30 million to 30,000 students in Latin America.

Gonzalez believes that Worldfund is a perfect

organization for FIU students living in a Hispanic populated community.

"A lot of us are Hispanic in one way or another," she said.

Working in Academic Advising for student athletes, Gonzalez decided to use books that no longer had value for underprivileged students.

If FIU's first Worldfund book drive is successful, Gonzalez will hold another drive next semester.

The Better World Books and Worldfund partnership has run book drives at over 900 colleges and universities.

All books donated to Better World Books will go directly to Worldfund.

Organizations participating in the Worldfund book drive include FIU

Athletics, Undergraduate Education and Golden Key International Honor Society. Each group will contribute in collecting, organizing and packaging books. Books that are unusable for the drive will be recycled or donated to adult centers in Miami.

Donated books must be intact and pertain to college course subjects. Trade paperbacks, highlighted books and textbooks are also accepted.

Collection sites are available at both University Park and Biscayne Bay campuses, as well as student housing.

While these sites will be available until April 25, the Student Athlete Academic Center will be collecting books throughout the year at Room 105c.

So you know...

### Places to Donate:

University Park:  
• ECS411 (UP)  
• SAAC105 (UP)  
• PC237 (UP)  
• ZEB221 (UP)

Biscayne Bay:  
• ACI180 (BBC)  
• ACI230 (BBC)  
• EC3236 (EC)

Front Desks of  
• Bay Vista  
• Panther Hall  
• University Park Apartments  
• University Park Towers  
• Everglades Hall  
• Lakeview North  
• Lakeview South

## Lab gives "real world" experience

**LAB, page 1**

The lab is, above anything else, an opportunity for students to have hands-on experience in an actual field.

"I think it is a great opportunity for engineering majors to experience the real world," said sophomore Corina Moreno.

Several doctorate students, like Ahmet Kallyci, use the lab to conduct research.

Kallyci is working on the usage of fiber reinforced polymers, a material stronger than steel used in airplane bodies, bridges and housing structures.

Kallyci tests the polymers by simulating forces on the structures until they break.

Ruilong Li, a doctorate student in the field of hurricanes, uses the lab to test extreme conditions such as earthquakes and hurricanes.

Outside of the facility, there is a massive structure used to test extreme wind speeds and their effect on different buildings known as the "wind wall." Inside the SCL is a scale version of the wind wall to test how hurricanes affect structures, Li said.

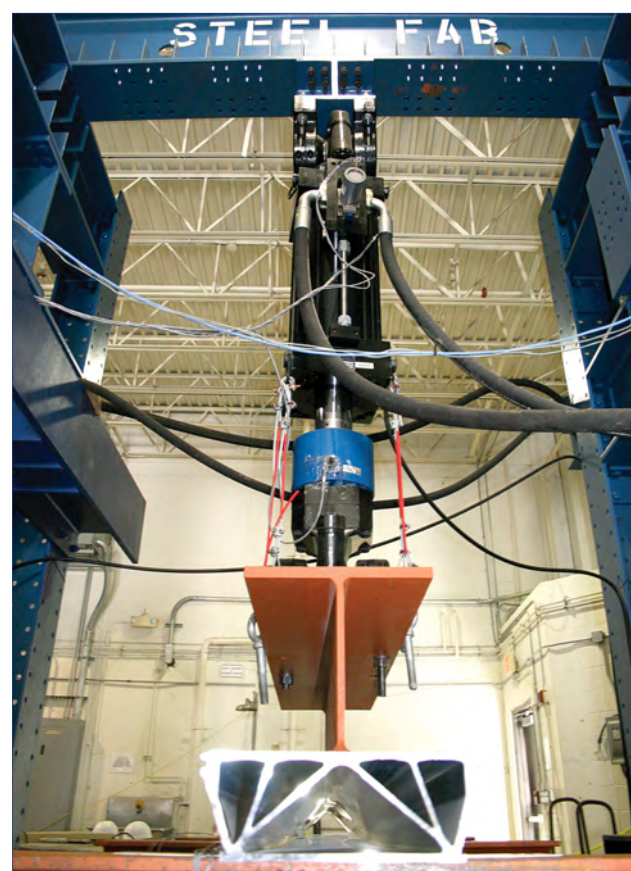
The engineering department faculty trains their graduate students to handle the machines and materials used in the lab.

Though the lab was recently accredited by Miami-Dade County, it has been open since 2006.

The SCL utilizes \$250,000 worth of materials and equipment to conduct all of its testing needs.

According to Mirmiran, the University budget does not accommodate for the lab, for there are two other sources of financial means: research agencies that grant the funding and from the engineering industry itself.

For more information, visit <http://www.eng.fiu>.



GIO GUADARRAMA/THE BEACON

**APPLYING PRESSURE:** Doctorate students use the Structures and Construction lab to test aluminum beams.

### CORRECTIONS

In the issue dated April 16, 2008, the photograph titled "pointed questions" should have been credited to Victoria Lynch.

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

**THE BEACON** 

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#### INFORMATION

The Beacon office is located in the Graham Center, room 210, at the University Park campus. Questions regarding display advertising and billing should be directed to the Advertising Manager at 305-348-6994. Mailing address: Graham Center, room 210, Miami, FL 33199. Fax number is 305-348-2712. Biscayne Bay Campus is 305-919-4722. Office hours are 9 a.m. – 4:30 p.m., Monday through Friday. E-mail: [Beacon@fiu.edu](mailto:Beacon@fiu.edu). Visit us online at [www.beaconnewspaper.com](http://www.beaconnewspaper.com)

## PARTING WITH SWEET SORROW



NATHAN VALENTINE/THE BEACON

**CUTTING OUT:** After 25 years of service as associate dean to the FIU School of Hospitality Management, Lee Dickson celebrates his retirement from administration.

