

Did they do it for the money?

PAGE 4



Volleyball star helping Puerto Rican team

PAGE 8

SPOTLIGHT

AT THE BAY PAGE 3



Aquatic Center re-opening attracts more children to this year's Summer Camp.

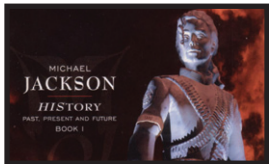
AT THE BAY PAGE 3

Campus Life welcomes new and returning students with free food, crafts and music.

LIFE! PAGE 5

Former FIU students form theater troupe.

LIFE! PAGE 5



Students mourn loss of four major icons.

OPINION PAGE 4

In order for school spirit to grow, the student body needs to respect the University's administration.

OPINION PAGE 4

Jon and Kate's divorce was announced just in time for ratings. Is making the green worth more than family?

SPORTS PAGE 8

Baseball head coach Turtle Thomas not hired by University of Maryland. Did FIU just dodge a bullet?

UPCOMING EVENTS

MSTRKRFT, July 1, 10 p.m. The group will be performing at LIV, pumping out their second, heavy beat, full-length album, *Fist of God*. Tickets to attend are \$30.

Laughs on the Mile with Freddy Stebbins, July 2, 10 p.m. Held at John Martin's Irish Pub in Coral Gables; tonight's line-up includes Pam Bruno, Forrest Shaw and the host Freddy Stebbins. There is no cover, no minimum and choice of parking in the back for a \$1 or valet in front.

Beres Hammond, July 3, 7:30 pm. This Friday, the reggae artist will perform at the James L. Knight Center. Tickets range from \$43-88.

WEATHER



WEDNESDAY
Isolated T-Storms
LOW: 79 HIGH: 88



THURSDAY
Scattered T-Storms
LOW: 80 HIGH: 89



FRIDAY
Scattered T-Storms
LOW: 80 HIGH: 89

CONTACTS

Editor in Chief 305-348-1580
chris.necuze@fiusm.com

UP Office 305-348-2709
news@fiusm.com

BBC Office 305-919-4722
bbc@fiusm.com

Tips & Corrections 305-348-2709
tips@fiusm.com

Advertising 305-348-6994
advertising@fiusm.com

CHEERLESS



RICK MARTINEZ/THE BEACON

NOT SO CHEERFUL: The University's cheerleading program has been cut due to Athletics' budget shortage of \$1 million. Cheerleaders are now engaging in fund-raising events to save the program.

Cheerleading gets financial boot

JORGE VALENS
Asst. News Director

The FIU cheerleading program has been eliminated as part of Athletics' \$1 million budget cut for the 2009-10 fiscal year.

"This economy has forced us to make some very tough choices," said Athletics Director Pete Garcia in a written statement to Student Media. "The decision to discontinue our cheerleading program was one of them."

The decision to eliminate the program comes after the University's move to cut all funding to the Golden Panther Band.

According to Athletics' budget the department would save about \$78,000 annually by eliminating the program.

However, former head cheerleading coach, Maria George, told Student Media that the budget for the cheerleading program is about \$25,000.

George said she offered Athletics to coach the program for free and without an operating budget, but Athletics declined the offer.

Kelch said the department would still need money to run the program, even without George's salary and operating budget, and that Athletics would be open to keep the cheerleading team if they were able to secure a recurring sponsor.

"The key word is recurring," Kelch said. "We don't want to find ourselves in the

same position next year."

The Golden Dazzlers, the University's competitive dance team, will continue to be funded by Athletics and will fill the void left by the cheerleading team during games.

CHEERLEADING, page 2



Religion department temporarily dodges cuts

CHRISTOPHER LAZAGA
Staff Writer

The most recent department to dodge the falling axes of the current economy crisis and budget cuts has been the College of Arts and Science Religious Studies Department.

On June 12, the Board of Trustees voted unanimously to postpone the cutting of four programs, including the Religious Studies Department, until the next board meeting that is scheduled for September.

The move gave the department heads as well as President Modesto Maidique and President-designate Mark Rosenberg time to look for

other ways to fund the programs through fund-raising activities and to come up with alternative plans.

In the original budget reduction plan proposed in 2008, the Religious Studies Department was safe. However, after additional cuts for the upcoming fiscal year, which included complete elimination of visiting faculty lines, class size increases and additional cuts for next year's summer program, CAS Dean Kenneth Furton and his colleagues concluded that the budget could not be balanced without departmental restructuring and even eliminations.

Furton then recommended the closure of the Religious Studies

Department.

"[My decision] was based on a variety of factors including comparisons to benchmark institutions of which most do not have independent Religious Studies Departments," Furton said.

According to Furton, he and his colleagues concluded that there were no expendable programs in CAS, and any department closure would have many pros and cons.

Benchmarking with other institutions, or taking note of the budget reduction processes of other state university system schools undergoing similar hardships, was a way, Furton said, to maintain objectivity in the

face of difficult decision making.

The department cut would not have eliminated religious studies from FIU completely, but would have instead eliminated its bachelor's degree and converted it to a smaller, less diverse program within the new School of International and Public Affairs.

The proposed cuts would have also eliminated half of the current faculty and saved roughly \$600,000 per year (\$2.4 million over four years).

The proposal to close the Department of Religious Studies garnered

RELIGIOUS DPT., page 2

New lab to help with local traffic

ELSIE PUIG
Staff Writer

Heading to school through the Palmetto Expressway to catch a 8 a.m. class might create more delays than expected. Luckily, engineering students and researchers at FIU's new traffic research lab have the solution.

The Integrated Intelligent Transportation System Laboratory, which opened last April in the Lehman Center for Transportation Research in FIU's Engineering Center, will allow students to develop and implement technology to facilitate transportation.

Javier Rodriguez, executive director of the Miami-Dade Expressway Authority, said that congestion is a major issue in Miami.

"We are an urban and highly congested area which has experienced a lot of growth," he said. "Although we are in a lull right now because of the economy, this research will help us keep ahead of the game."

The \$150,000 research facility, part of a joint effort between the University and the Florida Department of Transportation, is a small-scale replica of the SunGuide Transportation Management Center located near Dolphin Mall.

The research lab is equipped with a video wall, central software, intelligent transportation system devices, servers and operator workstations.

Live feeds projected on two video walls displaying real-time traffic at Interstate 95 and 75, Dolphin and Palmetto Expressways and the Turnpike monitor traffic volumes, congestion, time and speed of passing vehicles as well as collisions.

Furthermore, several electronic sensors along the road give accurate estimated travel times according to congestion levels.

TRAFFIC LAB, page 2

NEWS FLASH

LOCAL

Act to help student immigrants

Senator Bill Nelson (D), is rallying against the deportation of 23-year-old Walter Lara, who's July 6 deportation has caused protests in the South Florida community.

