



Greeks help Special Olympics Track and Field, you can too

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Baseball: FIU dumps Troy in back-to-back shut outs

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SPOTLIGHT

EDITORIAL PAGE 4

Tech fee implementation necessary, but the funds should be used transparently and increase campus wireless spots.

LIFE! PAGE 6



COLUMN: Chris Towers gets you going with fresh music for Spring Break.

AT THE BAY PAGE 3

A change of location for the Campus Life Office and Wellness Center are underway due to tight space.

LIFE! PAGE 6

COLUMN: Jonathan Ramos looks back at Lamont Coleman's short-lived but promising rap career.

SPORTS PAGE 8



Road trip to California sours after opening win as Golden Panthers drop the next three tilts.

OPINION PAGE 4

Kansas and other states are deliberating on repealing the death penalty in order to cut costs.

UPCOMING EVENTS

International Women's Day, March 9, 3 p.m. Eve was the perfected version of Adam, celebrate the day of this gender at the GC pit.

Casa de Ha Ha, Stand-Up Comedy, March 9, 8:30 p.m. Kick back and forget all your troubles or at least learn to laugh at them at this event at Sweat Records.




Miami Jazz Jam, March 9, 10 p.m. Enjoy the music, the soul, and the cigarette smell in your hair tonight at Churchills.

Business Etiquette, March 10, 12 p.m. Learn how to be a more professional version of yourself, or at least trick employers into thinking you are at GC 243.

Wellness Expo, March 10, 2 p.m. Just get dumped? Well everyone knows the first thing you do is work out and become a better version of yourself, so come on and work on you with this event at the GC pit.

For the complete calendar, please see page 6 or visit FIUSM.com/calendar.

WEATHER

	MONDAY Sunny LOW: 63 HIGH: 81
	TUESDAY Partly cloudy LOW: 63 HIGH: 81
	WEDNESDAY Partly cloudy LOW: 63 HIGH: 80

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SGA

Budget allocation process begins

DAVID BARRIOS
JULIA CARDENUTO
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Beacon Staff

Amid an economic crisis and budget cuts that keep coming, the Student Government Association was asked to look at its budget allocation the same way the University has been dealing with its shortage of funds and to think strategically about what organizations and services to fund.

Every fiscal year, SGA distributes funds toward student organizations such as Relay for Life, Dance Marathon and Student Media; student services such as the Women's Center and recreation activities in both campuses and facilities such as the Wolfe University Center and the Graham Center.

On March 6, SGA met to determine their first recommendation for allocating the 2009-2010 budget, which is determined by the Activities & Services fee that depends on the amount of students enrolled in the University.

The fee, paid for by students every semester in addition to tuition, currently costs \$10.52 per enrolled credit hour and may increase in the Fall.

Members of Student Government Council at BBC and UP voted upon

ALL-NIGHTER

FULL COVERAGE COMING 3/11



ALEX GARCIA/THE BEACON

FOR A CAUSE: Participants in the annual Relay for Life event walk the road in front of the Ryder Business Building March 6, where dozens of organizations gathered to raise funds for cancer research.

recommendations for the distribution of funds during Friday's meeting at BBC.

These recommendations, however, are not final due to the possibility of an increase in enrollment and A&S fees that would result in more money to allocate.

SGC-UP President Arthur J. Meyer questioned the effectiveness of the meeting, given that SGA will need to meet again to accommodate any increase or decrease to their budget.

"To me, it just seems to be a waste of time to be sitting here all day today to try to figure this out if we'll be meeting

again within two or three weeks," Meyer said.

A better forecast of enrollment and A&S revenue will be available within a month, according to Vice President of Student Affairs Rosa Jones, present at the beginning of the meeting. She added that the University will suffer some significant cuts and that it is important for SGA to meet ahead of time and determine what they consider core and what they plan to fund or not.

"Since everyone is getting cut, the University is looking at everything strategically, that's the way SGA should be looking at it," Jones said.

Meyer said he would rather look at the budget allocation in terms of what was done last year.

"My recommendation would be looking at [the budget] as we go through, funding everything at the same amount that they were funded last year," Meyer said.

Matilde Gramling, director of budget and personnel for Student Affairs, and Jones argued that SGA should think strategically, applying what the University itself has implemented in terms of evaluating the importance of each

BUDGET, page 2

Statewide financial concerns necessitate rally

BRIAN ALONSO
Staff Writer

Tuition increases, technology fees and early on-campus voting were concerns raised by university students across the state at the annual "Rally in Tally."

Students from FIU and several other state universities, such as the University of Florida, University of South Florida and Florida Atlantic University, representing the Florida Student Association, gather in Tallahassee to lobby lawmakers for their causes.

University Park's Student Government Council President A.J. Meyer and Vice President Paige LaPointe were among 18 students who traveled on a bus to Tallahassee to participate in the event.

"Rally in Tally" began when student government representatives met with state representatives to discuss issues

If they're going to increase tuition we definitely don't want any more cuts as the quality of education will suffer.

Altanese Phenelus, senator
Housing

head on.

"It was great. I talked to a bunch of legislators and met with the lieutenant governor in his office," said Nick Autiello, lower division senator for SGC-UP.

SGA had a list of initiatives to bring to the state's attention including tuition increases and a restructuring of financial committees.

"One of our main goals is support of differential tuition increases that would raise tuition by 15 percent a year," Autiello said. "We stressed to

all the legislators we spoke with that [the tuition increase] should supplement state funding, not replace it."

FSA representatives argued that increased funding would be beneficial to school revenues and emphasized the importance of avoiding any major budget cuts to education.

"If they're going to increase tuition we definitely don't want any more cuts as the quality of education will suffer," said housing senator Altanese Phenelus.

Another issue addressed was the

current system of financial committees, which decide how student funding should be allocated in a given school.

Currently, half of a school's financial committee is made up of faculty while the other half are students. When there is a tie, the chairperson of the committee votes in favor of the faculty vote.

SGA representatives pushed for the reorganization of the system so that students would have 50 percent plus one vote, giving more say on how students allocate their funding.

"We spoke with legislators and they were open to the idea," Phenelus said.

The day ended with a press conference at the steps of the capitol, External Vice Chair of Florida Student Association John Barnes acted as master of ceremonies and several speeches took

RALLY, page 2

NEWS FLASH

FIU

President Maidique to hold budget-minded Town Hall meeting

FIU President Modesto Maidique has scheduled a town hall meeting for March 9 at 10 a.m. in the Graham Center Ballrooms. The meeting will be broadcasted live at the Wolfe Center Ballroom at BBC.