## Cafeteria's future on hold

**JULIA CARDENUTO**  
Contributing Writer

It is the end of the spring term and many students are wondering when the new cafeteria is going to be ready.

The remodeling project, involving many Biscayne Bay Campus areas, began in late 2004 and is costing \$4 million, according to reports in *The Beacon* from November 2007.

Gregory Olson, senior director of Student Affairs, said he has no predications for when the new cafeteria will be complete.

"There is a permit in Tallahassee and we are still waiting for that to come through," Olson said.

Cathy Akens, assistant vice president of Student Affairs, said last time she checked, the project was scheduled to be completed in August of 2007, but that the University is still waiting for the permit.

The new cafeteria will cover 10,000 square feet and seat a capacity of 235 people. FIU is currently under contract with Aramark to provide dinning services at BBC. Akens said that FIU will continue using Aramark's services to supply food for students.

The larger cafeteria will provide more food options and diverse vendors than the

current cafeteria. Since 2006, students affairs and the student government council have been conducting surveys asking students their opinions of what the new cafeteria should serve. Akens said that the idea of an all-you-can-eat buffet has been discarded.

There will be 9,000 square feet of empty space once the current cafeteria moves to its new location and the question of what to do with that area is still unanswered. Akens said student affairs is concerned with students wants and needs.

"We plan to talk with students and find out exactly what they want and what are their priorities and ideas for a recreational space," Akens said.

Last October, the idea of dividing the space left by the current cafeteria into two separate rooms was introduced. One part would be a multipurpose room and the other a student lounge. Akens said that this idea is still possible and that student affairs really wants to give students a new recreational space.

Both Olson and Akens will not make any predictions of when students will be able to enjoy the new dining facilities at the BBC. John Cal, the associate vice president of facilities management, was not available for comment.

## Alumna self-publishes child-rearing guide

### Book focuses on faith, love

**TATIANA CAMPUZANO**  
Contributing Writer

Caroline Arit Okon Thompson, an FIU alumna who completed her degree in counselor education in 2006, has just published her latest book, "Parental Influence Matters."

Published in December 2007 by iUniverse, "Parental Influence Matters" provides readers with guidance on how parents' involvement in their children lives is the key to raise exceptional individuals, according to Thompson.

"A child needs to act like a child but needs to do it wisely. If not, they can't be responsible adults," Thompson said.

Incorporating aspects such as faith, family, tradition, discipline and heritage, Thompson combines personal knowledge, community analysis and her African background to reach parents and parents to be.

"I cherish the tradition where I came from. You can't raise your children without them learning your heritage," Thompson said, quoting an African proverb. "In Africa, it takes a village to raise a child."

Dwight Nimlett, assistant director of the Student Learning Center at Biscayne Bay Campus, and Reymond Levy, an adjunct English instructor

at University Park, were helping hands in the process of writing the book.

Thompson sought support from Nimlett and Levy to put her material together and obtain the professional guidance necessary to make her book a success.

"Caroline and I clicked since the beginning, she brought in her manuscripts and I assisted her by giving her all the support needed before publication," Nimlee said. "She is an amazing person, and the sky is the limit for her."

Levy also wrote the book's foreword.

"She divided her book in ten different qualities that matter in life and goes through each aspect, making this book a very practical life advice book," Levy said.

He felt inspired by Thompson's voyage through life, the African folklore incorporated in her writings and her very heartfelt material.

"She really impressed me with the work she has done and her social contributions," Levy said.

Thompson said her eldest daughter, Comfort, inspired her to write.

"One day my daughter came to me and said, 'Mom, I see many women who write. Why you don't become a writer?'" Thompson said.

Thompson has since written three books, "Cross River State at a Glance," "The Joy of the Overcom-

ers: Slavery from an African perspective," and "A Daughter's Love: Remembering my father, my teacher and my friend(s)."

Thompson has served as a news reporter for the Nigerian Television Authority's Channel 9. She came to the United States in search of more educational and career opportunities.

She received numerous honors as a student and professional, for being an active member in the community and for assisting her church.

Her career orientations and her desire to encourage love and respect among each other drove Thompson to keep on writing and to continue to grow as a motivational speaker.

Her first public motivational speech, given in 1998, was titled "The Power of Faith-Lord Increases my Faith."

Since then, Thompson has presented seminars about enriching woman, woman of faith, and hosted youth events at the Open Bible Church, among others.

Thompson will be signing copies of "Parental Influence Matter" at the Broward Regional Library, Thursday, April 24 at 7 p.m. The library is located at 100 S. Andrews Avenue, in Fort Lauderdale.

"Parental Influence Matters" is available in most major bookstores in hard and soft cover editions.

## Cuts not a factor in departure

**FERNANDEZ, page 1**

"It was not part of my decision. In the contrary, the budget crisis, in some ways, made me think whether I should leave at this point because I would want to help the institution," he said. "These positions take half a year or more to fill and I applied in the fall. We weren't clear on the severity of the crisis [back then]. The timing was just coincidental."

Fernandez has been the director of the Cuban Research Institute at FIU for the past five years.

His career with the University began in 1988 as an assistant professor in the department of international relations where he

continued teaching.

In September of 2006 Fernandez was named interim vice provost for BBC and has since maximized opportunities for undergraduate research and performance; developed a plan that created new start-to-finish programs and expanded the Honors College.

