



Movie-based video games don't match up
COLUMN: PAGE 7



Army group helps members conquer fears
PAGE 7

SPOTLIGHT

EDITORIAL PAGE 6

The 2009 SGA candidates should make transparency, a more useful Web site and protocol revisions their priorities next year.

AT THE BAY PAGE 5



Marine Biology students go to the Everglades to catch, monitor and study different fish.

SPORTS PAGE 12

Softball posts positive weekend, going 3-2 on road trip to central Florida behind two strong Kasey Barrett starts.

OPINION PAGE 6



President Obama's middle class task force can be successful only if the audience can ask questions, voice their opinions.

AT THE BAY PAGE 4

SJMC achieves reaccreditation after meeting necessary requirements. Other schools and colleges to follow.

UPCOMING EVENTS

Pie your candidate, March 23, 12:00 p.m.: Warm up your pitching arms and head down to the Chapman Plaza at GC to pie your candidate. A messy fun time is guaranteed for all!

Students WRITE General Meeting, March 23, 2:00 p.m.: Sharpen your pencils and bandage your paper cuts to join your fellow literati at today's Students WRITE meeting. Leave your writer's block at home.

Preksha Meditation Club Meeting, March 23, 2:00 p.m.: Find your center at Preksha Meditation's club meeting this afternoon. You might not get to align all your chakras, but you'll get closer to inner peace.

Lamda Pi Pool Tournament, March 23, 8:00 p.m.: Get to the Porter Davis Game Room tonight to rack 'em up at Lamda Theta Pi's pool tourney. Come show off your trick shots and make some new friends!

For the complete calendar, please see page 8 or visit FIUSM.com.

WEATHER

MONDAY
Partly cloudy
LOW: 66 HIGH: 74

TUESDAY
Partly cloudy
LOW: 68 HIGH: 74

WEDNESDAY
Partly cloudy
LOW: 68 HIGH: 76

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VICTORIA LYNCH/THE BEACON

TAGGING: Shortstop Junior Arrojo tags out a Farleigh Dickinson University Knight baserunner during the first game of a doubleheader on March 21. The Golden Panthers outscored the Knights 46-9 during the first three games of the series. **For coverage see pg. 12.**

SGC-UP ELECTIONS

Elections commissioner removed

DAVID BARRIOS
Senior Staff Writer

Student Government Council at University Park Elections Code Commissioner Richard Guzman was removed from his position March 12, less than one week after candidates submitted their applications for the upcoming SGA elections.

Guzman was removed for failure to "provide a detailed report of his office hours to the senate and executive on weekly basis," according to the official ruling which was provided to *The Beacon* by the SGC-UP Judiciary.

Guzman was mandated to submit these records as one of three clauses listed on a Feb. 16 ruling by the legislature after Guzman was charged with not fulfilling his tasks as elections commissioner, including attending at least one SGC meeting per month during which he, or a member of the elections board, was to submit a report about updates in the elections process.

The judiciary based its March 12 decision on an e-mail sent to them by "Senate Leadership," stating:

"As of now, he has failed to attend meetings and complete his office hours as stated in your deci-

sion letter."

Guzman was unavailable for comment for this article.

Elizabeth Funes, a member of the elections board, is currently acting as elections commissioner and overseeing the campaigning and elections process.

Elections are scheduled for April 1 and 2.

An open e-mail was sent to members of FIU's student body by SGC-UP Senate Speaker Jean Roseme on March 16, looking for applicants to fill the position of elections commission while also seeking to fill four seats in the

ELECTION, page 2

Business school makes top 100

LAUREN AGOSTO
Staff Writer

The College of Business Administration has one of the top 100 undergraduate business programs, according to *BusinessWeek* magazine.

The R. Kirk Landon Undergraduate School of Business at FIU was ranked 15 in the nation for public two-year programs, 55 among all public schools and 98 overall, ahead of Temple University, Georgia State University and the University of South Florida.

"It acknowledges that we have one of the leading business schools in the nation," said Joyce Elam, executive dean of the College of Business Administration in an interview with *The Beacon*. "When students are looking for business programs to attend, they look at these ratings to determine the schools that they want to consider."

Other Florida universities that ranked this year include the University of Miami, the University of Florida in Gainesville and the University of South Florida in Tampa.

FIU has more than 6,000 students enrolled in undergraduate business courses, more than 1,000 graduate students attend its Alvah H. Chapman Jr. Graduate School of Business every year and 1,000 business professionals are involved in one or more of its professional and executive education programs every year.

The Landon Undergraduate School of Business has been ranked among *BusinessWeek's* top undergraduate business programs twice in the last three years. The Chapman Graduate School of Business has been ranked four times in *BusinessWeek*.

"I think it's remarkable that we were ranked so high. Being recognized in the whole United States as one of the top business schools, it's really an honor," said Luis Rivera, a junior.

In addition to its frequent appearances in *BusinessWeek*, the School of Business has also been featured in several other publications.

BUSINESS, page 2

2009 SGA CANDIDATES

<p>UNIVERSITY PARK</p> <p>PRESIDENT/VP ANTHONY RIONDA (P) MYKAELLE FIGUEIREDO</p> <p>REP-AT-LARGE NICHOLAS AUTIELLO YUNIEL MOLINA HELENA RAMIREZ STEPHANIE JIMENEZ</p> <p>LOWER DIVISION DANIEL YBANEZ VANESSA YEPES MARIBEL CHALUJA</p>	<p>BUSINESS SENATOR ALEX LASTRA DANIELA GONZALEZ KRISHAN ARORA DANIEL GONZALEZ BRANDON QUINONES</p> <p>EDUCATION SENATOR ANGELINE GONZALEZ ERICA LOVETT</p> <p>ARTS & SCIENCES SEN. ADAM JOHNSON PABLO MARTINEZ SANDRA PEREZ TAYLOR PROCHNOW CRISTINA LORETO ALTANESE PHENELUS</p>	<p>ARCHITECTURE SENATOR ALFREDO ROIG SAVANNAH ALTRATER KATRINA FUMAGALI</p> <p>HONORS SENATOR STEVEN CRUZ VIGNESH DORRAISWAMY MOSES ALUICIO</p> <p>HOUSING SENATOR EDWARD PROENZA JANICE RUBIO CHELSEA FRANCO</p>	<p>BISCAYNE BAY</p> <p>PRESIDENT SHOLOM NEISTEIN KENASHA PAUL</p> <p>VICE PRESIDENT ANA MARIA SILVA CHRISTIN "CICI" BATTLE JUAN CARLOS REMEDIOS</p> <p>LOWER DIVISION SENATOR NICKOLAY CHIKISHEV KARIN GUERRERO MAIS KAYALI</p> <p>GENERAL UNDERGRADUATE SENATOR NATALAY COHEN JOSHUAN NUMA EMMANUEL OSEMOTA</p>
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NEWS FLASH

FIU

Arturo Sandoval to perform at FIU

On Tuesday, March 24 Arturo Sandoval will be performing with the FIU Jazz Band at the Wertheim Performing Arts Center Concert Hall at University Park.

Sandoval, a Grammy award-winning jazz trumpeter, is renowned for his Afro-Cuban grooves and his ability to play a variety of different styles.

Sandoval will be playing along side the FIU Jazz Band which is made up of young musicians from a wide range of cultures. To order tickets for the event, please call 305-348-0496.

WORLD

Poll: Miami Cubans still support embargo

According to the Associated Press, a new poll conducted in Miami, shows that most Cuban-American voters still support the embargo against Cuba.

Students from the University of Miami surveyed a total of 2,470 people while they were exiting the voting booths on Election Day. Of those, 720 were Cuban-American.

The results of the poll, which was published Friday by the UM Institute for Cuban and Cuban-American Studies, showed that 56 percent of the Cuban-Americans polled supported keeping tightening the embargo while 43 percent would loosen it.

This comes after a similar poll conducted by FIU in 2007 which showed that 57.5 of Cuban-Americans continued to support the embargo.

NATIONAL

Congressional Budget Office estimates a \$1 trillion deficit every year for ten years

New estimates released Friday by the Congressional Budget Office, President Obama's new budget would create unsustainably large deficits of \$1 trillion per year for the next 10 years.

According to USA Today, the new budget will produce precisely \$9.3 trillion of spending, \$2.6 trillion more than the administration predicted last month in their budget.

The CBO says that with these numbers, the deficit will never go below 4 percent a figure that economists agree are unsustainable.