According to *The Miami Herald*, Nelson mentioned in a letter to immigration officials that Lara, and people like him, were the target of the DREAM act.

The act, co-sponsored by Nelson and Senator Mel Martinez (R), would grant select immigrants who graduate from U.S. high schools conditional permanent residency.

Lara earned high marks in both high school and college, and graduated from the Miami Dade Honors College in 2007, ultimately becoming a computer technician.

Senator Nelson has urged Homeland Security officials to make a decision regarding Lara's immigration status before July 6.

– Compiled by Jorge Valens

CORRECTIONS

In the issue dated June 24, the info box accompanying the article titled "Program closures postponed," stated that the B.S. in Recreational Therapy was cut during a Board of Trustees meeting. The board, in fact, voted to not cut this program, which are tracks under the Recreation and Sport Management degree.

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

Students contribute to traffic solution

TRAFFIC LAB, page 1

"The Palmetto Expressway in morning rush hour is an area that especially sees a lot of problems," said doctoral student Patricio Alvarez, who contributes in the lab. "Having this facility allows for us to better analyze the data and quickly diagnose what is causing the problem and decide the best course of action."

Using communication and information technology, students collect data of traffic patterns and behaviors in order to create simulation models of traffic accidents and evaluate alternatives to reduce delays on a congested roadway.

The researchers will participate in local and state projects in collaboration with the Florida Department of Transportation, which contributed the equipment seen in the research facility, according to Mohammed Hadi, professor of civil and



ALEX GARCIA/THE BEACON

RUSH HOUR: Halit Ozen (left) and Yan Xiao (right) work in the newly inaugurated traffic lab: The Integrated Intelligent Transportation System Laboratory.

environmental engineering and director of the research lab.

"The solution might not be just to add a lane to ease congestion," Hadi said. "We look to implement technology to optimize highway operations."

The research center will also serve as a "back-up"

traffic management center as researchers and students provide feedback to the Transportation Management Center.

"We will devise ways to improve their operations, we really try to make their job easier," Alvarez said. "I see it as my way of helping society by making

their trips quicker and more reliable."

Halit Ozen, a visiting researcher from Turkey said he likes seeing the effects of his ideas and decisions immediately when traffic begins to clear.

After three years in FIU, he hopes to take his knowledge to Turkey.

Fund raising: next step for program

RELIGIOUS DPT., page 1

much attention and even attracted a gift from world-renowned spiritual leader, the Dalai Lama.

"His Holiness generously donated \$100,000 and offered to help us with fund raising," said Nathan Katz, chairperson at the Religious Studies Department.

"In our deeply interconnected

world, understanding and appreciation of diversity of religions is critical in fostering a culture of genuine tolerance and peaceful coexistence," wrote the Dalai Lama in a letter from his office in India.

According to Katz, the \$100,000 gift will go toward a new endowment campaign.

The campaign, with a goal of \$5 million, will be used to fund the depart-

ment's activities such as research, scholarships and graduate assistantships, yet will remain separate from the department's operating budget.

"The existence of the department is not related to this fundraising. However, the strength and future growth [of the Religious Studies Department] will depend on attracting community support," Katz said.

Cheerleaders explore survival options

CHEERLEADING, page 1

The Golden Dazzlers have 18 members and perform at all basketball and football games as well as events such as Midnight Madness and Freshman Convocation.

Their style, however, is more focused on hip hop and jazz dance routines rather than traditional cheering routines.

According to Athletics' budget, the Golden Dazzlers expenses are about \$6,000 less than the cheerleading team.

George said she thinks that Athletics wanted to go in a different direction.

"Athletics is trying to move toward a more professional cheerleader, which is a dance-type program such as the [Miami] Heat," she said.

Athletics did not comment on why the Dazzlers were chosen over the cheerleading program.

George said she now must contact students who have committed to FIU specifically to be a part of the cheerleading program.

"A lot of my student-athletes, they chose FIU because of our cheerleading," George said. "I've got kids all around the country coming in to cheer here, that I'm making calls right now to tell them we don't have a program."

"I was so proud to say that I was an FIU cheerleader," said cheerleader Sasha Velasco, a newcomer to the team. "I was

looking forward to progressing and being on a team that would push me to my limits and now they just pulled that right from under me."

The cheerleading team has been the recipient of much success, most notably placing fourth in the Small Coed I-A division for the 2009 NCA/NDA Collegiate National Championships in April.

"We go to Daytona, Florida for college nationals every year, which is like the Rose Bowl of our sport," George said. "They're cutting a program that produces award-winning cheerleaders."

The team is currently exploring alternative options to raise funds.

"We're looking into other avenues to see if we can perhaps get enough support throughout the FIU community and the community in South Florida to help us stay as an organized sport," George said.

The cheerleading team is currently seeking corporate sponsorships and has organized various fund-raising events on and off campus.

On June 24, the team set up in the Graham Center Pit to collect donations and raise awareness about their situation.

They also partnered with the Phi Gamma Delta fraternity the following day for a fundraising party.

Lastly, on June 26, the cheerleaders organized a car wash.

Fliers have been posted in various spots throughout the Graham Center, informing students the different ways they can help and a schedule of their fundraising events.

Student government has become aware of the cut and is discussing options with Athletics.

"We are looking at all alternatives in helping maintain the cheerleading program," said Student Government Council at Modesto Maidique Campus President Anthony Rionda. "We understand the position the Athletic Department is in cutting their budget but [we] are working our best to help this program continue."

The cheerleaders, both veterans of the program and newcomers, are responding to the cuts with surprise and disappointment.

"I'm still in shock," said co-captain Jenny Mesa. "We weren't prepared for it."

According to veteran cheerleader Erika Otero, however, this is just a minor setback.

"We really are title hungry," she said. "This is going to be a stepping stone but we'll get there."

The final option for the team is to limit the amount of competitions they attend and become a student club, which receives funding from the Council for Student Organizations.