Uva De Aragon, associate director for the CRI, said working with Fernandez is challenging.

"He's very demanding, and I say it in a good way," De Aragon said.

Fernandez made his mark by taking the institute a step further with new partnerships, grants and initiatives, according to De Aragon, who has been working

for the institute for 13 years.

"For the past four years [we haven't been able] to go to Cuba and he found a way to make our work relevant. He did that by engaging with partners in Canada, Mexico and Washington," she said. "Having conferences outside of the U.S made it easier for other Cubans to attend."

With the announcement of Fernandez's resignation, Cristina Eguizabal, director of the Latin American and Caribbean Center, will oversee the CRI for the next year, according to De Aragon.

"You always have to be happy for any colleague that pursues greener pastures, even though it's a loss for FIU," De Aragon said.

## SLAP SHOT



NATHAN VALENTINE/THE BEACON

**HAT TRICK:** Katherine Bennett plays a game of air hockey with friends in Panther Square as part of Release Week, April 15.

## MAYBE NEXT TIME

### Better knowledge of candidates needed

**JUAN CARLOS SANCHEZ**  
Contributing Writer

“What can they do for me?” asked Alejandra Sanchez, a political science graduate student explaining why she did not vote in the Student Government elections this year. “No matter who is chosen, it won’t make a difference.”

What exactly took place in the very brief week that actually made us, the panther community, decide who would be our best representatives? What sparks this extent of apathy toward a council that exerts so much control over students’ money and services?

Elections should be based on ideological differences and whether they listen to voters’ concerns. Many students rightfully feel that they were not included in the campaign process and that there was a lack of focus on the issues. As a voter myself, I don’t want to be asked to vote for hopefuls without knowing who they are or what they stand for.

There is no doubt that charisma and popularity play an important role in people’s minds during every election. However, should we really start picking our candidates based on how many full-color flyers they print to promote their candidacy?

There should be some simple but effective changes made to the SGA campaigning process at FIU.

Candidates should hold multiple town hall meetings where they have face-to-face conversations with students at different times of the day to ensure that the greatest amount of students can attend. A large number of students work day or night shifts, so debates among candidates should be held

within both time frames.

This would be in contrast to the one poorly-advertised debate between representatives, which was attended by few students and fewer candidates, as well as a separate debate for the presidential ticket.

The debates should also be better advertised with flyers containing their times and locations as prominently littered across campus as we see for other organizations’ events.

The current state of debates raises the question of whether the only ones being exposed to the candidates’ discussions are the candidates themselves, campaign managers and their friends. It would seem more democratic if all of us were informed of what took place on campus.

To achieve this, it would be necessary to extend the campaigning process. As seen in the last election, one week is not enough to get to know the aspiring university leaders.

“The people running [for office] are obviously well-known by students,” said Ana Maria Santiesteban, a freshman studying psychology.

For biology student Bridgette Gun, it is not a question of popularity, as she explained her reasons for not voting. “It’s not that I think they don’t do anything good, it’s just that it benefits only the Greek life,” Gun said.

Some within SGA have a different take on this issue of apathy, though.

“Since [Gun] didn’t vote, her voice was not heard and she has no right to criticize individuals who devote their time to the student body,” said Kenneth Gelock, a senior in political science at FIU and an SGA representative.

Yet, whether success depends on the Greek life or popularity, the main concern for all running and voting can be simply said with the phrase “What’s in it for me?” Students on campus feel left out of the whole government process since they don’t have the time or money to belong to an expensive organization.

Belonging to the Greek life and other interest clubs seems to be a very effective method of persuading voters. Gelock admits that “Greeks are a powerhouse in the elections.”

Transparency of funds would also help us see who is behind the scenes contributing to candidates. Budget limits on campaigning would make the process more democratic and, at the same time, fair to the other side. According to Gelock, the candidates themselves pay for the advertising of the campaign.

Despite this sentiment, the voter turnout for this year skyrocketed in comparison to other years. This is fantastic, but we have a long way to go for the entire campus (or even most of it).

Although the whole election process was an amazing experience as a freshman at FIU, I believe that we still have room for improvement. When it comes to elections and deciding the student body representatives, we should look beyond face recognition and start becoming responsible voters.

We must educate ourselves about every candidate and ask them what their plans are once elected. SGA should start to imitate real-life campaigning so that we can have a more democratic government that prepares our students for political wit.

## Want to go green? Look beyond cars and gasoline use

**JASON GELLER**  
Contributing Writer

Smokestack fumes spewing from factories and carbon emissions spouting from Hummer tailpipes are threats to the environment, as shown by the amount of press they are receiving from the “going green” movement.

What should be noted, though, is that there are other lesser-known evils plaguing the biosphere.

More attention must be

Here in sunny South Florida, one of the most prominent environmental issues is overdevelopment.

The Everglades’ marshy terrain used to go as far north as the Orlando area. In the past century, 50 percent of the Everglades has been demolished to make way for gated communities, strip malls and beachside mansions.

The state needs even more land in the near future; South Florida’s population is expected to double in the next 50 years. This spells

“More attention must be focused on less prominent emitters of carbon, such as the harmful effects of livestock grazing as well as land degradation caused by overdevelopment.”

focused on less prominent emitters of carbon, such as the harmful effects of livestock grazing as well as land degradation caused by overdevelopment.

According to a study by Princeton University and the Woods Hole Research Center as reported in *The Wall Street Journal*, clearing fields to make ethanol releases more harmful gases into the environment than the supposedly harmful MTBE-based fuel used by many vehicles today.