– Compiled by Jorge Valens

Online competition awards funds

JONATHAN DAVILA

Staff Writer

Filling out a Free Application for Federal Student Aid isn't the only way to get tuition help this year.

Tuition Tales, the second annual online competition hosted by *Upromise.com*, begins on March 24. The contest allows members of the Web site to upload a 30-second video explaining why they, or a person they know, should get help with tuition.

"We started the program as a way to get Upromise customers money for college," said Debby Hohler, spokesperson for Upromise, a subsidiary of SLM Corporation.

Entrants must create a Upromise account to submit a video. All entries must be submitted by May 5, and the videos must be no longer than 30 seconds and no larger than 50 megabytes. Contestants must be at least 18 years old to enter.

After the entry deadline, first-round voting begins.

The 12 contestants with the most votes between May 6-12 will receive a \$250 Bed Bath & Beyond gift card.

Second-round voting takes place from May 13-19 and three winners will be selected – one from each three categories: children ages zero to 18,

There are other ways to get money for school, but people are lazy. A 30-second video is kind of easy, though.

Paula Gutierrez
freshman biology major

undergraduate students and graduate students.

The three grand prize winners will receive \$10,000 for college expenses.

"I'd pay my loans, my housing loans and buy books. It'd probably last two semesters," said freshman biology major Paula Gutierrez.

Gutierrez's sister, Juliana, said the contest would be a good way for students who don't normally apply for more conventional scholarships to have a chance at earning money for college.

"There are other ways to get money for school, but people are lazy. A 30-second video is kind of easy, though," she said. "It's an interesting opportunity."

Past entrants have submitted videos ranging from amateur 30-second clips of the contestant speaking to the camera to professionally edited videos. A grand prize winner from 2008 stared into the camera and sang a song he had written.

"Some of them were creative and

fully edited. We've even had claymation submitted," Hohler said. "One family of eight even did their own take on 'The Brady Bunch.'"

Aside from implementing the Tuition Tales contest, Upromise is dedicated to helping students earn cash for college. They have partnered with Dell, Best Buy, Exxon, Apple and many other companies that have agreed to submit portions of cash spent on their products back into Upromise members' accounts.

During the voting phases, Hohler said the site would feature an instant win game with daily prizes, but no further details could be provided at the time of this writing.

Cash saved up in a member's Upromise account can then be disbursed once every quarter to the member.

For more information on Tuition Tales and Upromise, visit *Upromise.com*.

Guzman removed as commissioner

ELECTION, page 1

elections board.

Candidates will be heard during today's SGC-UP Senate meeting during which the senate will approve applicants.

The current requirements to be a member of the elections board include a minimum 2.0 GPA, without any disciplinary or academic sanctions attached to an applicant's record.

The applicant must also not be actively identified with any candidate or campaign for an elective posi-

tion in SGC, nor shall they act in any partisan manner while they are serving as members of the board.

Members of the board cannot hold or be a candidate for an elected or appointed position within SGC during the time of service on the Board.

The University Wide Council, consisting of the presidents, vice presidents and senate speakers of both SGC-UP and SGC-BBC, was called into meeting Thursday afternoon to discuss elections but was dismissed after SGC-UP President Arthur J. Meyer walked out, citing

that the meeting was called on too short a notice and was violating the Sunshine State laws.

"The purpose for calling the UWC meeting was to weigh our options. With removal of the elections commissioner and four open seats on the elections board, we just want to make sure we are heading in the right direction before elections happen," Roseme said.

Another meeting of the council is scheduled for March 25.

THE BEACON

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Magazine gives School of Business high marks

BUSINESS, page 1

U.S. News & World Report's *America's Best Colleges* ranks the undergraduate international business programs 11th in the nation.

Fortune Small Business magazine acknowledges it as one of the best colleges for entrepreneurs, offering "some of the most innovative programs for fledgling business owners."

The National Society of Hispanic MBAs honored FIU's College of Business Administration with the Brillante Award for Educational Excellence.

"I feel proud to have the opportunity to attend one of the top schools in the country. Graduating from a school that is highly recognized will make my degree more

It benefits FIU because it raises the academic reputation of our programs ... in the University as a whole.

Joyce Elam, executive dean
College of Business Administration

prestigious," said Sergio Martinez, a sophomore.

In 2008, *AméricaEconomía* magazine ranked the Chapman Graduate School as the 22nd best business school, coming in ahead of MBA programs at other universities such as Boston, Tulane, Dartmouth, Duke, Georgetown, Emory, Michigan and University of Texas at Austin.

"It benefits FIU because it raises the academic reputation of our programs in the business and the University as a whole," Elam said.

Other ranks in the survey

include reviews of other aspects of the universities such as faculty to student ratio, job placement grade and teaching quality grade.

"As Miami's public university, it is very rewarding to see that our focus on delivering a world-class quality undergraduate business education is recognized by publications such as *BusinessWeek*," Elam said in a recent press release. "The South Florida community can be proud of having one of the nation's top public business schools right here in Miami."

FBLA-PBL place high at districts, head to nationals

JOSHUA BALLANTINE
Staff Writer

The Future Business Leaders of America-Phi Beta Lambda is the “largest and oldest business student organization in the world with over a quarter of a million members,” according to its Web site.

The District V Competitions are a precursor to the state and national conferences coming up this year, where FIU will compete against schools all around Florida and the United States.

Fourteen out of 23 FIU students won first place and 23 of 29 placed in the top three of their respective events at the 2009 FBLA-PBL District V Competitions held this past weekend at Broward College.

“We are very impressed with the results,” said FBLA-PBL President Abdel Perera, who won second place in the Future Business Executive competition at the national conference last year in Atlanta. “We are expecting big things from the state and national conferences.”

Briana Huggins, president of the International Business Honors Society at the University, won first place in International Business, one of the most competitive events at the competition.

At the national conference last year, all eight of the attending FIU students qualified in the top 10 of their event. Each event is either a written test or a performance with about 50 competitors. This year, 20 FIU students will be attending the national PBL conference.

Although the FBLA-PBL chapter was started just last year at FIU, member Yanyn San Luis was already elected the vice president of

the largest of the four PBL regions nationwide, the Southern Region. At the national conference this year in Anaheim, Calif., individuals will be encouraged to “get the edge” – the president’s theme this year.

San Luis, a political science major, will be unable to participate in the national competitions because she is the vice president, but at the conference she will represent FIU, which is a great recognition for the University.

“That is one great thing about this club,” said Perera, a political science major. “You don’t have to be a business major to be a part.”

Attendance has grown to 45 official members, and 35 FIU students are expected to participate in the state conference next week. There are more than 15,000 members of the PBL in Florida.

Membership for PBL begins in August and ends in February with a fee of \$30. Throughout the year, members can participate in fund-raisers for their trips, such as running concessions at the American Airlines Arena. Last year, both Perera and then Vice President Lilian Dennis raised enough money to cover their whole trip.

With FIU planning to become one of the top 15 urban-serving public research universities in the country by 2015 as a part of President Maidique’s “FIU at Fifty” initiative, the success of the FBLA-PBL chapter would help this goal. The business program has already received a lot of attention from magazines such as the *U.S. News & World Report*, *The Princeton Review* and *Financial Times*. Success at the national conference will be a big lift for the school.

“We had a 100 percent success rate last national competition. We expect the same this year,” Perera said.

New student ambassadors to bridge student, faculty gap

MEENA RUPANI
Contributing Writer

Thirty-three new student ambassadors were announced by the executive board of the Student Alumni Association on March 9.

Student ambassadors serve as leaders for the University community. Applicants are chosen by the previous year’s ambassadors with the executive members of the SAA, however, the SAA is looking for specific qualities in a candidate.

All candidates must maintain a 3.0 GPA throughout the year. Ambassadors must also be able to manage their time and represent FIU in a professional manner at all events.

The program is highly competitive, according to Dianne Cordova, assistant director of students and campus outreach who was also present for the announcement.

“It was a really tough choice this year. There were many that applied for the positions,” said Laura Fajardo, director of the student ambassador program.

The ambassadors, once

chosen, are responsible for hosting alumni events as well as tailgates and football games and, most importantly, they serve as the link between faculty, staff and alumni.

In addition, they are able to assist the Office of the President and the Office of Alumni Relations for certain events.

“In the past, they have helped us in events including commencement, freshman convocation and the geopolitical summit,” Cordova said.

One by one, the names were called and the board of the SAA adorned each new ambassador with beads and a nametag that officially appointed them as part of the 2009-10 ambassador team. One of the names selected was Manuel Romero.