The meeting will focus on FIU's current budget crisis. The presentation will be similar to last year's: a speech by Maidique and his leadership team, followed by a question and answer session.

Ludacris coming to FIU

Ludacris will be coming to FIU as part of Student Programming Council's "Up-Roar Concert 2009."

The concert will be April 2 at 8 p.m. on the UP Soccer Field. Tickets will be available starting March 23 in GC 2240. Tickets will be free to FIU Students. The band Locos Por Juana will be opening the event.

NATIONAL

Unemployment level reaches 25-year high

According to the Bureau of Labor Statistic, the unemployment rate rose to 8.1 percent from last month's 7.1. February unemployment numbers revealed a total loss of 651,000 jobs. In the past four months, employment has dropped by 2.6 million and has spanned through all major sectors of business.

Vote on Marlins ballpark delayed again

The vote on whether the Marlins get a new retractable roof stadium in Little Havana has been delayed for a third time. The commission will not vote on the issue until at least March 19. The Marlins have been looking to have their own stadium since their inaugural game in 1993 according to *The Miami Herald*. The commissioners were expected to talk about most of the deal on Friday.

- Compiled by Jorge Valens

Recommendations set to change

BUDGET, page 1

department and organization.

"That's a decision that has to be dealt with. But I think that the suggestion that you're making then starts with a premise that everything that has been funded is still going to be funded," Jones said. "We're at a point where we need to do more evaluations of the importance of the services that are offered."

"The crux of the matter is today," Gramling said. "Not when the A&S are finalized. You need to look at your priorities in alignment to where the University is this year in comparison to where it was last year ... I cannot wait three weeks to decide anything. I don't have that luxury."

The meeting then went into detail about each University-wide organization, how much they were asking for and ultimately, their importance to the student body. These first recommendations made by SGA may change once they meet again.

Overall, most renovations and replacements requested by both Wolfe Center and Graham Center facilities were initially rejected along with a majority of new



NATHAN VALENTINE/THE BEACON

DECISIONS: (Left to right) Kenasha Paul, Ana Maria Silva, Helena Ramirez, SGA members, discussed next year's budget allocation March 6.

requests by all other organizations.

Student services such as the Women's Center, the Center for Leadership and Services and Graduate Students Association were initially allocated slightly more funds than they received during the 2008-2009 fiscal year.

Student organizations such as Relay for Life, *The Beacon* and WRGP were allocated slightly more than last year, while Dance Marathon's budget was cut by half.

SGA recommended that no funding go toward the marching band and *FIUSM.com*.

After the University-wide allocations are debated again and finally approved by Jones, the remaining money will be split between UP and BBC. Each SGC will meet and discuss the allocations within their campuses once they have their exact budget.

There are no set dates for these meetings yet.

Jefferson's philosophy to be discussed

JULIA CARDENUTO
News Director

In tough economic times and a turning point in history, it is important to look back and appreciate what our founding fathers did, according to Juan Carlos Espinosa, associate dean of the Honors College.

In this spirit, the Honors College is hosting yet another lecture as part of their Excellence Lecture Series with author Eric Peterson, who will speak about Thomas Jefferson's life, ideas and writings.

"Thomas Jefferson was one

of the founders of our nation," said Espinosa. "He was a great thinker. At a time like this in our history, it is important to take a look at Thomas Jefferson's work."

The Honors College Excellence Lecture Series, according to Espinosa, features respected scholars and individuals from outside the FIU community who are making important contributions to their fields.

On March 11 and 12, Peterson will lecture at both Biscayne Bay Campus and University Park, respectively, to discuss his book, *Light and Liberty: Reflections on the Pursuit of Happiness*.

The event will be free and

open to the public. Peterson's book will be on sale and he will be available to sign them at the reception following the speech, where refreshments will be served.

The book comprises a collection of 34 pieces written by Jefferson and edited by Peterson that shed light on Jefferson's philosophical and political thought, according to Espinosa.

Peterson is speaking at no cost to the University like many other speakers brought by the Honors College, such as Sen. Bob Graham.

"In this economy, I try to be creative," Espinosa said. "We try to bring people that under-

stand the importance of honors and what we are trying to do."

It is the first time that the same speaker will be lecturing at both UP and BBC.

The lecture will be held in Academic II at BBC, March 11 at 7 p.m., and at UP in the Frost Art Museum at 3:30 p.m. on March 12.

"To me, Thomas Jefferson is the model of what a college student should be," Espinosa said. "He was well rounded ... had a lot of interests."

Peterson has been studying Jefferson's life and writing since 1993. He is an attorney and partner at the New York law firm of Hawkins Delafield & Wood LLP.

Students lobby for funding

RALLY, page 1

place, including those of Meyer and state legislator Teri Flores.

"I really think that this was an extraordinary experience. We represented FIU's interests to those in Tallahassee that affect us the most. We got together for a cause and represented the student body," said Jeam Roseme, speaker of the SGC-UP Senate.

The trip was paid for by the legislative affairs account.

Some SGC-UP students who attended the "Rally in Tally" are planning to return next week and address legislators on specific University issues as opposed to FSA.

"Next week is FIU day. There are a couple of us heading back to Tallahassee to lobby specifically for school funding," Phenelus said.

THE BEACON

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*Relevant experience desired - include a copy of your resume
*Deadline is Friday, March 13

Visit GC 210 or call
305-348-2709 for more information

A GREEN MEAL



SERGIO MONTEALEGRE/THE BEACON

FOOD FOR THOUGHT: Crystal Lee, senior in journalism, serves Norman Wright, senior in information technologies, at the Going Green drive as part of the Affair of the Arts. Green Publix bags were given away to the first few students. The event was to raise student awareness about being eco-friendly.

Wellness Center moves into WUC

MAUREEN NINO
Contributing Writer

With more than 100 staff members and seven different organizations, the Office of Campus Life & Orientation is tight on space.

“There has been a need to expand office space for the student leaders,” said Craig Cunningham, director of the Office of Campus Life & Orientation.

After several student suggestions and proposals, both the Student Government Council at Biscayne Bay Campus and the Wellness Center will be moving to the Wolfe University Center, Room 330, previously known as the old fitness center.

The Office Campus Life & Orientation, currently located in WUC 141, is home to members of SGC-BBC, the Student Programming Council, the Student Organizations Council, Panther Power, Campus Life & Orientation and peer advisors.

All these organizations share a small kitchen area, a copy room and a conference room.