Cars aren’t the only source of harmful carbon dioxide emissions – cow flatulence is even more harmful to the environment than speeding cars. Livestock flatulence, livestock grazing and livestock rearing account for 18 percent of the world’s greenhouse gas emissions, according to a 2006 report published by the United Nations Food and Agriculture Organization.

The report also stated that about 65 percent of human-related nitrous oxide, which has 296 times the Global Warming Potential of CO<sub>2</sub>, comes from livestock manure. Livestock takes up 30 percent of the earth’s land surface.

In South America alone, about 70 percent of the Amazon has been demolished to make way for cow grazing. But cows aren’t the only cause of land degradation.

These harmful effects are perpetuated by the cravings of industrialized nations, but seldom is changing food habits considered as a means for saving the environment. People focus on driving less and finding new sources of energy to power our already wasteful lifestyles.

danger for alligators, bobcats and our very own golden panthers.

But there is help.

With more than \$1.5 billion in donations, Florida Forever, a state program under the auspices of the Department of Environmental Protection, has protected 603,454 acres of land from being demolished. But the conservationist organization is expected to expire in 2010 and is desperately low on funds. If contractors continue developing over state land, 68 endangered plants and animals aren’t the only ones at risk. Overbuilding our communities isn’t just an eyesore; it also causes water shortages.

“If we cover the surface with houses and pavement, then the rainwater and the surface water from the Everglades cannot get into the aquifer,” said FIU Earth Science Professor Dr. René M. Price. “The aquifer is where we get our water from. If we continue development, we’re reducing the area that the aquifer can receive water.”

Another organization working to preserve the land we live on is Hold the Line coalition.

“[Hold the Line] works to keep the urban development boundary right where it is,” said Adam Rivera, spokesperson for Environment Florida. “If that boundary moves further west, that means developers can develop right where it was protected.”

Instead of obsessing over what global warming might do to us in 100 years, let us focus on the land we live in now. We call ourselves the Sunshine State, but pretty soon we won’t have anything left to enjoy.

## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

### *President Modesto Maidique opens budget meetings to reporters*

Dear Editor:

This letter is in response to the article and editorial in the April 21 edition of *The Beacon* about *Beacon* staffers’ efforts to attend a Budget Stabilization Task Force meeting.

It is the position of the University that meetings of this task force are not subject to the Sunshine Law because this committee functions in an information-gathering, consultative capacity, with no delegated or decision-making authority.

The Budget Stabilization Task Force includes a student representative as well as representatives of other key constituencies such as the Division of Student Affairs,

faculty, staff, deans, research and university finance. It is my understanding that the student representative shares developments with peer students after every meeting.

It is clear that the cases and legal advice cited by *The Beacon* simply do not apply to this situation. *Beacon* reporters did not have the right to barge into the task force’s meeting last week, even if they believed that this meeting was subject to the Sunshine Law.

However, I recognize that *Beacon* reporters and readers are interested in the work this committee is doing to help us address the current budget crisis. In the

spirit of transparency, cooperation and the continued sharing of information, I have decided to open future meetings of this task force to *Beacon* reporters.

We have made every effort to communicate through town hall meetings, employee meetings, weekly updates and a budget Web site, <http://president.fiu.edu/budget1.html>. I hope every member of the University community – students, faculty and staff – feels included in this process and I welcome the participation of our student newspaper.

Sincerely,  
**Modesto A. Maidique**  
President, FIU

## Porn stars swarm South Beach

### Adults-only convention to feature actors, 'screaming O'

**JONATHAN DAVILA**  
Staff Writer

EXXXotica, a three-day erotic event making its third annual South Florida appearance, will be held this weekend at the Miami Beach Convention Center, presented by *Hotmovies.com*.

The exposition will feature exhibitions from several top-tier adult industry organizations, appearances by numerous adult film stars, musical performances and many other adult-themed events.

"We have been getting bigger and better every year, and this year we have really blown the doors off," said J. Handy, co-owner of Victory Tradeshow Management and creator of EXXXotica.

The convention kicks off on Friday

at 4 p.m. with a welcoming performance by Dan Diamond. Following Diamond's performance will be an appearance by Puerto Rican reggaeton duo, Los Fugitivos.

Other opening events vary from professional pillow fighting to the "Screaming O" contest: a competition in which attendees compete to see who can conjure the mightiest screaming orgasm.

The preliminary round of the Ms. EXXXotica pageant will also take place during this time.

At night, the first day of the exposition culminates with an after party at Mansion, hosted by adult film star, Stormy Daniels.

On Saturday, EXXXotica will be open from noon through 11 p.m. and feature even more events than Friday's lineup. The "Queen" of Comedy, Mrs. Shirley Q. Liquor, makes an appearance at 1 p.m. and a wet T-shirt contest will be held in the evening.

Additionally, Ms. EXXXotica 2008 will be crowned after the final round of the pageant

takes place at 6 p.m.. More pillow fighting, the AMMY awards, and additional performances by Diamond and Los Fugitivos are also part of Saturday's schedule, which ends with another after party at Glass, hosted by starlets Jesse Jane and Gina Lynn.

"We have added more non-stop entertainment, an award ceremony, seminars ... and our list of exhibitors is a who's who of the adult industry," Handy said.

All of the events scheduled for Sunday already premiered on either Friday or Saturday, so Sunday could be used by attendees to catch up on any events they may have missed.