He said he expects to represent the University in a way that he has not before.

“I want to portray FIU spirit ... I’m looking forward to hosting school events and portraying FIU in a positive light. Also, I want to make others care about our school,” said Romero, a junior medical engineering major.

Some were chosen for

a second time to serve as a representative for the University. One of these students was Paul Ashe. For Ashe, it was the involvement in student life that persuaded him to apply for the program.

“I love the tailgates and the football games, and it’s also a great way to see a sense of FIU pride in addition to joining faculty and alumni at events,” said Ashe, a senior advertising major.

Each year the SAA chooses about 30 candidates for the University Park campus and about five for the Biscayne Bay Campus.

According to Cordova, this year the SAA received about 42 applicants which is about the same amount as 2008. They typically receive 40 to 50 applications each Spring.

Following this year’s announcement, the applicants embraced and rejoiced with the executive board of the SAA. Cordova said she was especially excited to work alongside these skilled groups of students.

“The 2008-2009 team was amazing and I am fortunate to be working with such wonderful students,” Cordova said.

IN YOUR FACE



VERONIQUE NYDAM/THE BEACON

SWEET: (Top) Matt Kopfhaner, a psychology major, pies Jasmy Garbalosa, a criminal justice major, as part of the A-O-Pi In the Face event. (Middle) Garbalosa gets pied in the face a second time. (Bottom) Junior public relations major Jay Morales pies Sasha Garcia in the face.

KAMPAI! A JAPANESE TOAST



NATHAN VALENTINE/THE BEACON

FRESH IDEA: The Friends of Wine Club hosted a sake tasting March 12 so members could compare flavor profiles from Japanese-style rice wines to traditional grape wines, which are usually tasted. The sakes were paired with sesame encrusted tuna, miso soup and seared scallops.

SCHOOL OF JOURNALISM AND MASS COMMUNICATION

Reaccreditation standards met, University review still in progress

NATALYA COHEN
Contributing Writer

Students are not the only ones under tight scrutiny to meet academic requirements.

Every 10 years, different schools within the University need to meet several criteria to pass reaffirmation of accreditation, a voluntary self-assessment and external review of schools and their professional programs.

"It improves the quality of our teaching," said Joseph West, dean of the School of Hospitality Management and BBC vice provost.

The University undergoes the reaffirmation of institutional accreditation through the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools.

Set in Atlanta, SACS is an educational accreditation agency recognized by the U.S. Department of Education to improve education in the south through accreditation, according to its Web site.

SACS representatives review the schools' documentation, visit the schools going through the accreditation process and write a report of the assessment, including a recommendation to the commission of the accrediting organization.

On Feb. 16, the Accrediting Council on Education in Journalism and Mass Communications, the agency responsible for evaluating journalism and mass communications programs in colleges and universities, visited the School of Journalism and Mass Communication for four days.

"Six people from all over the

country made up the team," said Lillian Lodge Kopenhaver, SJMC dean.

There are nine standards that ACEJMC representatives review. They judge, deliberate and eventually inform the school of their decision, according to Frederick Blevens, SJMC professor.

These standards include:

-The mission, governance and administration of the school: The ACEJMC looks for a mission statement, a strategic plan and effective leadership from the administration.

-Curriculum and instruction: The school needs to demonstrate a balance between theoretical, conceptual and professional skill courses for students to be competent, and that its instruction and curriculum is demanding and current. The student-faculty classroom ratio should not exceed 20-1.

-Diversity and inclusiveness: The school is required to have a written plan for achieving a curriculum, a diverse faculty and student population. There should be no signs of any type of discrimination against gender, race, ethnicity or sexual orientation.

-Scholarship: research, creative and professional activity: The school should require, support and reward faculty research.

-Student service: The school should provide students with the support and services they need for proper learning and ensure their timely graduation. Students should also be well-informed about the different activities, requirements and policies of the school.

-Assessment of learning

outcomes: The school should constantly evaluate student learning to improve its curriculum and instruction.

"We did excellent," Kopenhaver said. "We scored full compliance in all nine standards for our undergraduate program and graduate program."

The ACEJMC committee will meet in Chicago in mid-March to prepare its preliminary report.

The committee will then meet in May in Portland, where the ACEJMC council will finalize accreditation.

The University as a whole will be visited by SACS next year to seek accreditation.

Although accreditation is a voluntary process, there are several disadvantages to students attending non-accredited schools. Federal and state financial aid is only available to students attending accredited schools.

"The Marriott Hotel just awarded us \$1.7 million toward our program abroad in China. We would have never gotten that had we not been accredited," West said. "Lowe's just recently signed to award student scholarships of \$10,000 for the next five years."

Another advantage to accreditation is that the process provides schools all over the United States the chance to re-evaluate and better themselves, according to West.

"Universities have to re-evaluate the credentials of every faculty member," West said. "Faculty members are now accountable for students' outcome, which as a dean I love."

SGC-BBC proposes budget allocation for next fiscal year

BARBARA QUIJANO
Asst. News Director

Bombarded with a strenuous economy and suffering from budget cuts, the Student Government Council at Biscayne Bay Campus distributed funds for the 2009-2010 fiscal year.

A BBC budget meeting took place March 13 in the Wolfe University Center to decide how much funding, which is determined by the Activities and Services fee, should be allocated to each student organization, recreational activity and facility.

The A&S fee is based on student enrollment at the University, it costs students \$10.52 per enrolled credit each semester.

"The administration designs the distribution of the A&S funds through the estimated enrollment process, and that's how every government bases it on, in terms

of how many tax dollars they're going to get," said Sholom Neistein, speaker of the SGC-BBC senate. "Last year, the budget was \$12 million, now they cut it to \$9.6 million, but I'm very confident that it will be increased."

On March 6, the Student Government Association met to discuss the University-wide budget allocation, the amount of which is determined by the A&S fee. The fee is due for an increase this year.

Rosa Jones, vice president of Student Affairs, was present at the meeting along with Matilde Gramling, director of budget and personnel for Student Affairs and UP and BBC representatives.

From this meeting, the remaining available funds are split between UP and BBC, where each sect then meets and discusses its exact budget.

But these propositions are not final due to a possible increase in student enrollment, which would increase the funds in the A&S budget, raising the amount of each allocation.

Members present at the BBC budget meeting were SGC-BBC President Ana Maria Silva, Vice President Kenasha Paul, Comptroller Carlos Becerra-Pineda and Neistein, as well as assistant director of campus life and orientation, Rafael Zapata and

Gramling

At the meeting, Becerra-Pineda went over each line-item belonging to every organization, allocating funds accordingly.

For the 2008-2009 fiscal year, each organization had a specified amount of funding allocated to them from SGC-BBC, but for the upcoming year, things may turn out differently.

"Every single [organization, recreational activity and facilities] was cut, because we did not want to show precedence of one organization to the other, that would be biased," said Neistein.

"But these are tentative values, these numbers will change. This is a rough estimate of what's going to transpire if the A&S fees don't increase, but [SGC-BBC] is 95 percent sure they will increase."

Because the fiscal year ends June 30, there is worry as to when organizations will know the

correct allocation and if they will get the desired amount.

"By the end of March, Jones has to say 'yes' or 'no,'" Gramling said. "The A&S committee, that I know of, hasn't even started, so I doubt by the end of March we'll have that."

"We're at a point where we

need to do more evaluation of the importance of the services that are offered," said Jones in an article published on *The Beacon* on March 9.

In regards to whether the organizations at BBC will get funded the amount SGC-BBC wants to, 99 percent of the time the administration doesn't change the proposed allocations, according to Zapata.

These organizations include Bay Vista Hall Council, BBC Campus Life and Orientation, Multifaith Council, Student Programming Council, Student Organizations Council, Panther Power, Broward SGA and Campus Life Marketing.

On March 25, a University-wide meeting will be held to discuss the projected funds of the A&S fees, according to Neistein.

There are no set dates as to when the A&S fees will be determined and finalized, but once they are, both UP and BBC will meet again and refine the proposed allocations.

Last year the budget was \$12 million, now they cut it to \$9.6 million, but I'm very confident that it will be increased.

Sholom Neistein, speaker
SGC-BBC Senate

Fish data helps Everglades restoration, research

NATHAN VALENTINE
BBC Photo Editor

When grad student Meagan Dunphy-Daly and marine scientist Kirk Gastrich aren't doing research in their lab, they are playing hooky in the marshes of the Everglades.

