

 <p><b>JAPAN</b></p> <p>Nuclear crisis rating raised to level five</p> <p>The reclassification comes as the Japanese government asks the U.S. for help and acknowledges that its response to the nuclear disaster was slowed by the earthquake and tsunami.</p>	 <p><b>YEMEN</b></p> <p>From rooftops, snipers kill 46 protesters</p> <p>A massive demonstration against Yemen's government turned into a killing field Friday as snipers methodically fired down on protesters from rooftops and police blocked key escape routes.</p>	 <p><b>LIBYA</b></p> <p>No fly zone should prove easy support</p> <p>If NATO mounts an operation to enforce a no-fly zone over Libya, it will almost certainly establish quick superiority over Moammar Gadhafi's outdated air force.</p>
--	--	--

## A year after: alerts still face flaws

ALEXANDRA CAMEJO  
Asst. News Director

With the one-year anniversary of Kendall Berry's death approaching, changes that have been made to the University's Panther Alert system since that time have drawn conflicting responses from students across campus.

Aiming to provide the University with instant emergency alerts—ranging from weather-related emergencies, to hazardous conditions on campus or even criminal activity—the text message system has been in place for over two years.

Since its implementation, the Office of Emergency Management has been developing the system's effectiveness—a quality that was doubted after junior and football running back Kendall Berry was stabbed on campus.

According to a report from the Dean of the College of Law, R. Alexander Acosta, there were significant communication flaws with the system in place due to the fact that the first alert sent out to the University was over an hour after the incident had occurred on March 25, 2010.

"There were a lot of issues with that whole event. As a tribute to him, a huge effort has been made to manage the messages and get them out timelier," said Ruben Almaguer, who served as the consultant for Emergency Management after its former director, Dorothy Miller, stepped down.

Some students feel that it is not the timing of these messages that is an issue, but the subject matter.

"I think the texts create more panic than needed, because if you get a message, it rarely gives you the full story on the incident. And then 30 minutes later, you simply receive one that everything is OK," said Brittany Lopez, sophomore and psychology major.

While students such as Lopez feel that the vague wording of some text messages may give reason for unnecessary fear, the administration and OEM considers this to be a necessary safety precaution for situations on campus.

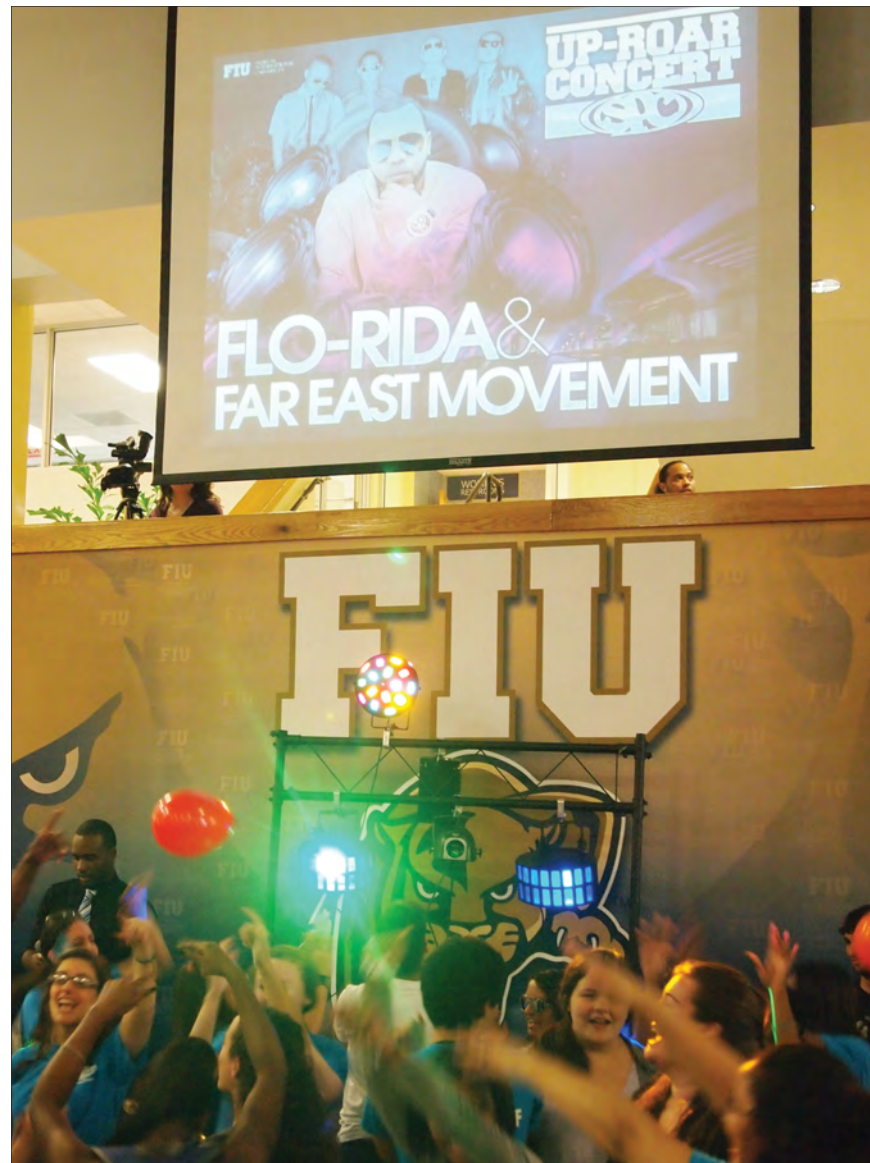
"We wanted to be able to get something out that is going to be somewhat abbreviated. We're not going to be able to send out a dissertation, knowing that we can always follow up with a subsequent email, text message and Informa-Cast telephone message," said Dr. Kenneth Jessell, University senior vice president and chief financial officer.