Besides performances by Diamond and Los Fugitivos, contests, pageants and appearances by adult film superstars, EXXXotica is hosting a number of instructive erotic seminars.

Self-help author, Mabel Iam, is giving her lecture, "Become a Perfect Lover," on Friday at 7 p.m. "Making Adult Videos for Profit" will

be taught by Steve Harper, Alex Rottenberg and AJ Compparetto, Saturday and Sunday at 7 p.m. and 2 p.m..

Many other lectures can be heard throughout the weekend such as, "The Art of Dirty Talk" and "Swinging 101."

Tickets for EXXXotica are \$35 each for a one-day general admission and \$70 for general admission all three days.

VIP admission tickets are \$50 for one day and \$100 for three.

VIP ticket-holders gain access to a meet-and-greet with adult film stars, an entrance to the Crazy Horse Saloon and a souvenir bag "stuffed with tons of XXX swag."

"We have raised the bar and then jumped over it," Handy said.

### XXX Info

EXXXOTICA Miami Beach is this Friday, Saturday and Sunday, April 18-20 in Hall C at the Miami Beach Convention Center.

The hours of the event are as follows:

Friday, April 18 from 4pm - 11pm  
Saturday, April 19 from noon - 11pm  
Sunday, April 20 from noon - 7pm

Ticket prices are as follows:

3 day - VIP Admission, \$100  
1 day - VIP Admission, \$50  
3 day - General Admission, \$70  
1 day - General Admission, \$35

www.exxxoticamiami.com

## Luck brings secular Biatti to Miami's Crocs Tour

**DANIELLA BACIGALUPO**  
Staff Writer

Daylight was a small shimmer in the horizon, but the bright stage lights beckoned the musicians of Biatti to take the stage at the "Crocs Next Stop" college tour last week at FIU.

It was the band's first major stage performance, an experience they would call surreal in retrospect, but at that moment, their jitters needed to be calmed.

Their solution was to break into their "Ninja Dance." High-kicking, karate-chopping and all out channeling Mr. Miyagi, or simply put - pure energy, is what Biatti is all about, said Felipe Biatti, the band's lead singer.

"When you get to know us, you understand why we are jumping on stage like a bunch of animals, because we are all animals, especially Cat," Biatti said.

Cat Chang is the band's keyboardist and the only female member of Biatti, an up-and-coming rock band from Ft. Lauderdale. Due to their hard work, chance and a little stalking on Felipe's part, the band won the opportunity to play at the Crocs Tour concert on April 10 before headliners OneRepublic and Fabolous.

"He came and haunted us for almost a year so he could be in the Battle of the Bands," said Sophia Del Zoppo, president of the Student Programming Council.

At every university stop on the tour, one local band performs as the opening act of the Crocs Tour. The student organization is responsible for arranging the concert at that university must choose three bands that



**Felipe Biatti**, Lead singer

When you get to know us, you understand why we are jumping on stage like a bunch of animals, because we are all animals, especially Cat

will compete in an "electronic Battle of the Bands," said Zoppo.

On the Crocs Tour Web site, anyone can hear a song sample from each group and vote online.

Biatti battled against a well-known local band, The Drive Home, but during the competition, the Crocs Tour Web site got hacked. SPC picked The Drive Home as the opening act by default. A week before the concert, said

Del Zoppo, the band signed to another tour, leaving the door wide open for Biatti.

Luck might have brought them on stage but dedication makes them stand out. Biatti played six songs during the set, including the introspective, "Long Road Out Of Here," and the pumped-up, "Shoulda Never," after a hectic week of five-hour rehearsals every night.

According to the band, their style has formed from a smorgasbord of influences. '80s and '90s rock, pop and jazz, not to mention Queen and The Beatles, have all added a splash of color to their stylistic repertoire.

Although the songwriting is left to Felipe, each band member brings their own opinions to the song-making process.

Originally a fast-tempo song, "Say Good-bye," eventually slowed down as suggested

by the band's drummer, Ian Achong.

Communication comes easily for them. They played together for years at their church and finally transform into Biatti when they decided to "start something new, but doing something we love and delivering [music] to different people outside of church," Chang said in an e-mail.

Biatti is a secular band whose songs most people can associate with life experience.

The band's guitarist, Tyler Milam, said the band is "fun, energetic, easy to relate to and catchy."

By Felipe's reception after the Crocs Tour performance, the band's self-description seems on-point.

There were also girls wearing grey T-shirts printed with the band's name walking around the soccer field, suggesting the band already has a following.

Still, said Felipe, playing for college students can be intimidating, but it is the best experience out there.

College students are the ultimate critics and "if they don't like it, they'll walk away and have a beer," he said.

At least at this university, Biatti seems to have passed the ice-cold beer music review

# WEEKEND RUNDOWN

FRIDAY • APRIL 18

SATURDAY • APRIL 19

SUNDAY • APRIL 20

**WHAT:** Exxxotica  
**WHERE:** Miami Beach Convention Center  
1901 Convention Center Dr  
Miami Beach, FL 33139  
**WHEN:** Varies  
**HOW MUCH:** \$35

**WHAT:** "Mosaic Arts International 2008"  
**WHERE:** Bakehouse Art Complex  
561 NW 32nd St  
Miami, FL 33111  
**WHEN:** Varies  
**HOW MUCH:** Varies

**WHAT:** Exxxotica  
**WHERE:** Miami Beach Convention Center  
1901 Convention Center Dr  
Miami Beach, FL 33139  
**WHEN:** Varies  
**HOW MUCH:** \$35