But this trip was no walk in the park. It was a boat ride.

Leaving the Biscayne Bay Campus around 5 a.m. on Feb. 24, the duo had one goal in mind: insert three transmitters into wild snook caught in the Everglades.

The team headed toward Shark River Slough (which feeds into the Everglades and goes into the Gulf of Mexico) where they met up with an electrofishing team.

Electrofishing is an alternate method for sampling fish. Instead of using fish traps or large nets, an electrical current controlled with a foot pedal is released into the water via two electrodes, stunning fish in the immediate vicinity. The immobilized fish are then scooped up with a dip net, identified and measured, according to grad student Philip Matich.

"Our sampling is standardized, with 5 minutes of pedal time, more than 120 meters of shoreline," said Jennifer Rehage, electrofishing team leader.

The electrofishing team collects the fish, while the data collection team scrubs in for the dirty work.

"Our research is looking at the roles of large consumers in Shark River, and how environmental conditions affect their behavior and habitat use," said Matich, who helps analyze the data in the Dr. Michael Heithaus Marine Community Ecology Lab in the Marine Science Building at the Biscayne Bay Campus.

The Comprehensive Everglades Restoration Project provides a framework for the

restoration, protection and preservation of central and southern Florida, including the Everglades, as well as research funding to the University. The project aims to increase seasonal freshwater flow to the lower Everglades. This would cause the salinity level to decrease in the lower Everglades and coastal wetlands, according to the CERP official Web site.

"This may change the dynamics of the ecosystem [in Shark River]," Matich said. "Our research will be used to advise managers on the possible results of doing this and how restoration efforts should best be planned."

According to Rehage, fish catches vary depending on the season, peaking during dry season between February and May.

"We get a mixture of species in our samples," said Rehage.

But on this day Dunphy-Daly and Gastrich were only interested in snook and gar.

Rehage's team presented five fish to the duo to begin data collection and tagging.

"The exciting work of field biologists begins right now," Dunphy-Daly said. "It never ends."

Gastrich agreed.

"It never ends."

The field work conducted by Dunphy-Daly and Gastrich included a quick surgery to insert an acoustic tracking transmitter into the fish, which by rule of thumb should be at least 45 centimeters based on the size of the transmitters surgically implanted, according to Matich.

The minimum size limit is based on previous lab experience with fish that were not affected by the surgery.

"There are no official regulations on size requirements in our research permit," Matich said.

The transmitter's dimensions are similar to a wine bottle cork.



NATHAN VALENTINE/THE BEACON

TAG AND RELEASE: Kirk Gastrich and Megan Dunphy-Daly measure a garfish before taking a fin clip sample and releasing the fish back into Shark River Slough in the Everglades, Feb. 23.

Its battery lasts for about three years.

For the surgery, a scalpel makes a ventral incision down the stomach, which is widened with blunt tip scissors. After the transmitter is inserted, the incision is sutured with one stitch. The surgery start and end time is documented, as well as the apparent health of the fish after the surgery before it's released.

"The average surgery time is about two to four minutes," Dunphy-Daly said.

It takes about two to three weeks for the incision around the transmitter to heal completely in bull sharks, for which the same methodology as the snook is applied, according to Matich.

Of the three snook that under-

went this procedure, all were released and able to swim within minutes of the surgery's completion. It takes less than a day for the fish to resume normal behavior, according to Matich.

Tagged animals are tracked as they swim by any of the 41 monitors placed around the survey area, according to Dunphy-Daly.

"We track the fish in order to understand their behavior and habitat, and to determine their role in the ecosystem," Matich said.

Data collected at the harvesting site included exact GPS coordinates of where the fish were caught, salinity of the water, dissolved oxygen content of the water and water temperature.

Along with habitat field

samples, the data illustrates how the animals influence the system as predators and how marine nutrients are deposited in the estuary, according to Dunphy-Daly.

The electrofishing team and the data collection team finished by 2 p.m. Feb 24.

Including travel time, a typical day of field work in the Everglades begins at 4 a.m. and ends at 9:30 p.m., according to Gastrich.

If the teams receive more funding, they will continue their research tracking fish in the areas affected by CERP's efforts, but accomplishing daily goals in a timely manner is still cause for celebration.

"That was successful, short and sweet," said Dunphy-Daly. "We got the job done."

Students to partake in whitewater rafting, caving trip

ADA ALVAREZ
Contributing Writer

Whitewater and dark caves await student participants of the whitewater rafting and caving trip sponsored by the Recreation Center.

The trip, from May 14 to May 17 in Hico, W.Va, is part of the Adventure Recreation program, which is designed to take students to athletic excursions to places outside South Florida.

Participants will get wet on a six-hour whitewater rafting activity in the New River, in the Southeast corner of West Virginia.

The activity is coordinated by Adventures Mountain River, a rafting company.

According to Warren Shaw, assistant director of campus recreation, rafting experience is not required, but swimming ability is expected.

The river does have level three and four waves, which are based on the International Scale of River Difficulty, that ranges from one through six.

A rating of three and four mean that there will be moderate drops and rocks along the river.

I couldn't plan a trip for Spring Break, but I'll definitely go to this. This will sure be a way to say goodbye to my last semester here.

Max López, senior
marine biology major

"This is something to get the students involved. People who aren't experts will do fine," Shaw said. "But it is going to be a challenge."

Aside from the whitewater rafting, participants will also go caving in the Lost World Caverns, which were founded in 1942 and descend 120 feet below the Earth's surface.

"It's not a cavern tour where you walk on a path," said Matt O'Connor, intramural and sports coordinator for the Recreation Center. "You're going to get dirty."

During the Lost World Caverns' 45-minute tour, participants will learn about how the caves were formed and what kind of life can be found in the caves, according to the Lost World Cavern official Web site.

"I couldn't plan a trip for Spring Break, but I'll definitely go to this," said Max López, senior marine biology major. "It is a little over my budget but I'm trying to save to get in the list. This will sure be a way to say goodbye to my last semester here at FIU."

Anyone interested in participating in the trip is welcome to register, according to Shaw, who said that both students and non-students can register by filling out the forms available at the Recreation Center at both University Park and Biscayne Bay campuses.

Registration is open to a maximum of 50 people until May 4.

The deadline for earlybird discount (25 percent off total fee) is April 17.

The cost of the trip is \$300 for Univer-

sity students and \$325 for non-students. This fee includes the roundtrip bus ride to West Virginia, rafting equipment, a cavern tour and three nights in the Howard Johnson Express hotel in Beckley, W.Va.

Only one lunch and one snack are provided during the trip; students have to pay for all other expenses, according to Shaw.

"We want to make it the least expensive for students," said O'Connor. "With the economy the way it is, people don't have money to spend."

Although the Recreation Center at UP has organized several trips this year, including a skiing trip to Colorado, this is the only trip that the BBC Recreation Center has been involved in.

"I'm really happy with the trips that are being offered here," said Laura Hernandez, graduate student of hospitality and management. "I kayaked, played paint ball and now I'm going water rafting – all for the very first time, it is really exciting."

For more information contact Shaw at (305) 919-4595 or O'Connor at (305) 348-7530.

BEACON | Editorial

Candidates should focus on transparency, protocol revisions

After considering the challenges that lie ahead for our school and the lingering issues the current student government continues to grapple with, *The Beacon* feels that there are certain priorities that must take precedence in the eyes of any candidate who wishes to serve the students of FIU.

High on the list of these priorities is the issue of transparency. While student government leaders continue to give voice to many concerns regarding this issue, there is much that has yet to be done. Student apathy toward the day-to-day operations of SGA is bothersome to many, yet students can hardly be asked to pay close attention when so little information is provided to them.

The Beacon works hard to inform students about the process, yet SGA must also do its part and make critical information more accessible. Meeting minutes the way they are currently kept must be improved upon, as they are usually rife with errors. Video and audio recordings of all meetings should be made available, and meeting minutes and roll call votes must be posted online. Student government leaders must be willing to put their names behind their votes, and allow students to watch them debate key decisions.

An important part of making SGA more transparent and getting students more involved is through a frequently updated Web site. A more informative and navigable site is long overdue. Aside from being used to not only post relevant information, it should foster communication with constituents.

Certain aspects of SGA protocol call for revision as well. Since student government members must adhere to a grade requirement, the process through which a student's eligibility is gauged should occur at the beginning of the semester. That process was conducted well into this semester, and a few members were forced out after having attended several meetings.