“We work very well with the organizations, we just requested to have more space because we saw the need,” said Ana Maria Silva, SGC-BBC president. “Council members will have more work space, more laptops, their own copy machine and kitchen area in the new location.”

SGC-BBC comprises more than 50 members, including interns,

and they currently work in three offices.

“It’s all a pro. There’s currently no space. When we move, we’ll be able to find things quicker,” said Tonie Williams, SGC-BBC business senator. “It’s very exciting.”

The new location will include four individual offices for the SGC-BBC president, vice president, advisor and comptroller.

“The members will have a much better work environment in terms of space,” Cunningham said. “There will be a larger conference room for committee meetings that should be adequate for their needs.”

But SGC-BBC members will still have to share their space in the new office.

The Wellness Center, currently located next to the Health Center will also move to WUC 330.

“The Wellness Center informs and councils students,” said Elvira Velez, director of Health Administration and nurse practitioner at the University Health Center. “We are intimately tied with the students; the staff is very involved.”

The Wellness Center collaborates with programs from Campus Life, provides health education, health promotions and activities, but according to Dona Walcott, assistant director of University Health Services, students are usually not willing to walk the distance.

“The Wellness Center has been lobbying to get out and be in a more visual spot,” Velez said.

Along with clinical information,

the Wellness Center offers students a free assessment by the new TriFit, free HIV testing, as well as 15-minute massages, among other services that will also be offered at the new location.

Currently, the Wellness Center covers 2,000 square feet, while the new location designated for the center covers approximately 800 square feet. This means they will lose some coverage, but “it will be more accessible to the students,” according to Velez.

“Out of sight, out of mind,” Velez said. “Consequently, we needed more space for our students. Currently there is a large space but the convenience is really a challenge.”

With SGC-BBC as a neighbor, Velez sees this as an opportunity for students to provide more input into programs and services offered by the University’s Wellness Center.

According to Greg Olson, senior director of the Division of Student Affairs, the university-wide council of Student Government Association approved \$500,000 to do reconstruction in the old fitness center area for this project, which is scheduled to be completed during the Fall semester in mid-August.

“All funding was provided by an accumulated cash balance from previous SGA accounts,” Cunningham said. “[The new office space] will give SGA more of an identity on campus, and students will know there is a place to go if they are seeking the student government.”

Dining etiquette crash course teaches essentials

SERGIO MONTEALEGRE
Staff Writer

Many employers invite prospective employees to dinner for follow-up interviews and sometimes learn more from the applicants’ dining habits than from what their resumes divulge.

Table manners, including communication with the waiter, fork maneuvering and eating speed can make or break the final stages of a job interview.

To teach students proper dining etiquette, Career Services will be hosting a Business Etiquette Dinner on April 8 from 6 p.m. to 9 p.m. in the Wolfe University Center Ballrooms.

“Typically, employers take out their final recruits out to dinner and monitor them,” said Kyra Spence, acting associate director of Career Services. “This dinner we’re hosting will make them more comfortable in these situations.”

Some of the topics that will be covered include basic table settings, what utensils go with which foods, what is appropriate to order and the proper way of ordering.

and the knife with the right hand. The utensils remain in their respective hands always and are never rested.

Attendees will be able to learn both style at the Business Etiquette Dinner.

- Removing food from the mouth: In the situation that a person is eating foods like fish and finds a bone in it, the rule of thumb is to take it out the same way it came in. This means carefully removing it from the mouth with the fork.

The rule for finger foods, like a sandwich, is to use a napkin. Using a napkin otherwise isn’t good etiquette.

Another topic that will be covered is the cultural differences in etiquette.

“Passing food is an important one,” Spence said. “For example, in some countries in Africa, you should pass things around the table with your right hand. Passing something with your left hand is considered a sign of disrespect.”

Although the dinner is focused on teaching students business etiquette for interviews with prospective employers, the in-

It’s a form of how you should present yourself. First impressions go a long way.

Natasha Stubbs, assistant director
Career Services

“It’s a form of how you should present yourself,” said Natasha Stubbs, assistant director of Career Services. “First impressions go a long way.”

According to Spence, common mistakes students make in etiquette include:

- Signals to the waiter: The way the fork and knife rest on the plate gives the waiter an indicator of whether the person is finished eating or not.

Resting the cup upside down also signals the waiter that the person does not want another drink.

Students usually wave their hand along with a “No, thank you,” though that isn’t good etiquette.

- Holding utensils: One of the two proper styles at the table include the American Style, where the knife is held in the right hand when cutting, then switched with the fork.

The knife is then rested until it’s needed again. The other style is the Continental Style, where the fork is held with the left hand

formation that will be covered is not only applicable to business meetings, but also to dates at luxury restaurants or events such as weddings.

“It’s all-encompassing,” Stubbs said. “Attendees will become knowledgeable in how to present themselves when in the company of employers or others.”

The event has been held every semester for more than 20 years. According to Spence, the event has been successful.

“Students after the event tend to give feedback on how much it helped them when prospective employers take them to dinner,” Spence said. “It made them more comfortable.”

Tickets for the event are available at the Career Services office in WUC 255.

The cost is \$20 per person and \$150 for a table, which accommodates 10 people.

For more information on the dinner or ticket availability, call (305) 919-5770.

COSTLY CRIMES

States deliberate repealing the death penalty due to costs

MATT RUCKMAN
Staff Writer

The recession has hit many hard: the massive layoffs, the lost homes – few have been spared. One of the rare exceptions are a surprising minority – convicted murderers – who are likely to be aided in a life-saving way from the economic downturn.

In a cost-saving device, legislators from Maryland, Montana and New Mexico are fielding bills with aims to repeal the death penalty. New Hampshire, Kansas and Nebraska are also considering similar measures in light of the deficits the states are experiencing.

The death penalty, with its many levels of appeals, costs far more than a life sentence. An article from *The Palm Beach Post* estimated

that the death penalty costs the state of Florida around \$51 million a year.

State Senator Carolyn McGinn of Kansas proposed the bill to overturn the death penalty.

“We’re looking at any way we can to save money moving forward in the state of Kansas,” McGinn told *FOXNews.com*. “This will save significant money – money that could be used toward education programs and toward community corrections programs.”

The practice of changing laws based on the country’s economic woes has me somewhat frazzled. The morality and justice of the death penalty seem to have been sidelined, not even discussed as the recession has the states caught by the short hairs.

The issue to these legislators

isn’t the righteousness of the death penalty – the taking of a man’s life – only how much it costs.