THE BEACON

E-BOARD AND PRODUCTION STAFF

EDITOR IN CHIEF

CHRISTOPHER NECUZE

PRODUCTION MANAGER

CHRIS ADAMS

COPY CHIEF

PAULA GARCIA

NEWS DIRECTOR

JULIA CARDENUTO

BBC MANAGING EDITOR

PAMELA DUQUE

LIFE! EDITOR

CHRIS CABRAL

SPORTS DIRECTOR

SERGIO BONILLA

OPINION EDITOR

IRIS FEBRES

PHOTO EDITOR

ALEX GARCIA

ASST. SPORTS DIRECTORS

JONATHAN RAMOS, CHRIS TOWERS

BBC PHOTO EDITOR

SERGIO MONTEALEGRE

PAGE DESIGNERS

JESSICA MAYA, ANGIE ESPOSITO,

JASMYN ELLIOTT, CHARLES GRAU

COPY EDITORS

ASHLYN TOLEDO, STEPHANIE PI,

ERIKA PEREZ, JASONN GONZALEZ,

CHELSEA FRANCO

RECRUITMENT DIRECTOR

ROSALYN DELGADO

BUSINESS MANAGER

TATIANA CANTILLO

ASST. NEWS DIRECTORS

JORGE VALENS, DAIANA KUCAWKA

DIRECTOR OF STUDENT MEDIA

ROBERT JAROSS

ASST. LIFE EDITORS

RACHAEL CONGDON

ASST. DIRECTOR OF STUDENT MEDIA

ALFRED SOTO

INFORMATION

The Beacon is published on Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays during the Fall and Spring semesters and once a week during Summer B. One copy per person. Additional copies are 25 cents. The Beacon is not responsible for the content of ads. Ad content is the sole responsibility of the company or vendor. The Beacon is an editorially independent newspaper partially funded by student and services fees that are appropriated by Student Government.

The Beacon office is located in the Graham Center, room 210, at the University Park campus. Questions regarding display advertising and billing should be directed to the Advertising Manager at 305-348-2709. Mailing address: Graham Center, room 210, Miami, FL 33199. Fax number is 305-348-2712. Biscayne Bay Campus is 305-919-4722. Office hours are 9 a.m. – 4:30 p.m., Monday through Friday. E-mail: Beacon@fiu.edu. Visit us online at: www.fiusm.com

Campus Life welcomes students with crafts, food

IVAN FLORES
Contributing Writer

The first day of classes for Summer B students not only included new syllabi and professors, but free burgers, music, crafts and a chance to meet new classmates who were laughing at their own portraits.

"I had a great time meeting other Panthers and enjoyed the hamburgers and hot dogs," said Shannon Haughie, a junior international relations major.

The Office of Campus Life and Orientation welcomed new and returning students with the Campus Life Welcome Bash on June 24 in the Wolfe University Center's Panther Square.

Starting at noon and lasting until 2 p.m., the event boasted an estimated 200 students, who all got free potato salad, macaroni salad, hamburgers, hot dogs, baked beans, corn on the cob, cookies, lemonade and fruit punch.

The Campus Life Welcome Bash also featured free caricatures by artist Al Rodriguez, a "Create your own sand pen" station, and representatives from the Alumni Association, who told incoming Panthers about the benefits of joining the organization.

The Welcome Bash was organized to bring students together, according to Ivy Siegel, coordinator of Campus Life and Orientation. But the event also brought more awareness about the various BBC Student Government Association councils students can join.

Student Government Council at BBC President Sholom Neistein said he wants students to know the purpose of SGC-BBC, and what it has to offer.

"Campus Life is here for the students, no matter what," Neistein said. "The same goes for SGA."

Neistein got acquainted with the incoming students by helping serve their food.

"I love FIU, meeting people and socializing. I love these events; they are great," said sophomore Sarita Jailal, a marketing major who got her caricature drawn.

Funding for this event comes from the 3.5 percent Activities and Service Fee increase. This increase has brought in an extra \$647,000 to the Office of Campus Life, and will continue to fund events throughout the rest of the year, according to Neistein.

While this event welcomed students to a new semester and the academic challenges it brings, it also allowed them to meet possible classmates, Siegel said.

"We have one of these events every semester," Siegel said. "We want students to get to know other students."

Although Haughie hoped for different music, the event staff made her feel welcome, she met new people and enjoyed the food.

"I really enjoyed socializing and seeing what everyone did over the summer," Haughie said. "I do wish that they played different music though."

The Campus Life Welcome Bash featured a mix of hip-hop tracks and Top 40 hits.

"I would like to have heard more variety. Other than that, I loved this event and I would really like to see many more like this one," Haughie said. "This was very generous of Campus Life to put on for the students."

SUMMER CRAFTS



IVAN FLORES / THE BEACON



SERGIO MONTEALEGRE / THE BEACON

PAINT IT BLACK: (Top) Sarita Jailal, sophomore marketing major, gets her caricature drawn by artist Al Rodriguez at the Campus Life Welcome Bash on June 24 in Panther Square.

(Bottom) Karen Sieker (right), a senior hospitality management major, and Ingrid David (left), junior hospitality management major, fill plastic pens with colored sand, part of the arts and crafts offered at the Campus Life Welcome Bash.

Rec Center offers kayaking, field trips for young campers

ANDREA CRUZ
Staff Writer

Children are running around campus, invading bathrooms, Panther Square, and making the entire building smell of popcorn and pizza.

For the 13th year, the Biscayne Bay Campus Recreation Center is hosting the FIU Summer Academy for children ages 4 to 14.

"The University has so much to offer, as far as a summer camp," said camp counselor Elise Withers. "The facilities and space give the kids a lot more opportunities than if they were at a normal camp."

Camp activities include kayaking, basketball and soccer, as well as drama and arts and crafts. But the camp emphasizes on instructional swimming, according to Christina Reddick, Aquatic Center coordinator.

"Learning to swim is a critical need in general," Reddick said. "Even on this campus, there are college students who can't swim."

More than one out of four drowning victims is under 14 years old, according to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention Web site.

All camp counselors and staff are CPR and first aid certified by the American Red Cross, according to Reddick. All staff members also received risk management and conflict resolution training.

"One of the kids in our group didn't know how to swim, and had never been out on a kayak before," said Withers, a junior advertising

major for being the local swim camp with a beautiful pool on the bay, and then the kids come and it is under construction."

Different camp activities had to be implemented during that time, such as water slides and an increased number of field trips.

"I am very happy that our pool is open," said Reddick. "We've defi-

The facilities and space give the kids a lot more opportunities than if they were at a normal camp.

Elise Withers, Camp Counselor
Recreation Center

nitely had positive feedback and have been able to teach swimming to our campers."

This year's summer academy runs from June 8 through July 17. It is open from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. with pre- and post-care available for an additional weekly fee of \$25. The camp cost is \$225 per week, a total cost of \$1,050 for the six-week session, including a field trip to Islands of Adventure in Orlando. Around 160 campers attend every week, according to Reddick.

"The parents were expecting a swim program," she said. "It was a challenge to have that reputa-

tion for being the local swim camp with a beautiful pool on the bay, and then the kids come and it is under construction."

Different camp activities had to be implemented during that time, such as water slides and an increased number of field trips.

In addition to the FIU Summer Academy, two new programs will be implemented this year at BBC: The FIU LEGO camp and the FIU EcoAcademy. Both will run from July 20 through July 31.

At the LEGO camp, children learn engineering and robotics through LEGO software.