This makes the Senate practically useless at times, as it bogs down meetings with votes to replace empty seats. With attendance at Senate meetings as bad as it is, future SGA members must strictly adhere to the attendance requirement or be swiftly removed.

These issues and more must be addressed by the next generation of SGA leaders. Yet the current situation faced by FIU students calls for more than just a change in policy, it demands a change in attitude. SGA leaders must be willing to vocally contest the decisions of administrators and fight for students interests, even when it's inconvenient or difficult to do so.

It is important for SGA to build partnerships with administrators, but such relationships should never circumvent or supersede the obligation of SGA members to put the needs of students of all ages, races, genders and affiliations first.

This year, as every year, FIU is fortunate to have a wide field of qualified and capable candidates, yet *The Beacon* will only endorse candidates who we feel can stand up for these causes and work to forge the best possible future for this University.

The Beacon will publish its endorsements for the 2009 SGA elections on March 30.

GAMING BIAS

Video game enthusiasts are not addicts

FIDEL LEBLANC
Contributing Writer

The apex of technology is nigh. There are telephones that can identify any song in the world simply by having it played near them for 30 seconds. Blu-Ray discs and high definition television make us feel like we are actually immersed in what we are watching, whether it be a high-octane, overly exaggerated car chase or the electric atmosphere of a UEFA Champions League final.

With these advancements in electronic technology, it is inevitable that video games have not been left behind. The three main systems, Microsoft's Xbox 360, Sony's Playstation 3 and Nintendo's Wii, are all far cries from the 16-bit days of the Super Nintendo Entertainment System, with a level of realism only rivaled by what is seen in movies.

Games such as *World of Warcraft* allow millions of players to interact not only with the game world, but with a massive amount of other players. I cite *World of Warcraft* specifically because it arguably has the highest following of gamers, with more than 11.5 million monthly subscribers according to Blizzard Entertainment, the developers of the gaming phenomenon. Players devote vast amounts of time to the game, trying to attain the coveted Level 80 and the epic gear picked up along the way.

Many people regard the game to have an addictive property because of how long people play. According to *nickyee.com*, a Web site that compiles *World of Warcraft* statistics, players usually devote about 20 to 22 hours on the game per week. Some people believe *World of Warcraft*, and

video games in general, have the same ability to hook players as nicotine does for smokers.

As a gamer myself, I would be biased to defend my past-time, but even from an objective point of view, the idea of video games or the Internet being addictive is just plain laughable.

Addiction is defined by Merriam-Webster's Dictionary as "a compulsive need" for a habit-forming substance, such as heroin or nicotine; in other words, substances that cause a biological need or want. There is no evidence that video games cause a biological addiction in players. Some would argue that the addiction is psychological rather than biological, but the American Psychological Association reached a consensus on the subject, deeming it too ill-researched to be a proven disorder.

There are social factors that contribute to this as well. Gamers are usually seen as socially inept outcasts. The double standard here is that it is not considered that most gamers are not socially inept and lead normal lives. The ones who seclude themselves don't do it because they are addicted. That's just their personality.

Dan Loton, a graduate of Victory University's Honors College in psychology, ran a study on "problem gamers," gamers who sever all social ties to play their video games. He found that only one in six of the 621 surveyed exhibited signs of social shyness and ineptness. Such skewed perceptions of gamers is a stereotype that has evolved and is cementing a social paradigm.

If an artist who spends 12 hours straight working on a piece is not considered an art addict, why should a

World of Warcraft player spending 12 hours playing be considered one? As much as they crave critical acclaim, artists, like gamers, do what they do for self-fulfillment, a sense of personal achievement.

As a writer, I may spend up to four hours working on a short story or newspaper article. Does that make me addicted to writing? I think not. This social double standard is one that tarnishes the gaming culture. It makes gamers like myself look like socially awkward and ultimately strange people, just because we enjoy something that is widely accepted to be primarily for children, despite the fact that a survey conducted by the Entertainment Software Association says that 49 percent of gamers are aged 18-49, with the mean age being 35.

People must check the facts before making hasty generalizations about others.



Middle-class Americans deserve to voice their issues

OLGA VICENS
Staff Writer

On Feb. 28, the first meeting of President Obama's middle class task force took place in Philadelphia. The purpose of this task force is to meet in cities across the country to deal with problems faced by the average American.

The problem, according to an article from *Time* magazine, is that the task force does not have a single member that belongs to the middle class.

The article states that anyone making between \$30,000 and \$100,000 a year is in the middle class, yet everyone in the task force from Vice President Joe Biden to Council of Economic Advisors Chairwoman Christina Romer is part of the top 5 percent of wage earners. However, what this article fails to acknowledge is that the members of the task

force from the Council of Economic Advisors chairwoman to the energy secretary are the ones most knowledgeable about ways to solve the problems faced by the middle class.

In order to help the middle class in this country, the task force must have the most experience on issues concerning the economy and ways of using renewable energy to create green jobs. Since they are experienced within these fields, it should not surprise anyone that they belong to the top 5 percent of wage earners, especially since these experts are in high demand during a recession.

Besides the fact that the members of the task force should be the most knowledgeable in fields concerning job creation, middle class Americans can submit their questions and ideas online on the task force's Web site, *AStrong-MiddleClass.gov*.

The only problem I have with the task force

is that the whole point of going from city to city is to hear from middle class Americans to find out about the problems they are facing. The best way to increase consumer confidence in these middle-class Americans attending these sessions is to directly answer their questions and seriously consider their ideas and suggestions.

In the session conducted by the task force in Philadelphia, the task force did not accept any questions from the audience. Since these experts are going to have to do more discussion among themselves about what to do to help the middle class outside of these sessions, and any law they propose is going to have to be passed through Congress, the greatest benefit that can be achieved from such a session is to hear what the middle class has to say.

"I think that it is important for the middle class to hear Biden and other panelists personally answer their questions. If they were to

address the issues of the middle class online, it would be less personal... I think that the public would benefit from hearing the members of the task force personally address their questions and concerns," said international business major Alex Kayal.

It is OK to not have any members from the task-force belong to the middle-class. It is not OK for these sessions to be conducted without any input from the audience.

In the same article, Communications Director Daniel Morris of the Drum Major Institute, a think tank that analyzes middle-class policy issues, said, "They're going to need to talk to real members of the middle class. There's no substitute for immediate intimate interaction."

Talking to Americans directly is not only crucial, but imperative for the task force's success.

CORPS DE CADETS

Club works with Army, helps members achieve goals

EDDITH SEVILLA
Asst. Life! Editor

Humberto Hernandez used to hate public speaking. But after he became a part of Corps of Cadets, he's able to speak to large groups without messing up "so much."

Hernandez said his accomplishment is due to his involvement with Corps of Cadets, a student club that works in conjunction with Army Reserves Officers' Training Corps at FIU.

"I used to get nervous before. My palms would sweat and I couldn't think straight," said Hernandez, a civil engineer major and vice president of the club.

Students who join ROTC automatically become club members, according to Jorge Rossell, the club's president. Rossell describes the club as a collaboration of big brothers.

Members help each other with academic issues, personal issues and even career concerns.

"We build teamwork by bringing members together," Rossell said.

During local football games and concerts, club members work by helping camera TV crews, making sure that no one disrupts the venue and also helping raise funds for the club and ROTC, according to Hernandez.

Teamwork is important during physical training when members swim carrying 40 pounds, jump off airplanes and

perform land navigation with a compass.

"This program has helped me develop my leadership skills, my confidence and my interpersonal skills," Hernandez said.

Members are encouraged but not expected to participate in physical training, which is scheduled three times a week in the early morning hours.

"If you see some guys in uniform running around campus at 6 a.m., that's us," Hernandez said.

Although the club gives its members the opportunity to network with people from all walks of life, the amount of time it takes from its members does not always allow for fun time.

"A lot of times you don't get to party, but that's not necessarily a bad thing," Hernandez said. "We are more focused and career-oriented and we tend to prioritize what's good, so not everything is about party and girls."

For more information contact the FIU ROTC office at 305-348-1619.



GAMES GALORE

Few movie-based video games share counterpart's success

As Steve Mesa said in one of his latest columns, *Watchmen* was a pretty darn good flick.

But pretty darn good flicks rarely, if ever, make good video games.

More times than not, games based on movies will be about as fun as sticking your finger in an electric pencil sharpener.

Here are some recent movie games you should be sure to stay the heck away from.

tank. Sadly, that is exactly how developer Secret Level decided Iron Man should control like in a video game. Good luck figuring out this game's controls.