Whether you believe the death penalty is justified or think it’s an abomination is not the point. What matters here is why it is decided.

This solution to such a complex question skirts all opinion and assigns a price to the murderer and victim’s lives, a design that seems to placate the lawmakers more than the families involved.

Both sides of the death penalty argument have their merits, but the financial one has always seemed to be a non-issue for me, not even worthy of discussion.

We don’t have a justice system because it is cheap but because it makes civilized life possible. Deciding the death penalty’s legality based on the pecuniary cost

seems a lot like measuring your pet’s worth by how much dog chow you buy. It ignores everything that counts, like a human life, the concept of justice, or Lassie’s companionship. The full depth of the death penalty issue can’t be reduced to the superficial cost, and there are other considerations to keep in mind.

A warning resounds in my head upon hearing of the monetization of intrinsic things like people and values –

Capital Punishment Statistics

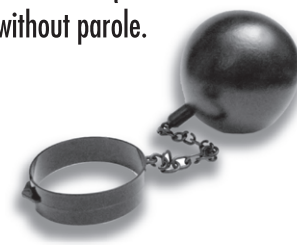
36 states carry the death penalty, as well the U.S. Government and Military.

A total of **37 inmates** were executed in 2008:

- 18** in Texas
- 4** in Virginia
- 3** each in Georgia and South Carolina;
- 2** each in Florida, Mississippi, Ohio, and Oklahoma,
- 1** in Kentucky

State with the most executions:
Texas (431)

Enforcing the death penalty costs Florida **\$51 million a year** above what it would cost to punish all first-degree murderers with life in prison without parole.



when everything is given a price, anything is for sale. If legislators and their constituencies from these states want to do away with the death penalty, they should – but for the right reasons.

That being based on two criteria: Is the death penalty a just punishment for murder? And is the death penalty an effective deterrent to murder?

These bills being pushed only because the recession exists cast a corrupting shadow on our seemingly impartial justice system. These bills say that our laws are really only subject to the business cycles and not our morality. They say that we are not a just nation, only a coincidental one that

happens to be experiencing a bull market.

The Faustian compromises on which these bills are based illuminate how easily our principles can be forgotten and replaced with these blind grabs to lower expenses at the expense of all else.

What is scary about what these states are doing is the broad predictions their actions imply for the rest of the country. When necessity demands, we’re willing to shed our laws.

For what in this case? Not pedantry, protection, or power. But money.

Just money. It makes one wonder what else could be discarded.

THE BEACON | Editorial

Technology fee beneficial to University if well executed, transparent

The implementation of a technology fee, which would be an increase of up to 5 percent on student tuition, has been discussed and expected to initiate in the Fall of 2009 pending a final committee vote.

A tech fee committee, chaired by assistant vice president of student affairs Cathy Akens, has been established to recommend whether to initiate a fee, and if so, how large that fee should be.

Should it be approved, the additional fee will be charged per credit hour. The revenue from this fee will be used to amplify the instructional technology resources for students and faculty, expanding the University’s wireless network and computer labs on campus among other things.

A 15 percent tuition increase set to begin in the Fall, means an additional \$13.34 per credit hour. On top of that, students already pay a fee charge of \$33.89, composed of an athletic fee, building fee, student activity and service fee, athletic football fee and Women Title IX fee.

With the tech fee implemented and assuming it is set at the max 5 percent, students would have to pay an extra \$5.12 per credit hour, a total of \$39.01 in fees.

The Beacon feels that the tech fee would be beneficial to all students. International students, especially, rely heavily on the University’s tech services, and an increase in wireless capabilities will serve them, as well as all of us, well.

With a tuition increase and a likely increase in the A&S fee, the committee may consider gradu-

ally increasing the tech fee, starting from 3 percent, to minimize the financial burden on students during the economic crisis.

The committee has been following in the footsteps of those institutions which have already implemented a tech fee, such as the University of South Florida.

USF uses the Information Technology Management Council for guiding fund utilization as well as the process for proposals and recommendations. ITMC proposes that tech fee funds go toward projects that will enhance student access across the institution, along with enhancing student experience and success.

“Project proposals should not be suggested for the enhancement of individual courses, classrooms, laboratories, or other program-specific functions since other fees are intended to provide funding for this purpose,” suggests the ITMC. “Additionally, project proposals should avoid establishment of duplicative support structures but rather first attempt to work within and enhance existing programs.”

In line with this, the tech fee should be restricted only to fund tech equipment for the advancement of the University as a whole, as opposed to using A&S funds.

The Beacon also feels that there needs to be transparency with what is done with the money. Students need to be informed as to what the money has gone toward improving and how it has improved their educational experience.

THE SOAPBOX: AN OP-ED COLUMN

Senate elections code should have passed

JOSEPH MARHEE
Special to The Beacon

As you may know, SGC-UP Senate voted on the Elections Reform Act, and ultimately the legislation was shot down.

For a system with an unusually organized Democratic system, it is, unfortunately, less Democratic in others: This legislation would have opened FIU’s leadership to virtually every student and would have made FIU’s system something comparable to that of other school’s time-tested systems.

Though I disagree with some allegations that SGA is run by people in specific groups (that would be an unfair generalization), I do have to say that the current system inhibits involvement by students.

If a student doesn’t have money to run for a position in their school’s leadership structure, why shouldn’t they be able to raise money? And since when is it common practice for a candidate, or set of candidates, to share a value system or platform?

Furthermore, included in the legislation would be the publication of Senate votes, something I’d imagine should be public knowledge if students are to determine if their interests are being represented by their elected officials.

This closed nature is what prevents otherwise qualified individuals from ever participating in SGA. In such a restrictive system, only those with enough money, enough friends and assurance of anonymity with their

votes are apparently qualified to lead the student body.

SGC-UP Senate, for the most part, seems to be under the delusion that a “party system” would ultimately be disastrous. This is apparent by their vote against such a system, but how could it be?

The University of Florida just held an election, and while it is a considerably larger school, their system is time-tested and sparks involvement from the majority of the students, and a majority of the university’s students actually vote (around 60 percent), whereas FIU’s election turnout is around 12 percent. The issue of turnout has nothing to do with FIU’s size. It’s the fact that students realize they don’t have a voice in SGA, but a muffled scream and blindfold; we vote and the elected act freely of their constituency.

If FIU wants to continue this rate of growth that we, as a community, have been experiencing, shouldn’t increasing student involvement in student government be a priority? Failure to pass this legislation bespeaks serious elitism from the senators who voted “no.”