A significant change made after the Kendall Berry incident involves the chain of command responsible for the issuance of Panther Alerts.

"We do not want to create a bureaucratic process with all the people it needs to get through to get an alert out. We want the senior ranking officer at the police department who's on duty that day to be able to make a decision without getting higher approval," said Almaguer.

ALERTS, page 2

## UP-ROAR



ALEXIA ESCALANTE/THE BEACON

FIU SPC revealed that they are bringing Flo Rida and Far East Movement for the UP-Roar concert on April 6th. The reveal was a surprise disguised by a pit event called Midday Bash.

## Students to walk in eco-friendly gowns

ANALIA FIESTAS  
Staff Writer

While some may be used to seeing plastic bottles thrown into garbage bags, FIU students may need to adjust to the idea of wearing 23 plastic bottles on their very own graduation gown.

For the spring commencement ceremony nearly 4,500 FIU graduates will receive their awaited diplomas wearing caps and gowns made completely out of recycled plastic bottles.

The University may be following the lead of other schools that used recycled gowns such as Florida Tech College, Gulf Coast Community College and Stetson University.

Yet, it is the first State University to send down graduates wearing the Earth friendly gowns.

In a press release on March 3, University Provost Douglas

Wartzok said, "This is an innovative way to show our commitment to sustainability and make an impact given the size of our graduating classes.

By emphasizing that FIU is the most energy efficient university in the State University System, Wartzok claimed that these environmentally conscious gowns coincide with FIU's continued commitment to be worlds ahead and eco-friendly.

"I think recyclable gowns are a great idea because they are better for our environment. I like the idea. It's like a novelty. It's not only fashionable, but eco-friendly. I love it. Nowadays, it is really important to be green, and this is a really great way to do it. We're setting an example to all the other Florida schools," said sophomore Anam Z. Parpia.

Freshman Chioke Pope went on to praise the green efforts of the University.

"We [FIU] are number one for saving energy, so having recyclable gowns contributes to our honorable title. Not only that, but we are also protecting our environment," said Pope.

Designed by Virginia-based Oak Hall Cap and Gown, the gown style is called GreenWeaver.

Both the caps and gowns were made from a fabric spun from molten plastic pellets.

The GreenWeaver had never been made into any other color but black.

However, the manufacturers decided to produce blue regalia for FIU, as blue is the traditional graduating and spirit color for the University.

The bags in which the cap and gowns come in are also made from plastic bottles.

The ink size labels on the back of the gowns are even derived from soy.

According to Assistant

Director and Commencement Coordinator for the Office of the Protocol and Special Events, Lynda R. Rodriguez, the price tag for the recycled gowns is actually slightly higher than the previous due to the new manufacturing process.

Each gown is currently priced at around \$5.