"The campers build a robot on a laptop using the engineering software, and then they go and build it with the LEGO equipment," Reddick said.

The EcoAcademy is a pilot program that teaches middle and high school students about marine science, and will be continued based on its level of success. The program also incorporates swimming and kayaking, along with conservation and recycling projects.

"Hopefully it will be well received, and the students will appreciate the educational component," said Reddick. "It's always a challenge getting young people excited about learning during the summer."

Proceeds from the BBC summer camps are used to maintain the recreation facilities, and ensure the availability of programs for students.

"People don't realize that

[CampusRecreation] runs completely on student dollars," Reddick said.

Activities such as the Islands of Adventure trip are made possible by this additional revenue.

"The summer camp programs are one of the programs that bring us money to supplement what the students aren't able to give us," Reddick said.

The FIU summer camps serve as an opportunity for students to get to know the University better, according to Reddick.

"What our program does is that it brings 4-, 5-, and 6-year-olds to FIU, and they feel they are already part of the University," she said. "When the time comes to apply to college, they remember FIU. They are familiar with it and have that warm fuzzy feeling. It is not something out of reach, and they are willing to fill out that application."

Registration for the LEGO camp and EcoAcademy is still open, but spaces are limited.

The Recreation Center would not disclose the amount of money generated from the camps, despite several attempts.

For more information, contact Reddick at (305) 919-4549.

THE BEACON | Editorial

Athletics decision to cut cheerleaders justified; tradition becomes history

This year, when football season gets underway, the only chance fans will have to see a real college marching band or cheerleading squad will be if the visiting team brings its own.

In an attempt to balance the budget after a million-dollar cut, the University's Athletics department has sacrificed what many would agree is an integral part of any sports program: the cheerleaders.

In almost the same stroke, the FIU marching band systematically lost its funding battle for different but equally unfortunate reasons.

The Athletics department seems to be the scapegoat of choice in this instance, but the reality of the matter is that it was a difficult decision that had to be made.

FIU sporting events, known for their often paltry attendance, are looking to be even quieter affairs without the two groups firing up the crowd. The elimination of the cheerleaders, though a particularly hard pill to swallow, is only the latest in a dramatic series of program cuts the entire University has been enduring for years now.

The reason for the cuts is a simple one: there is no money.

"This economy has forced us to make some very tough choices," said Athletics Director Pete Garcia in a written statement to Student Media. "The decision to discontinue our cheerleading program was one of them."

Interestingly enough, the Golden Dazzlers, the University's dance team, remains. Athletics seems to have made their decision to cut the cheerleaders and spare the Dazzlers based on cold, hard numbers.

According to data provided to Student Media by Athletics, the cheerleaders cost the department roughly \$6,600 more than the Dazzlers. With the elimination of the squad, Athletics is looking to save about \$78,000.

We urge our readers to be level-headed in their consideration of this issue; cutting programs is never a pretty business.

It's easy to be outraged at Athletics in this situation, especially with a troupe of heart-broken cheerleaders clamoring to bring funds and awareness to their plight.

But in the black-and-white world of finance, there is no arguing with the bottom line. If Athletics needs to cut up to a million dollars from its budget, eliminating the most expensive of two seemingly redundant programs is a good place to start.

The elimination of the program has made news nationwide, even appearing in the *The New York Times*, as an example of what Florida universities are having to sacrifice in order to remain in the black. Cutting the cheerleading program isn't exactly what Athletics wants to make news for.

Even though we feel Athletics is justified, it should not discount the effect of not having cheerleaders at sporting events.

College sporting events are just as much about spirit as they are about the sports themselves. Maria George, the head cheerleading coach, put it best:

"Our fans are going to be losing out on that college experience," George said. "They're taking the college pageantry out of college sports."

The Beacon hopes that once the budget situation is settled, Athletics brings back the cheerleaders, because regardless of the reason, a college football game without them just won't feel complete.

Students deserve less administrative apathy

RICK MARTINEZ
Online Director

FIU sure has a lot to be proud of, just check out its new achievements board at <http://news.fiu.edu>. Some key ones to mention: top 100 business school, one of the largest public universities in America and a brand new collegiate-style logo to boot (which I love, by the way).

However, there is one thing missing in that list of achievements: the respect of the FIU student body.

It's hard being reminded of the bureaucracy, the politics and the closed doors all around campus. I hate thinking that this is the university I once dreamt of going to. I hate hearing, "Welcome to FIU," whenever I have a complaint about the way things are run. I hate knowing I've caught myself saying that phrase to others more than once.

The administration can manufacture the image it wants, but the administration must work for the students, not for itself, in order to make that image a reality.

It makes me wonder: Does anyone in the higher-ups care about the students? Unfortunately, if they do, it is not apparent. People have tried to make them care – or at least show it – but too often faculty and staff are afraid to come forward and talk, and the students' voice is small, because when an administration treats its student body like trash, its students will never care.

President Maidique certainly hasn't earned the respect of the University's student body, which is apparent in the online rallying against the renaming of University Park campus in his honor. Although he was the University's leader during the period of most of FIU's growth,



I've met many who feel like they can't credit Maidique for it.

Why?

Because Maidique, along with his administration, built the structure with no foundation, an image with no basis.

Fortunately, people are finally starting to look at what's happening here. The students are craving to have that school pride, and they are realizing that in order to be proud of FIU, things must first change.

When students expressed their support for President-delegate Mark Rosenberg, they called for change, just like they're doing rallying against the naming of the Modesto A. Maidique Campus along with the cutting of the cheerleading program.

This student passion is something new for FIU: the student body has been notorious for being known as apathetic,

disconnected. Now that this is changing, it's exactly what will make FIU the dream institution the administration keeps talking about.

Until there's a shakeup on the fifth floor of Primera Casa (where administration is housed), and we get people in there who fight for the students, people's jobs will be at risk, because I predict a future where students will no longer stay silent and students will demand from their school the attention and care they deserve.

WHAT DO YOU THINK ABOUT THE ADMINISTRATION?

LET US KNOW! JOIN THE CONVERSATION AND COMMENT ON THIS ARTICLE AT FIUSM.COM.

TLC stars' announcement has too-perfect timing

IRIS FEBRES
Opinion Editor

The "dissolved" marriage of Jon and Kate Gosselin is an American tragedy.

Okay, that's a bit much – just like everyone involved on *The Learning Channel's* show "Jon and Kate Plus Eight," a program which revolves around the life of a family, including the challenges and adventures that come attached to raising eight children.

On June 23, a highly publicized episode aired in which Jon and Kate announced the "life-changing decision" that gripped America for days, through tabloid covers and speculations: their (expected) separation.

Kate explained on camera that she and Jon decided to separate in order to "keep peace for the kids." Unfortunately, this announcement will only prevent peace from happening.