As a student, I’ve been proud of FIU for all of our accomplishments in the past couple of years, but this failure to open student government to changes that could give students a real voice in their school, speaks volumes of what is holding us back from reaching our full potential.

Joseph Marhee is a sophomore English major at Florida International University.

COMMUNITY PARADE

Fraternities lend helping hand at Special Olympics

AMANDA BATCHELOR
 Staff Writer

The Interfraternity Council took the time to give back to the community on Feb. 22. Members from fraternities Pi Kappa Alpha, Phi Gamma Delta and Pi Kappa Phi participated in the Special Olympics Athletics Track and Field Competition at the Miami-Dade College-North Campus.

Each fraternity member was assigned to a contestant as their "hugger" for the day. Their job was to help them as their coach.

They helped the contestants warm up and took them to each of the events. In between competitions, the "huggers" took the participants to an area where they had different activities for them, such as meeting the Miami Dolphin cheerleaders.

"It was a great experience to see the competitors tired but happy after a tiring race," said Lukas Calafell, a member of Phi Gamma Delta. "Just being able to hang out with the participants was very rewarding."

The contestants ranged from high school age up to people in their 30s. The IFC was assigned to contestants from Miami Norland High School.

There were two people assigned to each athlete. The athletes were mostly boys, but

there were girls who participated as well. The athletes were "persons with intellectual disabilities," according to the Special Olympics Web site.

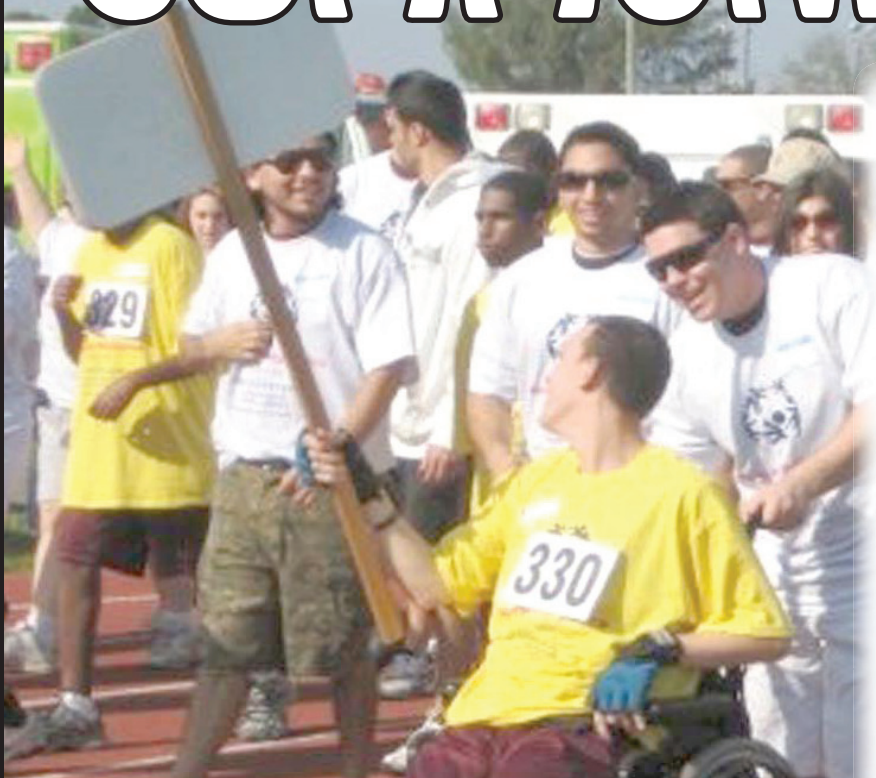
"It was a truly rewarding experience that I was privileged to be a part of," said Chris Grullon, vice president of External Affairs for Pi Kappa Alpha.

There were 11 Pi Kappa Alpha members who participated, three Phi Gamma Delta members and one Pi Kappa Phi member.

"I am proud of the 11 members of PIKE who came out early today to give their time for a great cause, but I am even prouder of the athletes who have trained so hard and overcome so many obstacles to compete in these tough events," said Alex Valdez, president of PIKE.

The participants from all three organizations contributed to making the Special Olympics a successful event, and most will also be participating in the March 14 Special Olympics event, the Area Summer Games Competition which will consist of sports such as bocce, cycling, tennis, soccer and volleyball.

"As vice president of IFC, it is my goal for all of the Greek fraternities to do more community service and philanthropy, and to also shed a better and more positive light on our Greek community as a whole," said Adam Johnson, a member of Pi Kappa Alpha.



ADAM JOHNSON/THE BEACON

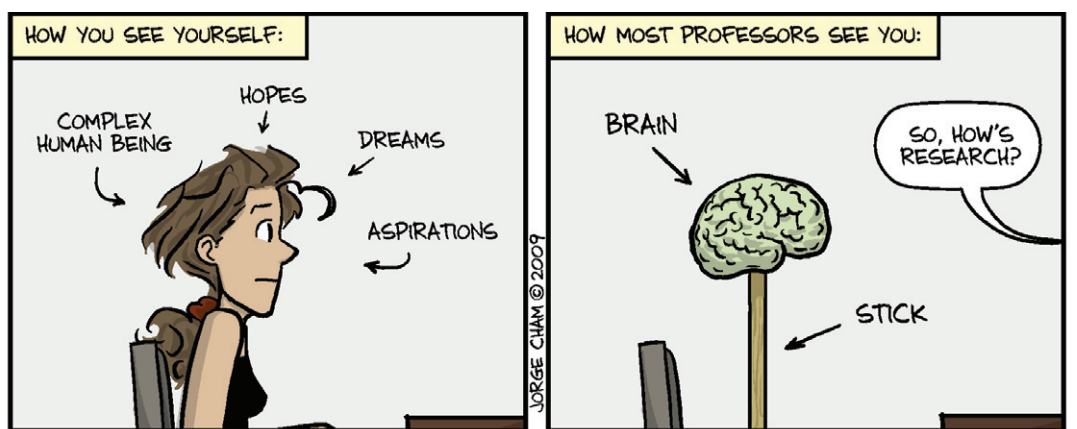
TROUBADOR TALES



JOEY KOSANKE/THE BEACON

SING, SING, SING: Amanda Humbert, a sophomore social work major, plays guitar to raise poverty awareness.