"Five dollars is nothing. What is that, a gallon of gas? Five bucks are totally worth trying to conserve our environment," said junior Nicole Cardona.

Rodriguez has personally heard students rave about the new gowns.

"The students have really accepted it. What I have heard from graduating students is that they think it's an amazing idea. They're excited. I personally work with two seniors in my office, and they are really happy about the gowns. They can't

GOWNS, page 2

## Event helps promote HIV awareness

NICOLE CASTRO  
Asst. News Director

In collaboration with Health Services and Residence Hall Association, the Be HIV Education Project, a philanthropic student endeavor with the sole purpose of dispelling the stigma of people infected with HIV/AIDS, held a two-day event to raise awareness that Miami now has the highest rate of new cases in the country.

The B-HIVE project, which had primarily focused on fundraising to support The Center for Positive Connections, a South Florida based not-for-profit organization providing emotional support and medical services to those with HIV, had experienced a two-year hiatus starting in 2009.

It was brought back on March 10 for the sixth annual National Women and Girls HIV/AIDS Awareness Day.

"We specifically planned the first part of the event on this day because we wanted to bring back B-HIVE with this theme," said Sierra Montgomery, a volunteer for B-HIVE.

B-HIVE initiated the event in the Housing Quad by providing students the opportunity to get tested by the AIDS Healthcare Foundation free of charge.

While the event was officially scheduled to begin at 6 p.m., students began

B-HIVE, page 2

# Around 70 students get tested

**B-HIVE, page 1**

lining up an hour earlier.

Head of Committee Zach Oliva believes it's very important to get tested, especially in the college atmosphere.

"You might think you don't have it, but it's always good to be sure. I've traveled to countries where there is no testing for HIV, so we should take advantage of opportunities like this one," said Oliva.

Laura Toussaint, human resource management major was one of the estimated seventy students who got tested that afternoon.

"It is beneficial to have testing at the Housing Quad

because it is right here and it gives students no excuse why not to get tested," she said.

Although free testing is available at the Health Services Complex, Montgomery notes that a lot of students are not aware that it is available to them and bringing it to the Housing Quad further underscores the accessibility of such services and the urgency of getting tested.

Testing was complemented with free food, give-a-ways and tabling, in which students were presented with interactive activities to learn more about sexually transmitted diseases.

Some of the games included were pin the condom on the man, guess that STD, STD hopscotch and drunken sex.

"We are trying to teach others about STDs and also raise awareness of under what conditions people have sex which is equally important," said Amanda Jimenez.

Jimenez volunteered at the drunken sex table where students were confronted with the challenging task of finding and appropriately using a condom wearing beer goggles.

A special speaker from the YES Institute was scheduled to arrive at Everglades Lounge for day two

of the event but was not able to attend.

However, the Health Communications Club presented The Stigma Stops With Me, a four-part web series produced by 11 School of Journalism and Mass Communication students in the fall of 2008 as an independent study project under the instruction of professor Allan Richards and Kate MacMillin.

The series, which features Damaris Cruz, an HIV positive Latina, was posted on The Miami Herald's website back in February 2009 and attracted the attention of many South Floridians.



ALEXIA ESCALANTE/THE BEACON

The B-HIVE Project took place in the housing quad on March 11. The event aimed to educate about HIV and STD awareness. There was free food, games, performances, giveaways and free HIV testing.

# Students excited to wear new gowns at commencement

**GOWNS, page 1**

wait to wear them," said Rodriguez.

Rodriguez claims that the idea of these innovative

gowns came about during the annual national commencement conference.

One of the commencement officers went to the conference and presented the

idea to the office.

Aside from the fact that no resources are being depleted, which equates environment conservation, Rodriguez believes there are a number

of advantages that come along with the gowns.

The gowns also show commitment to sustainability.

From a safety stand-

point, these gowns have high ratings with inflammability.

Students received their caps and gowns during Grad Send-Off from March 7 to 9 at the Barnes & Noble FIU

Bookstore on Modesto A. Maidique Campus.

Commencement ceremonies will take place May 2 and 3 at the US Century Bank Arena.

# Concerns raised by students over alert delays, reliability

**ALERTS, page 1**

After verification from first responders on a scene, the Police Department and dispatchers have the authority from OEM and the administration to send out a text message using the University's web-based alert system.