Parents who are in their right minds should realize that what's private is private. Even if you do have your own

“Even if you do have your own show, why make a big to-do about separating, touting it in a one-hour special? Oh, that's right: cash.”

television show, why make a big to-do about separating, touting it in a one-hour special?

Oh, that's right: cash.

Jon and Kate have shaken things up for TLC with this episode, which aired just in time to keep ratings high. The hubbub surrounding the Gosselin family only affirmed that any press was good press, because 10 million viewers tuned in to watch what signaled the end of a 10-year marriage.

Did anyone forget that divorces happen every day? Never mind *Anywhere, USA's* Janes and Joes splitting up – the ones that really matter have cameras to capture

everything.

For some reason, we like to obsess with failure. But what makes Jon and Kate so gripping is the fact that they are the most like us, compared to celebrities like Brad Pitt or Megan Fox; they pay bills, they make breakfast, they have doctor's visits.

The only difference is their lives are recorded on DVRs by millions of people.

It's unfortunate that eight kids are caught in the middle of Jon and Kate's mess. What's worse is that the world will watch (and has been watching) as their family unravels.

But I guess it's true: "Money makes the world go 'round.'"

EDITORIAL POLICY

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

QUOTATIONATION

"My heart ... my mind ... are broken. I loved Michael with all my soul and I can't imagine life without him. I still can't believe it."

Elizabeth Taylor
Actress, reflecting on the death of Michael Jackson

SEND US YOUR LETTERS

Got a problem with parking? Want to give kudos to faculty? Or do you just have something to say about FIU? Send your thoughts in to opinion@fiusm.com or drop by our offices at either GC 240 or WUC 124. With your letter, be sure to include your name, major and year.

OPINIONPIECE

150

The number of years Bernard Madoff will serve in prison as a result of duping investors with his Ponzi scheme.

THEATER COMES UNHINGED



Local theater challenges convention

MONICA PUERTO
Staff Writer

Ensemble, Experience, Engagement.

That's Unhinged Theatre's motto, according to FIU alumni Michael Leon, the company's founder and artistic director.

Unhinged Theatre is a theatrical company based in South Florida where actors (mostly FIU alumni) and students come together to express their artistic abilities and give the audience a new take on theatrical performances.

Michael Leon started the company in August 2008.

"I had wanted to work with a group of artists that I felt comfortable with and I respected their work. I felt that as a group we could work together in order to put up productions that we cared about and wanted to put our own take on them," Leon said.

Unhinged Theatre just produced their first classical play called *Gaslight*, which ran from June 26 to the 28.

For Isbelia Duran, who graduated from FIU in 2004 with a bachelor's in theater, this was her first performance with Unhinged.

Duran heard about the company through a fellow actor who went to school with the company members.

"I wanted to be a part of this endeavor because I

found it exciting. I love the fact that this company has 'out-of-the-box' ideas and goals," Duran said.

She is excited to be among hardworking individuals who work together with a common goal: producing great theater.

"The energy is charged and goes through many changes throughout the play, keeping the audience engaged," Duran said.

Duran played the role of Elizabeth in *Gaslight*, which she found challenged her to become a better actress since the character appeared to be duplicitous and was very complex.

Keeping the audience engaged is one of the main goals of Unhinged Theatre.

Dixon Gutierrez, an original member of Unhinged Theatre who will be graduating with a B.A. in acting from FIU, says the show was an experiment to see if they could keep an audience in suspense like they do in movies without the luxury of editing.

"We don't really have that luxury in the theater. What came up through rehearsals was we had to make sure that we were feeling that suspense and anxiety and hopefully pass that on to the audience," Gutierrez said.

Unhinged Theatre has offered challenges to the actors through the roles they play in the performances.

For Gutierrez, the challenge of his role as the detective in *Gaslight* was the language of the show.

"This is a period piece so it's very wordy and very eloquent, certainly more than I'm used to.

"Some thoughts or sentences will go on for quite a while for instance, so it was kind of tough at first to keep the energy and the intent going through the whole line and just taking your time with it."

The future goal of Unhinged Theatre is to move toward performing original work, in part because it would be more cost effective.

According to Leon, "Money has become a great issue and all of these plays are published, meaning they have royalties we need to pay. So part of our decision to go in a new direction with original work is because of our lack of funds."

Leon states that they have a lot of ideas for creating new pieces and is looking forward to developing them.

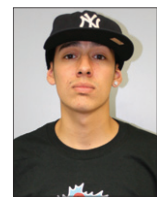
For more information about Unhinged Theatre, e-mail UnhingedTheatre@gmail.com.

MOMENT OF CLARITY

Auto-Tune creates annoying trend

Artists have failed more often with Auto-Tune than they have succeeded with it.

Most notably, T-Pain and Kanye West have made millions while incorporating the device into their music. But there is also the horrible sound of Lil' Wayne, 50 Cent and others that spoiled any enjoyment to be wrung from this trendy vocal effect.



JONATHAN RAMOS

The absolute worst example is the single "Blame it" by Jamie Foxx, which gives me road rage when the radio continues to play it over and over (CD player in the car broke down, tough times). That stupid attempt at music sounds like elementary school kids beating on the lunch table and stuttering over the background of the others during recess.

I am glad, but more relieved, to say that one of the most obnoxious phenomena in pop culture is done. Probably because Jay-Z decided so. The horns in the song, which

references Steam's "Na Na Hey Hey Kiss Him Goodbye" has made noise around the nation. "D.O.A.," or Death of Auto-Tune, is Jay-Z's newest joint as he sets to release another album (*Blueprint 3*, but that's a topic for another day). Jay goes in and takes a jab at Auto-Tune, which distorts artists voices, and voices his displeasure over the overuse of the device.

"You boys jeans too tight, you colors too bright, your voice too light."

What Jay is trying to do is bring balance back to hip-hop in a time where light talking rappers have now overstayed their welcome.

Sure, it is a breath of fresh air to have different artists with different styles and concepts on the scene. Hip-hop is a way to express yourself, in whatever way that may be. But lyricism has been overtaken by the corny, Auto-Tune assisted melodies that you hear on the radio all day.

It isn't necessarily a shot at Kanye West, though. In an interview with New York radio station Hot 97, Jay alluded to Kanye being one

of the only artists who has successfully incorporated the vocoder into his songs - even though Kanye is best when he is rapping, which he has bounced back into of late. D.O.A also calls for a return of some of the darker music that used to be a staple in hip-hop.

"I might wear black for a year straight, I might bring back Versace shades."

Take a look at what two of the most promising artists at the beginning of the decade have become. Wayne and 50, both more inclined to their darker roots at the start of their careers, have become pop stars.