PHD: Piled Higher and Deeper By: Jorge Cham



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STOP THE PRESSES!

art by iris amelia / story by susana rodriguez





POP & CIRCUMSTANCE

Breezy songs make spring albums weather appropriate

One of the sad facts of life here in South Florida is the utter lack of seasonal differences in weather.

Oh, sure, we'll go through four weeklong spans of 60-degree weather, but for the most part, the mercury sits between 80 and 95 for the entire year, no matter what the season might be.

So it is always a bit disheartening when we get our "winter" and "spring" breaks, since they tend to be the exact same temperature.

Still, the weather's been nice enough the last few days that I'm willing to chalk it up to the tilt of the Earth and say we are currently enjoying a nice, spring-type environment. And since this is my last column before spring break, I figured I'd kick off my shoes, hit the beach and talk about some of my favorite spring albums.

There are some albums and artists that just work better depending on what time of the year it is. Radiohead is more of a winter band, while the Beastie Boy's Paul's Boutique is the sound of a hot, sweaty New York summer day.

Admittedly, there aren't a lot of guidelines for this, but when I think of spring albums, I'm generally thinking about something a little breezier, a little lighter and poppier.

WILCO – SKY BLUE SKY

In their 2002 album *Yankee Hotel Foxtrot*, Wilco took folk songs and pulled them apart at the seams to explore the limits of what their sound could do. This was a fall album.

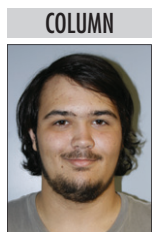
In 2004's *A Ghost Is Born*, they covered their songs up in distortion and fuzz, like a blanket of snow on a landscape. This was their winter album.

Then, their 2007 follow-up, *Sky Blue Sky* has to follow this pattern – and it does.

Stripping their songs down and going back to recording live with minimal overdubs, something they hadn't done in close to a decade, Wilco created

an album of such seemingly lightweight material that a lot of hardcore fans were turned off at first.

But Jeff Tweedy and his band have never been ones to worry about alienating anyone, and so with his new lineup, he returned to a soulful, plainer sound that fits perfectly for this season.



CHRIS TOWERS

COLUMN

PETER, BJORN & JOHN – WRITER'S BLOCK

Sometimes I am inclined to say that "Young Folks" from this album is the perfect summer single.

However, that song has joined a rare class of pop singles along with "Hey Ya" and "Crazy In Love" that transcend any time or mood. It is so perfect that it could be played in Alaska during the dead of winter and Eskimos would be forced to start whistling and singing along, just as everyone else did the first time they heard it.

But more than that song, this album is chock-full of breezy, bouncy pop songs that perfectly fit my expectations for spring music.

BLITZEN TRAPPER – FURR

It seems that the only prerequisites for a great spring soundtrack for me are a lack of weight, which some might perceive as a lack of quality since there is a belief amongst some people that if something is lightweight, it can't be of serious musical quality.

However, this album definitely disproves that.

Perhaps my inclusion of it on this list is just me being tricked by the lead single "Furr," a beautiful little pop ditty with Dylanesque vocals and animal noises. The whole album has a depth that sets it apart from the other selections.

Pop & Circumstance is a weekly column discussing all things pop music.

MOMENT OF CLARITY

Ode to Harlem's unsung rapper, Lamont Coleman

Lamont Coleman never got to sign with Rock-A-Fella records.

After releasing two albums with two different labels, the up-and-coming rap star was shot near his home in Harlem in 1999.

The controversial spitter never saw great commercial success from the beginning, when single "Devil's Son" from his lone solo-album *Lifestylez Ov Da Poor & Dangerous*, displayed lyrics not well-suited for radio, to say the least. His second body of work, a group effort with four others, *Children of the Corn*, never succeeded as the group soon broke up.

To those of you that don't know, I'm talking about Big L, who at 5'8" was bigger than most rappers on the microphone. Despite a career cut short, Big L spit enough bars in his relatively short career to be considered one of the best of all time.

The thing is, he wasn't marketed enough and he passed before he was allowed to. The creativity, unthinkable similes, metaphors and energy in the booth make him more than qualified.

He doesn't get the remembrance of other gunned down legends like Tupac or the Notorious B.I.G., so I thought I would take this space to pay homage to an artist who is wrongly lost and missing in many conversations of some of the best in hip-hop's short history.

Somebody like Notorious deserves the credit he gets. Two great albums while he was alive, and a few cuts after his death were very suitable. He was backed by Puff Daddy on Bad Boy records, which elevated his fame and therefore put his music on notice.

The same goes for Tupac, who rose to

immense popularity once Suge Knight and Death Row records backed him.

Even Eminem, who is an example that is still alive, needed Dr. Dre to pluck him out of Detroit to make him rich.

All three of those artists will find their way into discussions of the hottest emcees ever, rightfully so. It is not absolutely necessary, but an artist with the financial backing from a major label has a huge advantage on his counterparts.

In Big L's case, he was very close to signing that big deal and emerging from a hardcore rapper in the streets of Harlem to a widely known name. Jay-Z, Dame Dash and the rest of the Rock-A-Fella family were set to sign the witty rapper about a week after he passed. Jay-Z went on to blow up into the best rapper of all time (my opinion, but we can discuss that) and the label blew up with other great artists like Kanye West and Beanie Sigel.

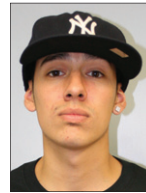
Big L was on the cusp of getting that support that not only Tupac and Notorious got, but every rapper needs to take his artistry to the next level and get the recognition he deserves.

Despite the way things turned out, Big L has still grown on the masses outside of New York as his material has slowly seeped into rap fans everywhere.

I can't post some of his ferocious punch lines because they were too explicit, but if you don't know about Big L, you don't need to ask somebody, you need to go to a computer right now and do your research.

And most likely, the next time you argue about who the best emcees in history are, you will include Lamont Coleman in the conversation – right where he belongs.