Maybe you're supposed to play it with your feet. Better yet, remember that mech game, *Steel Battalion*? Remember that giant controller that came with the game? Yeah, you'll probably be better off using that.

Don't play this game.

For every 10 movie games worth a pile of dung, though, there are a few that may actually be worth your time.

Here are some to look out for in the coming months that won't make you have an aneurism in frustration.

THE GODFATHER II

The original title, developed by EA, was a sandbox game that featured a fictional 1940's New York to explore.

So if you love *Grand Theft Auto*, chances are you'll love this game. And you'll love it even more if you're a fan of the films.

The sequel maintains the essentials from the original title while expanding upon the "Black Hand" features, the hand-to-hand combat mechanics and adds a strategy element to the game.

Players will have to manage the Corleone family's empire as its territories will be attacked by rival families throughout the game.

The Godfather II hits store shelves April 7.

More times than not, games based on movies will be about as fun as sticking your finger in an electric pencil sharpener.

THE CHRONICLES OF RIDDICK: ASSAULT ON DARK ATHENA

This title is the sequel to the Xbox original, *The Chronicles of Riddick: Escape from Butcher Bay*.

As a matter of fact, Athena will actually include a visually updated version of the original title that masterfully blended stealth gameplay with hand-to-hand and shooting action.

This time around, Riddick will take his goggles to the Internet as the game will feature an online multiplayer mode that features the conventional deathmatches and capture the flags, but it will feature a pretty interesting "Capture Riddick" mode.

Starbreeze Studios' next big thing hits store shelves the same day as *The Godfather II*, April 7.

Games Galore plugs you into the latest in digital entertainment every other Monday.

COLUMN



JONATHAN DAVILA

WATCHMEN: THE END IS NIGH

This game is so terrible that Warner Brothers Interactive decided to make this title "download-only." Nonetheless, it'll still run you \$20, and in return you'll get a game that looks and plays like a PlayStation 2 game (a bad PlayStation 2 game).

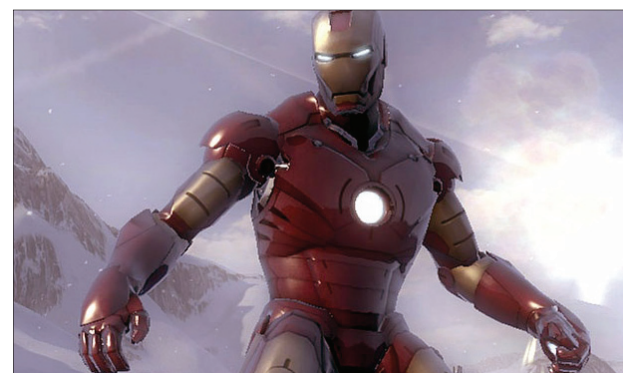
The controls are clunky, and the animations are so atrocious, Rorschach looks like his arms are strapped to his sides as he runs.

You'll see the same three-punch animation over and over as you mash face buttons to take out wave after wave of the same enemies.

Rorschach's journal: "March 13: My video game stinks like this city's tallest landfill. One day, a new developer will look for me to create another game about me and my friends, and I'll look at them and say ... 'no.'"

IRON MAN

In the comic books and the film, Iron Man is somewhat of a walking



MAN, I FEEL LIKE A WOMAN



COURTNEY BAAS/THE BEACON

STRIKE A POSE: Delta Lambda Phi - Beta Delta chapter, "national social fraternity for gay, bisexual and progressive men," according to its Web site, puts on a show March 11 in GL 100.



Why U2 album brings in wildly hailing reviews

The new U2 album is not bad. Released on Feb. 27, the Irish mega group's 12th album, *No Line on The Horizon*, is probably an improvement on their last album. Looking past the awful first single (something you had to do with their last album), there are some really great songs on it.

The title track, "No Line on the Horizon" and "Cedars of Lebanon" are terrific. Many of the songs feature some of Bono's finest lyrics in a long time, as he seems to be speaking directly to his band and the audience in songs like "Magnificent" and the brilliantly titled "I'll Go Crazy If I Don't Go Crazy Tonight."

Having said all that, I don't want it to sound like I'm heaping too much praise on it.

Like I said, the album is decidedly not bad, but it's certainly not much more than that.

However, you'd never know that by reading the majority of reviews for this album, which have widely hailed the album as a Masterpiece, with a capital "M."

The past three U2 albums have really seen this type of knee jerk reaction from critics, especially those in the mainstream immediately heaping praise on it for not being terrible, apparently.

Rolling Stone, which admittedly probably stopped being relevant sometime during the last millennium, has hailed each of the last three U2 albums as a classic, on par with their late 80's peak. And *Rolling Stone* isn't alone in this sentiment.

I realize, of course, that U2 is a special

kind of beast that exists in its own world within the realm of rock music, but the type of praise they get for their late period good-to-great albums is a bit ridiculous.

However, U2 isn't alone in this phenomenon. Seemingly every time a formerly great artist releases an album, from Paul McCartney to Neil Young to the king of it, Bob Dylan, it is instantly hailed as a classic.

Dylan's last three albums have been some of the most wildly and widely overhyped of their time,

with critics falling over themselves to fawn over mediocre mid-tempo blues because the album manages to merely top the worst of Dylan's output.

Of course this is all subjective and in the interest of full disclosure, I've been accused of being a huge Paul McCartney apologist, and as such, may have been guilty of this crime with the release of McCartney's 2005 album *Chaos & Creation in the Backyard*.

In the weeks following its release, I was quick to note the album as a stunning achievement from a supposedly washed up pop tune smith. But, as time went on, my interest in the album waned, and I realized that I was doing what I hated.

It is difficult to judge music in a vacuum, and that is what is being asked of critics when a historically great artist begins releasing albums in the twilight of their career.

You have to take the past and history of the artist into account, take these reviews with a grain of sand and enjoy them for what they are: a talented, though past its prime, artist who thankfully still has the drive to make music.



COLUMN

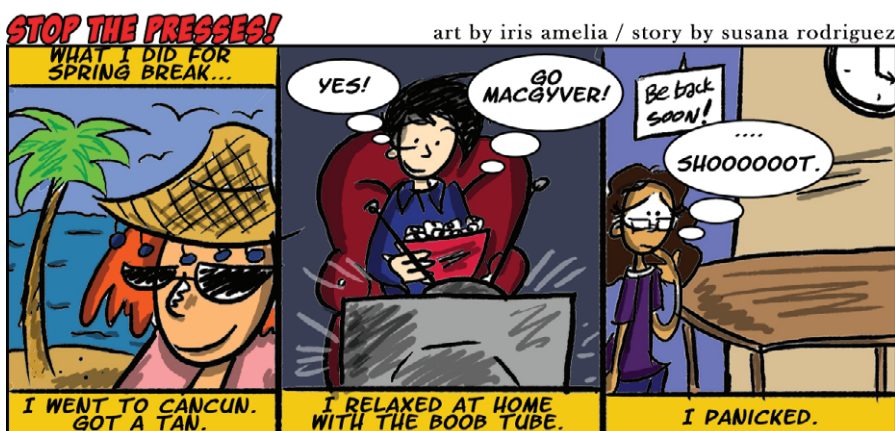
CHRIS TOWERS

diversions

PHD: Piled Higher and Deeper By: Jorge Cham



WWW.PHDCOMICS.COM



THIS WEEK ON CAMPUS

MONDAY • MARCH 23

TUESDAY • MARCH 24

WHAT: Pie Your Candidate
WHEN: 12 p.m.
Where: GC Chapman Plaza
CONTACT: 305-348-2121

WHAT: Students WRITE General Meeting
WHEN: 2 p.m.
WHERE: GC 340
CONTACT: 305-348-2138

WHAT: Campus Bible Fellowship Meeting
WHEN: 11 a.m.
WHERE: GC 343
CONTACT: 305-229-1862

WHAT: Haitian Students Organization
General Meeting
WHEN: 6:30 p.m.
WHERE: GC 305
CONTACT: 305-348-2285

WHAT: Preksha
Meditation Club Meeting
WHEN: 2 p.m.
WHERE: GC 305
CONTACT: 305-348-2138

WHAT: SPC General Meeting
WHEN: 3:30 p.m.
WHERE: GC 305
CONTACT: 305-348-2138

WHAT: CSO General Meeting
WHEN: 3:30 p.m.
WHERE: GC 140
CONTACT: 305-348-2138

WHAT: Lamda Theta Pi Pool Tournament
WHEN: 8 p.m.
WHERE: Porter Davis Game Room
CONTACT: 305-348-2189

Compiled by Chris Towers

DON'T BELIEVE THE HYPE. Hip-Hop. Top 40. Alternative. It doesn't matter what you listen to, tobacco companies just want you to think smoking sounds like a good idea. But smoking and using other forms of tobacco can lead to serious illnesses like emphysema and lung cancer that can tune you out – permanently.