Both are smart and talented individuals, but this was not their music evolving over time, it was a gradual change to fit trends that have made them popular which has lost them respect.

The death of Auto-Tune is in the best interest of music and should only be used sparingly by those who can use it well, like T-Pain and West.



After LIFE! Celebrity deaths rattle FIU students

In the past week, four titans of the entertainment world passed away. TV personality Ed McMahon was 86. Michael Jackson, legendary recording artist and one of the biggest stars the world had ever known, died at 50.

Earlier that same day, Farrah Fawcett, 70's icon and star of the hit show "Charlie's Angels," succumbed to a long battle with cancer at 62. Finally, Billy Mays, the king of late night infomercials, breathed his last breath. With this unusual rash of celebrity deaths, the FIU campus was abuzz with chatter regarding the loss of these four stars.

"It's creepy all the celebrities are dying," said Ben Badger, FIU senior and SGA press secretary.

Michael Jackson's death seemed to hit students particularly hard, with many students expressing disappointment that the late king of pop would be unable to mount the

comeback he had so desperately sought.

"I knew he was coming out with new music and I'm upset we won't get to hear it," said Carrie De Leon, a sophomore and chemistry major.

"It's sad it took his death for people to remember what a great performer he was," said Vignesh Doraiswamy, a senior majoring in biology and religious studies.

Faculty members were also troubled by the passing of these four figures.

"She was pretty awesome," said J.D. Louk, assistant director of Campus Life, on the passing of Farrah Fawcett.

Still, some tried to find the silver lining in this tragic turn of events.

Maybe people can "come away with something from this like cancer prevention," said Louk.

The death of salesman and infomercial star Billy Mays also took students by surprise and saddened

many.

"I would always sit up and watch his infomercials even if I didn't buy anything. He always got me hooked," said junior sports management major, Anthony Barbato.

But wait, there's more. Students were also saddened that Mays passed away at the prime of his career.

"It's unfortunate because he was at the peak of his popularity ... he was such a positive and exuberant person," said Jephren Perez, a senior majoring in advertising.

Students who spoke to *The Beacon* agreed that the deaths of Jackson, Mays, McMahon and Fawcett were terrible losses.

The Beacon joins the rest of the student body in expressing our sadness regarding their untimely deaths.

-Compiled by Chris Cabral and Rachael Congdon.



Theater professor tries to create thoughtful individuals

DAVID BARRIOS
Staff Writer

It would be safe to say that Professor Phillip Church's table is a mess.

On top of his desk lie several stacks of papers; teaching plans, assignments for class, advertisements for the Alternative Theater's upcoming production of *Reefer Madness*. At the top lies a sign-up sheet for a new project called U-Life.

The multi-part television oriented series, according to Church, will follow the lives of an ensemble cast through their time at FIU and is still in its development stage.

"It's coming in the Fall. It's really an exciting project. We've already got directors lined up," Church said.

Church, 60, is a veteran of the theater department. A professor for almost 30 years, he is the head of the performance track in FIU's theater program, often directing multiple shows a year and educating thousands of students during his tenure.

"It's not really about theater. There are plenty of teachers whose aims are to develop toward the creation of the professional actor. My work does that too. But I need to know whether the student is a potential professional actor or if they're going off into science or business," Church said.

Church is quick to discuss the nature of acting and what separates the professionals from those who "go off into science or business."

"The problem with the acting thing is that everybody thinks it's about feeling something. But the feeling is after the thought. It's a reaction to something that's said or something that's done. And that triggers a thought that leads to a decision whether to feel this way or that way. The reason that there is so much fake acting is that people

go straight to feeling," Church said. Church starts all of his acting classes with specific thoughts of the day which he'll find in various books. One axiom he plans to present in his class that he is particularly fond of comes from Robert M. Pirsig's *Zen and the Art of Motorcycle Maintenance: An Inquiry into Values*.

"Mountains are to be climbed with as little effort as possible and without desire. To live only to some future goal is shallow. It's the sides of the mountain which sustain life. Here's where things grow," reads Church from a worn copy of the book.

Perhaps it is for his penchant for doling out such deep thoughts that has made Church popular among many faculty members and students within the department.

Marina Pareja, manager of the department's costume shop, says Church is an inspiration to her.

"I'm a costume designer but I also direct. But my direction skills come from observing Mr. Church as he rehearses his shows. He's kind of like my mentor," said Pareja, who will be directing the musical *Reefer Madness* in July.

The company producing it, Alternative Theater, was established by Church several years ago. Their first production was an adaptation of William Shakespeare's *A Midsummer Night's Dream*, adapted to a modern setting and featured everything from video images projected on the stage to allusions to Hurricane Katrina. The goal of the Alternative Theater is to present dramatic material during the summer and give opportunities for more actors to perform on stage.

"I've worked with him for a long time. I've known him since I was a student here. He was my teacher. He's so much of a free spirit. He has a very creative intuition," Pareja said.

Church is also respected among

many actors in the department, in part for his emphasis on character research.

"He's very big into research. Even what [the character] ate for breakfast, if it helps you," said Kat Moreno, one of the actors in the theater program.

Michael Mena, another actor in the program says that Church's direction has pushed him to be a better actor.

"He looked at me in class and told me, 'You're doing good but you can do better.' I realized that he was right and I wanted to prove to him that I could do better," Mena said.

Church, who is from Britain, describes himself as a professional actor as well as a director, though he admits that he does not act much anymore.

However, he's played many roles in theatre productions throughout Miami including Sidney Cochral, close friend to playwright George Bernard Shaw in *Best of Friends* and Lady Bracknell in a production of Oscar Wilde's *The Importance of Being Earnest*.

Today however, his lead role is teaching prospective actors and non-major students in the middle of the summer term.

His next directorial effort will be *The Cherry Orchard*, an adaptation of the Anton Chekhov play about an aristocratic Russian family returning to their estate before it is foreclosed.

"I can't talk about the play too much right now, but I just like the idea that it's about ... this house and having to leave it. It's so interesting that we're doing it at this particular time," Church said.

The Cherry Orchard is set for production in Spring of 2010.

While Church is excited about his role as teacher and director, he feels his ultimate responsibility as a professor is much deeper than that.

"It's not about creating actors. It's about creating human beings," Church said.

WEIRD NEWS

Slippery record almost unreachable



SUZANNE DAVIS/AP PHOTO

RECORD BREAKER: Fin Keleher with a face full of snails.

JORGE VALENS
Asst. News Director

Most 11-year-old boys are busy fighting off cooties and playing video games, but Fin Keleher is striving for something more.

The ambitious young Keleher, a resident of Salt Lake City, Utah, has decided that he wants his name in the record books, *The Guinness Book of World Records* to be exact, as the person with the most snails on his face at one time.