COLUMN



JONATHAN RAMOS

THIS WEEK ON CAMPUS

MONDAY • MARCH 2

WHAT: Miami Heat v. Chicago Bulls
WHEN: 7:30 p.m.
WHERE: American Airlines Arena
CONTACT: 786-777-1000

WHAT: Miami Jazz Jam
WHERE: Churchill's Pub
WHEN: 10 p.m.
CONTACT: 305-757-1807

WHAT: Casa de Ha Ha, Stand-Up Comedy
WHEN: 8:30 p.m.
WHERE: Sweat Records
CONTACT: 305-758-5862

WHAT: International Students Club present a foreign film
WHEN: 12:30 p.m.
WHERE: GC 150
CONTACT: 305-348-1069

WHAT: International Women's Day
WHEN: 3 p.m.
WHERE: GC pit
CONTACT: 305-348-1506

TUESDAY • MARCH 3

WHAT: Music by Composition and Music Technology students at FIU
WHEN: 8:00 p.m.
WHERE: Wertheim Performing Arts Center Concert Hall
CONTACT: 305-348-0496

WHAT: Alpha Omicron Pi spaghetti dinner
WHEN: 6:30 p.m.
WHERE: GC 1235
CONTACT: 305-348-2138

WHAT: Business Etiquette
WHEN: 12 p.m.
WHERE: GC 243
CONTACT: (305) 348-2423

WHAT: Afrobeta
WHEN: 10 p.m.
WHERE: Jazid
CONTACT: 305-673-9372

WHAT: Wellness Expo
WHEN: 2 p.m.
WHERE: GC Pit
CONTACT: 305-348-2401
Compiled by: Mariana Ochoa

FORTUNE 100 BEST COMPANIES TO WORK FOR 2008

IDEAL

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'08 Sun Belt Coach of the Year making FIU top destination

McCLENDON, page 8

wants FIU softball on the map. She wants the respect of the major softball programs.

"I don't want anyone looking at their schedule and asking, 'Where is that school?'" she said. "I want everyone to know who FIU is and that we matter."

McClendon mentioned the significances of her three assistant coaches: Lindsay Leftwich, who started as an assistant coach in 2007, Jennifer Owens, who played for FIU from 2001-2005 and new arrival Ashley Falk, who is the new student assistant coach, are all committed to the team's success.

"Coach McClendon is extremely supportive and dedicated to the team," Falk said. "We want this team to go far and we are all working very hard."

McClendon began her coaching career as an assistant at Stetson University from

2000-2002.

From 2002-2007, McClendon was at the University of Houston, helping the Cougars to a pair of NCAA Tournament appearances. Before her coaching career, McClendon was a four-year letter winner at the University of Florida.

The Sun Belt Conference named McClendon Coach of the Year after leading FIU to a fourth place finish in the conference in 2008.

The 2008 team also re-wrote school records for home runs (74), runs scored (305), RBI (270), total bases (815), slugging percentage (.482) and batting average (.286).

McClendon said she feels the team has a very bright future and she plans to see it through.

"In a couple of years the team will be to good to go anywhere else," she said.



CHRIS GREEN/THE BEACON

EXPERIENCE, EXPECTATIONS: A former All-SEC pitcher at Florida, Beth McClendon brought big-time experience to FIU and now expects excellence at the highest level.

Golden Panthers pitching scoreless streak at 21 innings

BASEBALL, page 8

FIU 1, TROY 0

For the first time in school history, FIU (6-2, 2-0 Sun Belt) ensured itself of a series in over Troy (7-4, 0-2), with a 1-0 victory on March 7.

Tom Ebert dominated from start to finish, putting together an efficient complete game shutout of the high powered Trojans, who had three double-digit scoring games coming into the weekend and had defeated No. 23 Alabama 6-2 on March 3.

This game marked the first time Troy had been shut out in

consecutive games since 1987 when the Trojans lost 6-0 Ferris State on Feb. 17, and a Feb. 21 decision that year to Huntington, 1-0.

The only time Troy was blanked back-to-back by the same opponent was a doubleheader on April 11, 1972 to Jacksonville State.

The teams recorded just four hits each, and the Troy pitching staff was solid in opposition to Ebert.

Jason Walls (1-2) picked up the loss, despite not allowing an earned run in six innings while striking out five Golden Panthers, but the night belonged to Ebert.

The 6-foot-6 transfer from Iowa Western Community

College struck out nine batters and allowed just four hits to continue his season.

"I thought I commanded the fastball well. I was able to get some quick outs, the first three or four innings felt like I kind of cruised," Ebert said.

Ebert missed a start due to the rain outs when FIU was in South Carolina and had not started since Feb. 21.

Ebert has now amassed 17 strike outs in 15 innings and has yet to walk a batter.

The Golden Panthers scored their only run of the game in the sixth inning, on a Steven Stropp single that brought home Pablo Bermudez.

Momentum from win not sustained on West Coast trip

SOFTBALL, page 8

bottom of the sixth inning on a home run by Monica Harrison, making the score 5-3.

Whitney Baker (7-0) picked up the win in the six innings she pitched while Donna Kerr pitched a scoreless single inning to pick up her first save of the season.

IOWA 6, FIU 5

Freshman Jenny Welch marked her first home run of the season and FIU was able to put up some runs late in the game, but Iowa, who had given up only two runs in their last 58 innings, found a way to slide by, 6-5.

Barrett threw five innings for the Golden Panthers and recorded six strike outs while giving up four runs to earn the loss. Gniadek pitched the last two innings and gave up two runs.

It was the bottom of the seventh, with

Iowa up 6-3 and FIU runners on first and third, when pinch hitter Lisa Brooks smacked an RBI up the middle, allowing Landau to score, putting the Golden Panthers within two runs of a tie. Rodriguez then singled up the middle to score Fink, the score 6-5 in favor of Iowa.

Spiers came up to the plate after Welch was intentionally walked which loaded the bases with two outs. On a full count, Spiers struck out looking to end the game, giving FIU their second loss of the weekend in California.

CAL STATE FULLERTON 3, FIU 1

Junior Paige Cassidy pitched a complete game and gave up just three runs, but the Golden Panther offense couldn't get much going as they fell 3-1 to California State-Fullerton in California.

Two of CSF's three hits were solo home runs. Both of the homers would be charged

as earned to Cassidy and she took the loss, her third of the season.

Down 3-0 in the bottom of the sixth, it looked like FIU might had been able to get things rolling. Rodriguez led off with double and Spiers singled up the middle to put runners at first and third with one out. McClain then grounded out to second base, which scored Rodriguez who had been sitting at third, making the score 3-1. With a runner still at second and two outs Landau walked, but then Rojas grounded into a fielder's choice which ended any threat of the Golden Panthers coming any closer.

Ari Cervantes pitched a complete game for CSFU (7-11) and improved her record to 4-5.

The Golden Panthers (11-12) also played Syracuse on the final day of the Long Beach State Tournament. The score is available at FIUsports.com.



CHRIS GREEN/THE BEACON

POWER SHOT: Kim Rodriguez hit her second home run of the year vs. LBSU.