**WHAT:** Guys and Dolls  
**WHERE:** The Ring Theatre  
1312 Miller Drive  
(University of Miami)  
Coral Gables, FL 33146  
**WHEN:** Varies  
**HOW MUCH:** \$8 - \$10

**WHAT:** Exxxotica  
**WHERE:** Miami Beach Convention Center  
1901 Convention Center Dr  
Miami Beach, FL 33139  
**WHEN:** Varies  
**HOW MUCH:** \$35

**WHAT:** AIDS Walk Miami  
**WHERE:** Miami Beach Convention Center  
1901 Convention Center Dr  
Miami Beach, FL 33139  
**WHEN:** 8 a.m.  
**HOW MUCH:** Various

**WHAT:** Nestor Torres  
**WHERE:** Miami-Dade County Auditorium  
2901 W Flagler St  
Miami, FL 33135  
**WHEN:** 8 p.m.  
**HOW MUCH:** \$30 - \$60

**WHAT:** Record-Breaking Bikini Bash  
**WHERE:** Nikki Beach  
1 Ocean Dr  
Miami Beach, FL 33139  
**WHEN:** 10 a.m.  
**HOW MUCH:** Varies

**WHAT:** "Marilyn Monroe"  
**WHERE:** Untitled 2144  
2144 NE Second Ave  
Miami, FL 33137  
**WHEN:** Varies  
**HOW MUCH:** Varies

**WHAT:** Miami Hip-Hop Arts Festival  
**WHERE:** Joseph Caleb Auditorium  
5400 NW 22nd Ave  
Miami, FL 33142  
**WHEN:** 7 p.m.  
**HOW MUCH:** \$31

**WHAT:** Guys and Dolls  
**WHERE:** The Ring Theatre  
1312 Miller Drive  
(University of Miami)  
Coral Gables, FL 33146  
**WHEN:** Varies  
**HOW MUCH:** \$8 - \$10

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**WHEN:** Varies  
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**WHAT:** Guys and Dolls  
**WHERE:** The Ring Theatre  
1312 Miller Drive  
(University of Miami)  
Coral Gables, FL 33146  
**WHEN:** Varies  
**HOW MUCH:** \$8 - \$10

**WHAT:** Secrets of Coconut Grove Twilight Walking Tour  
**WHERE:** Miami City Hall  
3500 Pan American Dr  
Coconut Grove, FL 33133  
**WHEN:** 6 p.m. - 8 p.m.  
**HOW MUCH:** \$25

**WHAT:** Belly Motions  
**WHERE:** Belly Motions, Inc.  
430 S Dixie Hwy  
Coral Gables, FL 33146  
**WHEN:** Varies  
**HOW MUCH:** \$75 an hour

**WHAT:** "Mosaic Arts International 2008"  
**WHERE:** Bakehouse Art Complex  
561 NW 32nd St  
Miami, FL 33111  
**WHEN:** Varies  
**HOW MUCH:** Varies

**WHAT:** Miami Hip-Hop Arts Festival  
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5400 NW 22nd Ave  
Miami, FL 33142  
**WHEN:** 7 p.m.  
**HOW MUCH:** \$31

**WHAT:** "Marilyn Monroe"  
**WHERE:** Untitled 2144  
2144 NE Second Ave  
Miami, FL 33137  
**WHEN:** Varies  
**HOW MUCH:** Varies

**WHAT:** Inside In Style  
**WHERE:** Ocean Drive  
(between 8th and 9th Streets on Ocean Drive)  
Miami Beach, FL 33139  
**WHEN:** 11 a.m. - 4 p.m.  
**HOW MUCH:** \$25

**WHAT:** Sweat Records three-year anniversary  
**WHERE:** Sweat Records  
5505 NE Second Ave.,  
Miami, FL 33137  
**WHEN:** Varies  
**HOW MUCH:** Varies

**WHAT:** Avril Lavigne  
**WHERE:** Cruzan Amphitheatre  
601-7 Sansburys Way,  
West Palm Beach, FL 33411  
**WHEN:** 7 p.m.  
**HOW MUCH:** \$9 - \$46

**WHAT:** "Mosaic Arts International 2008"  
**WHERE:** Bakehouse Art Complex  
561 NW 32nd St  
Miami, FL 33111  
**WHEN:** Varies  
**HOW MUCH:** Varies

**WHAT:** Charlie Daniels Band  
**WHERE:** Cruzan Amphitheatre  
601-7 Sansburys Way, West Palm Beach,  
FL 33411  
**WHEN:** 7 p.m.  
**HOW MUCH:** \$12.00 - \$36.50

**WHAT:** 3 for All Fridays  
**WHERE:** Grove Isle Hotel  
4 Grove Isle Dr  
Coconut Grove, FL 33133  
**WHEN:** Varies  
**HOW MUCH:** Varies

**WHAT:** Earth Day  
**WHERE:** Various  
Miami  
Miami, FL 33137  
**WHEN:** Various Times  
**HOW MUCH:** Free

**WHAT:** Rockstar Energy AP Tour featuring All Time Low & The Rocket Summer  
**WHERE:** Revolution Live  
200 West Broward Blvd.,  
Ft Lauderdale, FL 33312  
**WHEN:** 6 p.m.  
**HOW MUCH:** \$13

**WHAT:** Mae  
**WHERE:** Culture Room  
3045 N Federal Hwy,  
Ft Lauderdale, FL 33306  
**WHEN:** 7 p.m.  
**HOW MUCH:** \$14.99