According to the *Guinness Book*, the current record for this particular feat is an astounding 37 snails. In order for the snails to be officially counted they must stay attached to the person's face for at least 10 seconds.

Keleher said in an interview with the UK's *Daily Star* that a copy of the famous record book he had received for his 10th birthday was his inspiration.

As Keleher made three attempts at making history while at a party celebrating his birthday, his family and representatives from the local media were on hand to witness the event and cheer him on.

The crowd of a half dozen roared with as much applause as a half dozen people could generate after it

was clear that Keleher had made it. On his second attempt, he scored 38 snails.

However, the rules prohibit winning by just one.

It was Keleher's third attempt that secured his victory. The crowd stood by on edge as the official snail counter began removing the snails off of his face and placing them on the official snail cookie sheet.

In total, Fin secured the Guinness World Record with 43 snails slithering across his face, completely shattering expectations.

"I closed my eyes and covered up my mouth with ... well, I sucked my lips in so that they could crawl on that," Keleher said in an interview with local CBS affiliate, WCBS.

"I thought I could totally beat that because I'm not grossed out by snails like most people are," Keleher went on to say, taking an obvious jab at most people's aversion of having snails slithering on their face.

At the time this article was written, most people were not available for comment.

The Keleher's will, per the guidelines of the Guinness World Records, send the videotape of the attempt and signed witness testimonies for review, hopefully by experts familiar with facial snail arrangements.



CHRIS GREEN/THE BEACON

ON THE DEFENSIVE: Rosa led the Golden Panthers 28 wins last season and their first NCAA Tournament appearance.

Volleyball star in high spirits after win

ROSA, page 8

rience that many players do not receive over summer break.

After leading the Golden Panthers to the team's first NCAA Tournament appearance in the program's history, playing for the Puerto Rican national team is a way for the Sun Belt Conference Female Student-Athlete of the Year to keep her skills sharp.

"It gives me experience," Rosa said.

"I think that's the main point. I like representing Puerto Rico."

During the 2008 season, Rosa returned from the previous year's tournament and led the nation

That's even more challenging to me because I know I have to do my job to stay there [on the court] and not go back to the bench; I like it.

Yarimar Rosa

FIU/Puerto Rico Outside Hitter
on being relegated to the bench

in kills (658) and kills per set (5.21). Besides being named Sun Belt Player of the Year, she also was named an American Volleyball Coaches Association All-American and All-South Region performer.

Playing a match a day versus some of the best players in the Americas has given Rosa the ability to gauge her performance

among the best.

"The level [of competition] is higher here. That's the main difference," Rosa continued.

Playing for Puerto Rico has also brought Rosa back to Miami, if only for a few weeks.

"I'm playing here in front of my friends and my family; it's great," she said.

Baseball team's APR fix is a long time coming

APR, page 8

single-year score for the 2008-09 academic year, the team had the lowest APR score of any intercollegiate sport in the University.

The team's regular season was reduced from 55 to 54 games and limited its playing days to 125, according to the 2007-08 report.

The team accumulated a 925 score for the 06-07 academic year, but that followed a horrendous campaign in 05-06 that saw the Golden Panthers finish with a 725. All Division I baseball teams averaged a 946 APR score, according to the 2007-08 report.

Garcia said FIU was very active in seeking relief from the NCAA.

"We applied for a waiver, but we kind of self-imposed our own penalties just from the history of FIU baseball and what we are trying to fix," she said.

"We went ahead and asked them, we won't ask for relief from this, we want partially relief from that, but we do want full relief and want our scholarships back because we have made such drastic improvements."

Over the last three years, the University lost 17.87 scholarships due to contemporaneous penalties, yet no program lost any

scholarships this past academic year.

Contemporaneous penalties restrict the number of initial scholarships and scholarship renewals a team may award.

These penalties occur when programs do not obtain an APR score of 925 over a four-year period and have at least one athlete leave the institution while academically ineligible.

The four-year rolling average takes into account the previous four academic years, and the University will still have to wait a few seasons before getting the 05-06 season off the books and improving their multi-year score. The baseball team was the only FIU

program that had a worse single-year score than last year.

"The historical penalty waiver is when you are way behind. Baseball did not suffer any further losses because they did not suffer eligibility issues," Garcia said.

"Their number still was technically low at 917, because you need a 925 single-year to maintain a 925 multi-year. With everything that was going on, it was still a drastic improvement."

Despite numerous requests, Athletic Director Pete Garcia was unavailable to comment.

Baseball's leader may be noticed by other programs

It was to be a match made in turtle heaven: the man known as "Turtle" interviewed for the vacant head coaching job for the University of Maryland.

Maryland's mascot?

A carnivorous swamp-dwelling turtle known as a terrapin, of course.

Unfortunately for college baseball

fans and turtle enthusiasts in College Park, Maryland reportedly decided not to offer FIU baseball head coach Henry "Turtle" Thomas the position after his interview last week.

Following the loss of five key contributors to graduation or the draft, the loss of the team's head coach—a man with a reputation as one of the top recruiters in the nation—would have been a huge setback for a program on the rise.

Thomas has quickly established himself as one of the top

coaches here at FIU, bringing in a top 15 recruiting class last year and taking the team to its first Sun Belt Conference Tournament since 2006.

It would have been very tough to replace a recruiter like him, and more than in other sports, baseball teams can only go so far without top flight talent.

It is difficult to imagine the job at Maryland wouldn't have represented an upgrade in comparison to FIU though.

With perennial baseball powerhouses such as the University of Miami, Florida State, University of North Carolina and Clemson, the Atlantic Coast Conference's higher quality of competition is one attractive aspect. But another possible upgrade would've been something more tangible: money.

Thomas told *The Miami Herald* that money would not influence his decision to take the job or not, but it was very probable that he would've been offered more money than FIU is paying him.

The classified posted by the University of Maryland

on <http://ncaamarket.ncaa.org> states that its Athletics' budget is \$55 million. Meanwhile, FIU's Athletics' budget is expected to be \$16 million this year, *The Associated Press* reported on June 24.

Also, the posting showed the salary is "commensurate with experience."

Thomas' 35 years of recruitment experience coupled with 19 top-10 recruiting classes would've most likely compensated him well.

Luckily for FIU, the Terrapins decided to go with Erik Bakich, former assistant coach of Vanderbilt University, so they will be able to put off the daunting prospect of having to replace Thomas for at least one more year.

However, for some bigger schools, Thomas may represent somewhat of a big fish in a small pond, and if he continues to see success at FIU, more and more schools are going to be looking his way when it comes time to jump start their own struggling programs.

It wouldn't be surprising if this is an annual event from here on out, as Thomas

expressed a willingness to leave if the right suitor comes calling.

Thomas can't be faulted for expressing his interest in the job; you can hardly blame someone for keeping his options open.