BE FREE  [Tobacco Free Florida.com](http://TobaccoFreeFlorida.com)

SUN BELT BASEBALL STANDING

TEAM	OVERALL	CONF	PCT
Western Kentucky	13-5	7-0	1.000
Middle Tennessee	15-3	6-1	.833
FIU	14-4	4-2	.667
Florida Atlantic	13-4	3-3	.500
ULM	10-8	3-4	.429
Arkansas State	8-10	3-4	.429
UALR	7-11	3-4	.429
Louisiana-Lafayette	8-9-1	2-4	.333
Troy	11-8	1-3	.250
South Alabama	8-11	1-3	.250
Arkansas State	5-13	1-6	.143

*All records up to date as of Mar. 22

SUN BELT LEADERS

BATTING

Min 2.5 AB	G	Avg	AB	R	H	RBI	2B	3B	HR	BB
Robertson MT	17	.485	66	19	32	12	9	0	1	7
Townsend FIU	16	.474	57	17	27	20	7	1	4	10
Gaynor WKU	20	.467	75	29	35	27	8	2	8	15
Brentz MT	17	.415	65	21	27	20	1	2	7	7
Baumgartner ASU	19	.415	82	34	34	11	6	2	3	5
Reynolds USA	19	.403	67	16	27	9	3	2	1	7
Morris UNO	19	.403	67	15	27	7	4	0	0	12
Payton WKU	20	.400	75	21	30	20	8	3	2	9
Jobe FIU	30	.393	61	19	24	14	7	0	3	9
Soignier ULM	30	.392	79	21	31	24	7	1	4	18

PITCHING

Min 1.0 IP/Team	Gm	App	ERA	W-L	Sv	IP	H	R	ER	BB	SO
Ebert FIU	5	0.61	3-1	0	29.1	15	7	2	5	36	
Rembisz FIU	5	1.54	4-0	0	35.0	27	5	6	4	30	
Hagen ULL	10	2.61	0-0	2	20.2	14	8	6	13	14	
Polizzano FIU	4	2.62	2-1	0	44.0	21	11	7	5	23	
Hightower WKU	4	2.74	3-0	0	23.0	23	17	7	6	17	
Roberts MT	5	2.93	3-0	0	27.2	21	13	9	7	24	
Walls TROY	6	3.00	1-2	6	33.0	24	12	11	24	24	
Jackson USA	5	3.00	2-2	0	33.0	24	15	11	8	31	
Rooks FAU	5	3.06	3-0	0	32.1	28	13	11	12	18	
Tyler TROY	5	3.09	2-2	0	32.0	34	13	11	8	26	

FIU TEAM BATTING STATS

BATTING

Min 6.0 AB	G	Avg	AB	R	H	RBI	2B	3B	HR	BB
Tyler Townsend	16	.474	57	17	27	20	7	1	4	10
Mike Martinez	14	.439	41	16	18	15	3	0	3	7
Greg Waddell	15	.412	17	8	7	7	0	0	1	3
Tim Jobe	17	.393	61	19	24	14	7	0	3	9
Sean Reilly	8	.375	16	3	6	5	2	0	0	7
Junior Arrojo	18	.354	48	20	12	9	4	0	0	3
Michael Vargas	13	.346	26	8	17	3	1	1	0	2
Raiko Alfonso	13	.342	38	7	9	6	5	0	1	6
Ty Main	13	.333	24	5	13	6	3	0	1	0
Ryan Mollica	18	.306	72	22	8	20	4	0	3	5
Pablo Bermudez	12	.300	40	12	22	9	2	0	2	5
Steven Stropp	16	.274	62	9	12	12	3	0	3	2
Lammar Guy	16	.233	43	11	17	10	1	0	2	0
Garrett Wittles	17	.225	40	14	10	4	2	0	0	9
Doug Joyce	6	.000	13	10	9	1	0	0	0	2

CLASSIFIEDS

PAGEANT

Caribbean Pageantry is seeking contestants for their 4th Annual Miss Miami Carnival Pageant, being held Sunday September 20, 2009. For more information please call 786-356-0869.

JOBS

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BASEBALL: FIU 15, FDU 2

Big Friday night for Rembisz

SERGIO BONILLA
Asst. Sports Director

Starting pitcher Scott Rembisz received help from his defense first, then the offense followed suit.

Diving catches and solid defense supported Rembisz's seven-inning effort and an explosive offense put the game out of reach as the Golden Panthers defeated the Fairleigh Dickinson University Knights 15-2 on March 20 at University Park Stadium.

Rembisz (4-0) came off his worst start of the season against University of Little Rock-Arkansas on March 14. He allowed four runs in five innings, yet his earned run average jumped to just 1.93.

But he made sure he would not lose control against the Knights and began to locate

his pitches more effectively. "I was having trouble locating everything. I was leaving everything up," Rembisz said.

The Golden Panthers got on the board first 1-0 largely due to a single and stolen base by centerfielder Lammar Guy.

Leading 2-0 headed to the third inning, Rembisz's lack of command caught up to him against the Knights' offense.

The defense bailed out Rembisz when outfielder Tyler Townsend gunned down a Knight's base runner before he could reach first, after he hit a line drive to right field.

Rembisz was impressed with Townsend's heads up play, something Rembisz said he had not seen since high school.

"The first couple of

games the defense was pretty bad, but it got a lot better," Rembisz said. "Good defense helps a lot."

With two outs in the inning, the Knights hit two consecutive singles to put men on first and third. A double steal led catcher Steven Stropp to make a throwing error, which led to a run. Rembisz controlled the damage and allowed just one run in that inning.

Once he found his groove, Rembisz would be nearly perfect the rest of the way.

"I started hitting my spots. After I did that, they couldn't hit me," he said.

Catcher Steven Stropp said Rembisz began to throw his fastball and curveball down in the strike zone to cool down the Knights' bats.

With the Golden Panthers' starter back on track, their offense would not stop

scoring runs. Tim Jobe's line drive home run in the fourth extended the lead to 4-1.

But it was in the seventh inning that 10 Golden Panthers crossed the plate to transform the once well-contested 5-1 game into a 15-1 blowout.

Designated hitter Mike Martinez, who finished 2-for-4 at the plate, pitched the final two innings on the mound. He allowed one run and two hits.

The Golden Panthers improved to 12-4 while the Knights dropped their record to 2-7.

Rembisz remains without a blemish on his perfect 4-0 record.

"He really wasn't sharp his first three innings," said head coach Turtle Thomas. "But Scott Rembisz is going to give you a good outing when it's all said and done."

Staff ace completely shuts down team

BASEBALL, page 12

GAME TWO: FIU 16, FDU 0

The Golden Panthers offense made one of two huge splashes against the Fairleigh Dickinson Univer-

sity Knights from the first pitch of the game.

The second splash came via a rain delay, which prevented the start of the second inning.

However, the Golden Panthers could not be outdone as their bats launched four

home runs and eight runs in the first inning before the rain caused a 25-minute delay.

Game two of a double-header, scheduled to go just seven innings, was the third consecutive rout for the Golden Panthers. They defeated the Knights 16-0 on

March 21 at University Park Stadium.

The Golden Panthers scored 46 runs during the first three games of the series.

Lammar Guy sent the first pitch of the nightcap out of the ball park, and it was a sign of things to come. Tyler Townsend, Tim Jobe and Raiko Alfonso also hit home runs in the first inning.

Starting pitcher Tom Ebert was unfazed by the delay and dominated the Knights lineup. He allowed just four hits through seven innings. He also struck out eight batters without allowing a walk. In 29.1 innings, he's allowed just five walks compared to 36 strikeouts.

"We've been getting leads early. It's a lot easier to pitching with a lead," Ebert said.

For the Golden Panthers, their three starting pitchers combined for 21 innings, two earned runs during the first three games of the series.

Over the next 14 games, the Golden Panthers will face nine Sun Belt Conference teams. FIU is 4-2 against conference opponents. The University of Louisiana-Lafayette Ragin' Cajuns are 9-9 this season and will be the next conference foe for the Golden Panthers.