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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

GOOSE EGGS

Pitching throws two shutouts in SBC openers

ANDREW JULIAN
Sports Director

FIU 5, TROY 0

Behind eight shut-out innings from Scott Rembisz, the Golden Panthers shut out the Troy Trojans to open the Sun Belt season for both schools March 6 at University Park Stadium.

It was the third start for the junior transfer from Manatee Community College, and he lowered his ERA from 1.20 to 0.78, and has now struck out 22 batters while walking just two in 23 innings pitched.

"It's the competitiveness in [Rembisz] that comes out that he just doesn't want to let the other team score," said head coach Turtle Thomas, whose team now sits at 5-2.

FIU scored all five of its runs in the first three frames, beginning with an RBI single by Tyler Townsend that brought home Ryan Mollica, who doubled in his first at bat.

Tim Jobe followed, two batters later, with a double that scored Townsend, and freshman Mike Martinez singled to chase in Jobe.

Townsend knocked in his second run in the second inning, when he doubled home Junior Arrojo, who had singled and stolen his second base of the season.

Mike Martinez finished the scoring in the third, when he scored on a throwing error by catcher Steven Felix.

Rembisz (2-0) cruised through the evening, striking out seven while scattering eight hits and not walking any batters.

His most impressive work came in the third inning.

After pitching himself into a bases-loaded, no-out jam, Rembisz quickly retired the next three Trojans and did not allow a run to cross.

Coming in to the contest, FIU had never shut Troy out in the teams' 12 meetings,



VICTORIA LYNCH/THE BEACON

SLAMMING THE DOOR: Tom Ebert pitched the first nine-inning complete game shutout for the Golden Panthers since 2009, while striking out nine against Troy on March 7.

and this was the first time the schools met in Miami.

For the Golden Panthers, Ryan Mollica posted his first multi-hit game of the season and collected his first extra-base hit of 2009. Tyler Townsend extended a hitting streak to 14 games, dating back to last season. Townsend also extended a streak of consecutive plate appearances to reach base to 11

before it was snapped with a ground out in the seventh inning.

Townsend's first out also ended a seven at bat hit streak for the FIU outfielder. Reaching seven straight, Townsend came up one short of tying the Sun Belt record of eight straight at bats with a hit.

BASEBALL, page 7

SOFTBALL

FIU beats host, drops next three games

STEPHANIE GABRIEL
Staff Writer

After scoring just 10 runs in their past six games, the FIU softball team traveled to California and got their offense rolling in a 9-3 win over Long Beach State University to start out their weekend, according to *fiusports.com*. However, they wouldn't be able to keep the momentum as they dropped their final three games of the weekend to No. 4 University of California at Los Angeles, Iowa and California State University-Fullerton.

FIU 9, LBSU 3

Freshman Jennifer Gniadek got the start for the Golden Panthers, pitching three innings. She gave up three runs, two of them were earned. Kasey Barrett came in to pitch the last four innings; she gave up just one hit and recorded five strikeouts to earn the win, her fifth of the season.

Both teams recorded nine hits and LBSU was able to get on the board early

in the top of the first inning. However, the Golden Panthers had a remarkable third inning in which they recorded six hits and six runs.

Kim Rodriguez got the offense going when she smacked down her second home run of the season, with two outs; she wailed one into left field with two outs to tie the game at one.

Desiree Fink led off the bottom of the third with a single followed by Katie Bell, who knocked down a double to left center field. With two outs, Jenny Welch came to the plate and benefited off a ground ball to the second baseman. Lauren Spiers was able to continue the rally with a single which drove in Bell to home plate.

The contagious offense continued as Ashley McClain came up with a single, scoring Welch to give FIU a 4-3 lead. Then, with runners at first and second, Jessica Landau knocked a RBI single to the outfield which scored Spiers. Landau would advance to second on the throw and Carolina Rojas would then seal the inning

with a single that brought in two runs to increase the lead to 7-3.

LBSU's Brooke Turner (7-4) gave up two more runs, seven total and just one earned, to FIU in the bottom of the fourth to finalize the score at 9-3 and pick up the loss.

UCLA 5 FIU 3

The Golden Panthers were able to score three runs off the No. 4 team in the country, however it wasn't enough as they fell 5-3.

Barrett (4-3) pitched three innings and gave up four of the five runs to pick up the loss. McClain came in for the final three innings and gave up one run while striking out two hitters.

UCLA recorded three runs throughout the third and fourth innings. The Golden Panthers were able to respond in top of the sixth inning, scoring three runs on singles by McClain and Lisa Brooks.

UCLA added on to their victory in the

SOFTBALL, page 7

Second year coach continues turnaround in Miami

LEILANI LAUREANO
Contributing Writer

In her first year, coach Beth McClendon turned the 22-35 softball team into a 29-34 team. With a 10-10 record in 2009, McClendon wants to reach a higher level by bringing the once winning program to the College World Series.

"We will be there in three years," she said.

With nearly half the 2009 roster recruited by McClendon, it is the development and progress of her new players that hold the key to the team's future success. She believes the College World Series is a possibility.

In three years, McClendon's freshmen will have gained more experience and new talent will join the team.

"The freshman are very athletic and with the new girls coming in, we will have a solid team in a couple of years," McClendon said.

McClendon knows the key to win every game.

"From the three main aspects of softball – hitting, pitching and fielding – you need two out of three in each game to win," she said.

Through 20 games this season, the team's offense has scored 2.4 runs per game compared to last season's 5.8 runs per contest. The loss of key hitters has affected the team's offensive numbers, but the pitching staff has stepped it up. The Golden Panthers earned run average is 2.20.

"Our pitchers have kept us in every ball game," McClendon said. "Our offense has gotten off to a slow start, but it's coming around."

One of McClendon's first recruits, junior pitcher Kasey Barrett, returns as the staff's No. 1 starter. She believes the team is ready to go "full circle."

"The team motto is 'full circle,'" she said. "Last year we did a complete 180 and this year we want to continue to 360."

The team will try accomplishing their goals with the help of Barrett, who has started the season with a 4-2 record and newcomer Paige Cassady. Cassady, a junior, transferred from Presbyterian College where she was an all-conference selection in 2007. Cassady also has a personal history with McClendon.

"I have known coach since I was 11," Cassady said. "She taught me everything I know."

Another one of McClendon's goals for this year includes a top 64 finish and ending the season on top of the Sun Belt Conference.

FIU wrapped up last season with an even record of 13-13 in the SBC.

By the end of this season, McClendon

McCLENDON, page 7