However, it has to be disconcerting to the FIU baseball fans that just two years into his tenure, he was willing to uproot for greener pastures.

Loyalty is tough to ask for, but you'd hate to see the team end up with a Nick Saban type of situation, where there is so much uncertainty surrounding

"He's a professional, and will do whatever it takes to turn his team into a winner as long as he's here."

the coach that it ends up being a distraction.

For the program to continue succeeding, it needs Thomas at the head steering the whole way.

There is no doubting Thomas' faithfulness to the


team when he's here; he's a professional, and will do whatever it takes to turn his team into a winner as long as he's here.

But how long he will remain here is what remains to be seen.

COMMENTARY



CHRIS TOWERS



PANTHER SPORTS

TALK LIVE

Every Tues. and
Thursday @
Noon

Listen live
@ 95.3,
88.1
96.9 or
fiusm.com

All-American learns from international play

CHRIS GREEN
Staff Writer

The Golden Panthers' volleyball star and three-time All-American, Yarimar Rosa, found herself in unfamiliar territory: on the bench.

In the second round of the 2009 VIII Pan-American Women's Volleyball Cup match, Puerto Rico vs. Mexico, Rosa did not play until the score was 16-15 in favor of Puerto Rico.

This is something she is not used to at FIU, where Rosa has started all 92 of her matches played over the last three years.

She earned her team a point as soon as she entered the game, and Puerto Rico had no problem putting away Mexico in three sets (25-18, 25-15, 25-21).

Starting from the bench did not insult Rosa; it gave her more motivation to earn playing time.

"That's even more challenging to me because I know I have to do my job to stay there [on the court] and not go back to the bench; I like it," Rosa said in the post-game conference.

Coming off a record year in which she led the volleyball team to season-record 28 wins, Rosa is now representing her home country of Puerto Rico.

She finds herself on a team ranked 19th in the world.

When the time came for the national women's volleyball team of Puerto Rico to fill the slots for their team for the Pan-American Cup, Rosa was selected for the second consecutive year.

Her team finished in fourth place in last year's games. That is the best finish for Puerto Rico in the tournament's history.

Rosa hopes she can be a difference and help lead her country to a better result.

SAME SUCCESS, DIFFERENT TEAM

For Rosa and Puerto Rico, their second round challenge was the Mexican national team.

Playing in front of an equally balanced

crowd at the BankUnited Center, Rosa played the majority of the match, but came off the bench unlike previous matches for FIU.

Puerto Rico coach Humberto Rodriguez said Tatiana Encarnación, the player who started ahead of Rosa, was not performing at her full potential.

"For a moment, I got the impression that Tatiana was playing under her normal level. It seemed like an appropriate time to let Yarimar play, who had been training well; the switch worked out for us," Puerto Rico coach Rodriguez said during the post-game press conference.

And work well it did, as once Rosa entered during the first set, Puerto Rico went on a 9-3 run to capture the first win and set in motion the second victory for the team in the 2009 tournament.

She earned 11 points for the match, which was a tie for the second best mark on the team.

Team captain Vilmarie Mojica assessed her team's performance.

"We had a better game collectively," Mojica said.

"We attacked well from the middle and the corners of the net. Little by little, we're getting a better and more of an established team."

Puerto Rico then defeated Peru 3-0 (25-17, 25-19, 25-23) the next day. Both teams entered the match undefeated, and Puerto Rico improved to 3-0.

"Peru came out strong and battled back," Puerto Rico captain Mojica told *teamusa.org*. "However, we prepared a lot for this match with a great scouting report."

Rosa's journey continues as Puerto Rico battles for their first Pan-Am Cup title at the BankUnited Center. The tournament winds down until its conclusion on July 4.

LOVE OF THE GAME

For Rosa, the championship provides expe-

ROSA, page 7



CHRIS GREEN/THE BEACON

GETTING AIR: Three-time All-American Yarimar Rosa is playing for Puerto Rico in the VIII Pan-American Women's Volleyball Cup.

Thomas no longer in running for Maryland head coach job

SERGIO BONILLA
Sports Director

Baseball head coach Turtle Thomas interviewed this past week for the vacant University of Maryland head coaching job, according to *miamiherald.com*.

However, Maryland will not hire the 35-year recruiting veteran to be the baseball program's next head coach. Instead they will hire former assistant coach of Vanderbilt University, Erik Bakich. In an e-mail to Student Media, Maryland Athletics confirmed that the University will announce its hire this week, but it will not be coach Thomas.

Thomas told *The Miami Herald* he did not apply for the job. A person he knows is involved in the hiring of the new coach, and the athletic director called him to interview.

He was hired by Athletic Director Pete Garcia two years ago on June 14.



THOMAS

CAREER ACHIEVEMENTS

- 35 years of recruiting for college baseball programs
- Asst. coach of 1999 University of Miami national championship team
- Asst. coach of Louisiana State national championship team
- 14 College World Series appearances
- Signed MLB stars Chipper Jones and Alex Rodriguez

In two full seasons he compiled a 54-57 record, but the team made a 14-win improvement from last season. Also, his recruiting class was ranked No. 15 in the nation, according to Perfect Game Crosschecker.

Head coach Turtle Thomas was unavailable for comment at the time of publication.

Baseball program avoids severe penalties

JONATHAN RAMOS
Asst. Sports Director

When the NCAA released its Academic Progress Rates one year ago, the baseball team accumulated a four-year average of 873 en route to its second historical penalty, which limited them to 16 practice hours a week.

In light of the most recent report released this past May, the program's four-year average remained at 873, which would've resulted in severe historical penalties.

However, the school filed a historical penalty waiver for baseball looking to get relief from penalties, on the grounds that the program has shown great improvement.

As a result of the waiver, the NCAA relieved FIU of the occasion three penalty and once again handed baseball an occasion two penalty. Had the University not filed the waiver, the baseball program could have faced postseason banishment, a reduction in scholarships awarded and renewed and had its regular season and practice times limited as well.

APR Specialist Monique Garcia said the school was not satisfied with

the single-year results but remains optimistic about the program.

"It's huge, because baseball is going into a historical three penalty, and last year they did not lose one point in eligibility," she said. "But they are coming off of a very low multi-year number. It's going to take a long time to fix baseball."

The APR is a system the NCAA uses to forecast roughly how many student-athletes from each program are on pace to graduate.

Each student-athlete is worth up to two points: one point for staying academically eligible and one point for staying enrolled with the institution.

The APR scores are calculated by dividing the team's accumulated points by the maximum number possible. That number is then multiplied by 1,000.

Head coach Turtle Thomas is not allowed to comment due to NCAA rules.

Although the team achieved a 917

873

Baseball team's four-year average APR score.

APR, page 7