**WHAT:** Back 9 mini golf course  
**WHERE:** Upper Eastside Garden  
7244 Biscayne Blvd  
Miami Shores, FL 33138  
**WHEN:** 11 a.m. - 10 p.m.  
**HOW MUCH:** Varies

**WHAT:** Earth, Wind & Fire  
**WHERE:** The Fillmore Miami Beach at Jackie Gleason Theater  
1700 Washington Ave,  
Miami Beach, FL 33139  
**WHEN:** 8 p.m.  
**HOW MUCH:** \$46.50 - \$83

**WHAT:** Bruce Springsteen and the E Street Band  
**WHERE:** BankAtlantic Center  
2555 Panther Pkwy, Sunrise, FL 33323  
**WHEN:** 7:30 p.m.  
**HOW MUCH:** \$95

**WHAT:** Self-Help, the Comedy  
**WHERE:** Abdo New River Room  
201 SW 5th Ave,  
Ft Lauderdale, FL 33312  
**WHEN:** 3 p.m.  
**HOW MUCH:** \$30

**WHAT:** Back 9 mini golf course  
**WHERE:** Upper Eastside Garden  
7244 Biscayne Blvd  
Miami Shores, FL 33138  
**WHEN:** 11 a.m. - 10 p.m.  
**HOW MUCH:** Varies

**WHAT:** Reba  
**WHERE:** Hard Rock Live  
5747 Seminole Way,  
Hollywood, FL 33314  
**WHEN:** 7 p.m.  
**HOW MUCH:** \$60 - \$95

**WHAT:** Jake Shimabukuro with Future Man & BLK Mozart En Amatura  
**WHERE:** Broward Ctr for the Perf Arts  
201 SW 5th Avenue,  
Ft Lauderdale, FL 33312  
**WHEN:** 8:30 p.m.  
**HOW MUCH:** \$35

**WHAT:** Barefoot at Oasis  
**WHERE:** Mandarin Oriental Hotel  
500 Brickell Key Dr  
Miami, FL 33131  
**WHEN:** 6 p.m. - 11 p.m.  
**HOW MUCH:** Varies

**WHAT:** Belly Motions  
**WHERE:** Belly Motions, Inc.  
430 S Dixie Hwy  
Coral Gables, FL 33146  
**WHEN:** Varies  
**HOW MUCH:** \$75 an hour

**WHAT:** Lincoln Road Gospelfest  
**WHERE:** Miami Beach Community Church  
1620 Drexel Ave  
Miami Beach, FL 33139  
**WHEN:** 6 p.m.  
**HOW MUCH:** Free

**WHAT:** Drink of the Week: Mojito  
**WHERE:** Berries  
2884 SW 27th Ave  
Coconut Grove, FL 33133  
**WHEN:** Daily  
**HOW MUCH:** Various

**WHAT:** 4/20 Celebration  
**WHERE:** Various  
Miami  
Miami, FL 33137  
**WHEN:** Various  
**HOW MUCH:** Free

**WHAT:** Baby Boom  
**WHERE:** Jungle Island  
1111 Parrot Jungle Trail  
Miami, FL 33132  
**WHEN:** Various  
**HOW MUCH:** \$27.95



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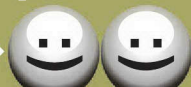
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## BLUE VS. GOLD



FERNANDO GARCIA/THE BEACON FILE PHOTO

**FIU PLAYS AGAINST FIU:** The FIU offense plays the FIU defense in the Blue vs. Gold game on April 18.

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- 56261 - ANT 3451 - Anthropology of Race and Ethnicity. Tu/Th, 2:00pm-4:45pm
- 57365 - CPO 4057 - Political Violence and Revolution. Tu/Th, 11:00am-1:45pm
- 50202 - DAA 2333 - African Diaspora Dance II. Mon/Wed, 9:30am-12:15pm

### Summer B:

- 57002 - CPO 3304 - Politics of Latin America. Mon/Wed, 9:30am-12:45pm
- 52337 - ECS 3201 - Women, Culture, and Economic Development. On Line
- 57354 - GEA 3400 - Population and Geography of Latin America. Mon/Wed, 9:30-12:15
- 52359 - INR 3243 - International Relations of Latin America. Tu/Th, 3:30pm-6:15pm
- 56228 - SPW 3130 - Introduction to Spanish American Literature. Tu/Th, 5:00-7:40 pm

### Summer C:

- 56637 - MUH 3541 - Music of Latin America: Folklore and Beyond. On Line
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BASEBALL: BARRY 10, FIU 9

## Wild 9th inning, errors cap off loss

LUCA MESSINA  
Staff Writer

First baseman Tyler Townsend was inches away from breaking a 9-9 tie in the bottom of the eighth inning. His line drive landed in the glove of Barry centerfielder Andrew Frezza.

If Frezza doesn't catch the ball, the Golden Panthers head into the ninth inning with a two-run lead. Instead, they headed into the ninth still in a tie.

Without recording a hit, Barry managed to score the game-winning run off a wild pitch.

After scoring 16 runs and amassing 12 hits in an extra-inning victory in their previous meeting, the Golden Panthers (12-27) fell to Barry University 10-9 on April 15 at University Park Stadium.

Sophomore Jorge Ramos, who is pushing for a spot in the weekend rotation, pitched 3 innings and didn't allow a run on 4 hits. He also left with FIU ahead 4-0 and received a no-decision.

"I felt good out there, and everything was working for me, so I felt comfortable out there," Ramos said. "I also felt comfortable about the lead, knowing that my team was going to score for me, but unfortunately our pitching didn't hold up. It's OK though; I'm pretty sure that we're going to turn this thing around and get the job done."