These blowout games gave some of the bench players a chance to get some playing time before the critical conference stretch – something head coach Thomas is pleased about.

"We have 11 freshmen on the team; it's good to give everybody an opportunity to hit, play defense and get some innings under their belts pitching wise," Thomas said.

PITCHING HARDWARE



VICTORIA LYNCH/THE BEACON

BACK-TO-BACK: For the second consecutive week, an FIU pitcher was named as Corey Polizzano was named SBC pitcher of the week, following a complete game, 11-strikeout performance in a 13-2 win over UALR, in seven innings.



VICTORIA LYNCH/THE BEACON

TORRID START: Tyler Townsend leads FIU with a .474 batting average this season

Major improvements have come, can they be sustained?

TOWERS, page 12

four starts and a complete game shutout win over Troy.

In his four starts, Ebert has thrown 29 and one third innings and allowed just twenty base runners. He has struck out 36 while walking just 5, and has been overwhelming, striking out 9 in each start except for his latest 8 strikeout performance in a 7 inning complete game shutout over Farleigh Dickinson.

The rest of the staff has combined for a 2.60 earned run average, a far cry from the 7.12 ERA last season's team put up.

The defense, however, has remained shaky. With so many new players, and with Thomas utilizing a number of different lineup configurations, the team

has had just a .956 fielding percentage. More than half of the team's 26 errors have come from the left side of the infield, with Junior Arrojo and Garrett Wittels combining for a total of 14 errors.

If the pitching continues to dominate, the defense behind them must buckle down, though it must be said that the defense has performed better in the last handful of games.

The bats were a bit quieter than last season in the early going, but over the past 9 games they have scored 111 runs, including a 24 run outburst over conference rival University of Little Rock, Arkansas and have surpassed even last year's lofty expectations.

Last season, Ryan Mollica did his best Ted Williams impersonation,

hitting .413 while leading the team in several offensive categories. He started off slow, looking more like Mario Mendoza through 10 games, but has brought his average up to around .300 and has contributed to a potent offense.

The offense has been carried by slugging left hander Tyler Townsend, who leads the team with 4 home runs. The team has scored 124 runs, good for 6.8 runs per game.

The Golden Panthers schedule, however, only gets tougher from here, so the team will need to see if their newfound pitching prowess can carry the team through conference play and into the postseason.

Chris Towers can be reached at Chris.towers@fiusm.com.

Weekend in Clearwater ends with win over UCF

SOFTBALL, page 12

pitch which scored a run for FIU and kept the bases loaded for McClain who was walked, bringing senior Carolina Rojas home to give FIU a 4-1 advantage.

UCF put another run on the board after Tenisha Dixon tripled to left field, however FIU responded in the next inning when

Soberon stole home to put the Golden Panthers up 5-3.

The Knights would go on to tie the game in the bottom of the seventh inning but would only be able to put up one more run in the extra inning while FIU got four hits and kicked in three more runs to grasp the win, 8-5.

WINNING STRING



CHRIS GREEN/THE BEACON

BALL KEEPS BOUNCING: Liset Brito leads four Golden Panthers with double-digit match victories. FIU has surged to a seven-match winning streak. Three regular season matches remain, before the Sun Belt Championship April 17-19 in Denton, TX.

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BASEBALL DOUBLEHEADER

POWER SURGE

Three seven-inning starts push Panthers past Knights

**SERGIO BONILLA
ANDREW JULIAN**
Sports Directors

GAME ONE: FIU 15, FDU 7

With an eight-run second inning, FIU buried the Fairleigh Dickinson Knights (2-8) in the opening game of a day-night doubleheader, 15-7, on March 21 at University Park Stadium.

Corey Polizzano tossed seven innings for the Golden Panthers (13-4), and allowed just two earned runs to improve to 2-1 on the season.

FIU carried a 3-1 lead into the second inning, after two FDU errors led to two unearned runs that followed an RBI single by Tim Jobe.

Matt Holsman drove in the second run for the Knights in the top of the second, and the Golden Panthers took charge in the second.

Capitalizing on an error, FIU plated four unearned runs in the inning.

Garrett Wittles led off with a single, and Sean Reilly followed with a double. After Junior Arrojo walked to load the bases, Lammar Guy drew a base on balls and picked up an RBI.

Tyler Townsend drove in Arrojo with a sac fly, and Tim Jobe picked up his second RBI of the day with a single, after Steven Stropp was hit by a pitch.

The unearned runs followed, and after the second FIU was up 11-2.

From there, Polizzano shined.

"Corey again started a little bit slow. But in the fourth inning, he started getting it going, getting into a rhythm and getting the first guy out," said head coach Turtle Thomas.



VICTORIA LYNCH/THE BEACON

TERRIFIC TOM: After striking out nine batters in each of his first three starts, Tom Ebert had to settle for just eight K's in FIU's 16-0 win in game two of a doubleheader vs. Fairleigh Dickinson. Ebert now posts a 7-to-1 strikeout to walk ratio.

Polizzano gave up another run in the fourth, but then clamped down, and retired the last 10 batters he faced.

The junior southpaw from Southridge High School in Miami scattered eight hits and struck out five.

The Knights were finally able to muster some consistent offense in the eighth inning, tagging FIU reliever Justin Leith with four earned runs on four hits and one

walk in just 0.2 innings.

FIU has now won 13 of its first 17 games, and is having its best start since the team opened 13-4 in 2003 under Danny Price.

This game also marked the first five-game win streak for Turtle Thomas in his tenure at FIU.

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BASEBALL

When you recruit this well, who needs vets?

Most of the time, you want experience.

Most of the time, when you are going into a season, you want to ride players who have done it before.

COMMENTARY



CHRIS TOWERS

Most of the time.

Returning only 11 players from a team that won just 20 of its 56 games may have been a blessing in disguise for Turtle Thomas.

Inheriting a roster mostly comprised of ex-head coach Danny Price's players, Thomas' first season was one to forget for the Golden Panthers.

But that team lost 22 players in the offseason, so Thomas, a tireless recruiter, took the opportunity to put together the nation's 15th ranked recruiting class, based as much in its depth as its talent.

So far, through eighteen games and with a 14-4 record, this season for the Golden Panthers has been far more successful.

The turnaround has been anchored by absolutely dominant starting pitching, led by right-handed junior college transfers Tom Ebert and Scott Rembisz.

Rembisz, coming from Manatee Community College, has started four games with two wins and a complete game. Over 28 innings, he has struck out 25 while walking just two, holding opposing batters to a .206 average.

As good as opening day starter Rembisz was, he has been bested by the junior out of Fargo, North Dakota, Tom Ebert. Ebert, an imposing 6'6", 255 pound figure on the mound, has been absolutely dominating, going 3-1 in

TOWERS, page 11

SOFTBALL

In-state trip finishes above .500

STEPHANIE GABRIEL
Staff Writer

The FIU softball team traveled to Clearwater from March 13-15 to play in the University of South Florida Under Armour Classic.

The team went 3-2 for the weekend, picking up wins against Long Island, George Washington and Indiana. Meanwhile, junior pitcher Kasey Barrett was the go-to pitcher; she threw two complete games and was named the All-Tournament Team pitcher for that

weekend, striking out 20 with just one earned run.

The Golden Panthers continued on the road to play the No. 1 team in the country, University of Florida, in two games.

Even though FIU out-hit the Gators 7-4, they fell short and dropped the games, 3-2 and 5-0.

Success however did spring over the break for the Golden Panthers when they recorded 14 hits, which tied a season high, in extra innings to beat UCF in Orlando, 8-6, on March

17.

Barrett got the start and struck out seven batters, but freshman Jennifer Gniadek (6-6) would finish off the final two innings to earn the win; she struck out four and gave up just one run.

Backed behind the solid pitching staff, the offense was able to get on the board early on in the first inning as freshman Ashley McClain led off the game with a single followed by Kim Rodriguez who doubled in the first run.

UCF starter Kristina

DeMello threw a wild pitch in the top of the third inning to score Rodriguez from third base and give FIU a 2-0 lead.

The Knights would change pitchers in the following inning, but it didn't matter.

Lisa Brooks knocked down a bunted base hit after a walk and an error to load the bases for the Golden Panthers.

Sophomore Iriseldis Soberon was then hit by a

SOFTBALL, page 11



VICTORIA LYNCH/THE BEACON

SOLID WEEKEND: Kasey Barrett was named to the all-tournament team at the USF Under Armour Showcase.