The Buccaneers (29-12) stormed back from a four-run deficit by scoring three runs in the fourth inning and two in the fifth.

Senior Jorge Castillo would tie up the score 5-5 with a solo home run in the bottom of the fifth inning off of Barry starter Aaron Main.

Although senior reliever Carlos Martinez rebounded from a previous poor outing on April 13 and pitched 1.2 innings of scoreless relief, the Golden Panther bullpen was once again a problem as relievers Daniel DeSimone and Kyle Preshong allowed nine runs, eight of which were earned.

FIU trailed 9-5 in the latter part of the game before finally tying up the score in the eighth inning. Freshman Jorge Marban (0-3) took the loss for FIU even though the deciding run he allowed was unearned when he committed a throwing error. Bobby Riley (2-1) picked up the win for Barry.

Sophomore Enrique Cepero was the designated hitter and went 2-for-5 with one RBI. The hits were the first of his collegiate career. It was also his first collegiate start.

"It was good," he said. "I was excited, and I was pumped. Every pitch, my heart started beating faster and faster, but I gotta do what I gotta do."

Sophomore Ryan Mollica finished 2-for-5 with one RBI and two runs scored. He also extended his hitting streak to 21 games but flied out to right field to end the game with runners on the corners.

The Golden Panthers have lost nine of their last 10 games, including two tenth-inning losses.

## PREPARING



GIO GUADARRAMA/THE BEACON

**TEAMWORK:** The tennis team is trying to win its fourth consecutive conference championship, as they participate in the Sun Belt tournament from April 18-20.

## Tennis team heads into the Sun Belt Conference Tournament ranked No. 51

JONATHAN RAMOS  
Asst. Sports Editor

Heading into the Sun Belt Conference tournament, the Golden Panthers (11-8) will feel very familiar with their surroundings. As the three-time reigning conference champions, FIU should be comfortable and confident with what it can accomplish at that level.

With that optimism, the women's tennis team will be out to avenge a NCAA regional loss to South Florida and contend for a national championship. The 4-3 loss to the Bulls last season was an early exit for team looking to advance deep into the national bracket.

The Golden Panthers found out their seeding at the league tournament at the University of Louisiana-Monroe and are guaranteed to be the third seed in the field of 12 schools and will also receive a first-round bye.

The team begins competition today at 7:30 p.m., and will go on to play the winner of the match-up of No. 6 seed North Texas and No. 11 seed Florida Atlantic.

The Golden Panthers defeated South Alabama in its final match of the season

in preparation for the tournament and shoulder high expectations due to their history. The match was close as three of the six singles contests went into third sets and another was decided by a tie breaker, but FIU was able to close on their way to a No. 51 ranking in the nation. USA, who was ranked in the top 50 in the nation prior to the contest, gives FIU a signature win going into the postseason.

Denver, who comes in with an impressive 19-2 regular season record, will give the Golden Panthers their biggest road block toward a fourth straight conference crown. Mallory Voelker, who is ranked No. 65 in the country, will look to lead DU to its second

women's tennis championship. DU, who is the first seed in the tournament, won the title on one previous occasion in 2004. USA is the second seed in the tournament.

Coming into the playoffs, FIU throws out the two strong doubles tandems in the nation with No. 27 Egle Petrauskaite and Liset Brito and No. 51 Brito and Priscilla Castillo.

In addition to her doubles ranking, Brito is also the ranked No. 107 among singles players.

BASEBALL NOTEBOOK

## Pitching coach's staff struggles

LUCA MESSINA  
Staff Writer

Pitching coach Felipe Suarez has had plenty of experience as both a coach and player. He mainly pitched in the minor leagues and was invited to spring training with the Los Angeles Angels of Anaheim in 2002. He also recently coached the US Under-16 National Team to a 2007 World Championship.

Because of his credentials, first-year coach Turtle Thomas felt that Suarez would be the perfect candidate to work with the FIU pitching corps.

Unfortunately, the pitching for this year's baseball team has been well below-average. No weekend starter has an ERA lower than 5.00 and only relievers Akeem Francis and Eric Hortsmann have respectable ERA's under 5.00 (3.48 and 4.72, respectively).

"It's been a freak season, and you've seen some things that you normally don't see," Suarez said. "You just have to stay positive."

Despite the struggles, Suarez does not believe this is a lot tougher job than he had anticipated

"I knew that we had our work cut out for us and this team as a whole is operating on very few scholarships, so I have a lot of blue-collar guys," he said. "I knew that we were really going to have to do special things and play all aspects of the game extremely well in order to compete and win."

As it is quite obvious that the pitching woes have greatly contributed to the 12-27 record and the 7.20 team ERA, Suarez mentioned that the brunt of the blame varied on any given night.

"It's been a mixture [of the bullpen and the starters] to be honest with you, and there was a stretch almost three weeks ago that we had maybe eight quality starts, quality guys going into the seventh inning," he said. "There were also times where we didn't get quality starts, but a reliever came in and did a hell of a job."

Overall, this has been a trying year for the squad, but the pitching truly has been the ultimate downfall. The offense has scored enough runs to win more than 12 games, but former coach Danny Price left the team with very few quality pitchers.

Thomas and Suarez we're dealt a bad hand, and they won't be able to see the results of their recruiting for a few years to come. It is too soon to place the blame on Thomas and Suarez for the team's shaky pitching performance this season.

Suarez has appeared to acknowledge that this year has not panned out the way he would have hoped but believes that this project still has a lot of work to be completed.