"We wanted to develop a system that enables them to do the best job that they can possibly do in terms of notifications of emergencies, providing information to our students, our faculty, our staff, our visitors that will be helpful in dealing with the emergency situation," said Jessell.

After numerous attempts,

no representative from the Public Safety Department was available for comment.

OEM is working to ensure that every phone in the system's directory is not only receiving an alert, but also receiving it on time—a matter of criticism among students.

"I feel like the reliability of Panther Alerts is questionable. I either receive them after my friends do or sometimes way before," said Alex Lorenzo, junior and business major.

The timeliness of the alerts has been an issue for students on campus such as Stefanie Lopez, sophomore and international business major.

"I feel like they'd be more

helpful if they weren't sent so late. I play intramural soccer over at the fields and one night we were playing when all the lights shut off, so we guess that there was a power outage, wondered how long it was going to take, and didn't get a text until an hour after that," said Lopez.

Amy Aikens, OEM's newly appointed director, has noted significant improvement in the distribution of the text messages and attributes delays and lack of receipt to several reasons: students may have changed their phone numbers, cell phone carriers may reject the mass of text messages being sent out, a phone is turned off, or it is in an area with bad cellular reception.

While reports from OEM indicate that the majority of text messages have been submitted to cellular networks, a much smaller percentage of them have actually sent back confirmations that they were received.

According to Almaguer and Jessell, these delays are unavoidable, and other mistakes are often a result of human error. "Just like everything else, there are technology issues but there are also human issues that can be improved with more training to decide when to send or not send a message," said Almaguer.

According to Jessell and Aikens, emergency management has become a priority to varied groups across campus. Increased participation in the group has sparked an interest to make it mandatory for

faculty and staff to receive Panther Alerts.

"We have the emergency management group that includes representatives not only from University police and Emergency Management but Housing, Traffic and

Parking, Athletics, Recreation and Wellness. Everybody knows that they have a big stake in this program," said Jessell.

Taking on this new position, Aikens appreciates the support and development of

OEM.

"Many see emergency management as something we need for the hurricanes and it's a very narrow vision. It's about the safety of our students, faculty, and staff at all times," said Aikens.

**EDITORIAL BOARD**

EDITOR IN CHIEF  
**JORGE VALENS**

BBC MANAGING EDITOR  
**PHILIPPE BUTEAU**

PRODUCTION MANAGER/COPY CHIEF  
**CHRIS TOWERS**

NEWS DIRECTOR  
**GABRIEL ARRARÁS**

LIFE! EDITOR  
**ADRIANA RODRIGUEZ**

SPORTS DIRECTOR  
**JOEL DELGADO**

OPINION EDITOR  
**JASMYN ELLIOTT**

PHOTO EDITOR  
**ESRA ERDOGAN**

**CONTACT INFORMATION**

Modesto Maidique Campus:  
GC 210, Mon-Fri 9:00 AM-4:30 PM  
(305) 348-2709  
news@fiusm.com

Biscayne Bay Campus  
WUC 124, Mon-Fri 9:00 AM-4:30 PM  
(305) 919-4722  
bbc@fiusm.com

Editor-in-Chief:  
(305) 348-1580  
jorge.valens@fiusm.com

Advertising:  
(305) 348-6994  
advertising@fiusm.com

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.

Global Learning for Global Citizenship

## Tuesday Times Roundtable

at Modesto A. Maidique Campus (MMC)

Title: **WikiLeaks: Freedom of Information & National Security**

Moderator: **Michael Brillman, History**

Tuesday, March 22      12:30-1:30pm

ZEB 150 (College of Education Building)

Free Lunch Provided

Image: FreeDigitalPhotos.net

presented by

Student Government Association

Global Learning



## SOFTBALL

# Gniadek emerges as a team leader

**MALCOLM SHIELDS**  
Staff Writer

As the Golden Panthers took the field against Ohio State in the season opener, it was the changing of the guards in the pitching circle as junior Jenn Gniadek took the ball against the Buckeyes.

Last season, the Golden Panthers pitching staff was anchored by senior Kasey Barrett, whose career statistics ranked her in the top five of numerous pitching categories in Golden Panthers history.

Gniadek replaced Barrett as the top pitcher on the Golden Panthers staff after being the number two pitcher last season. The process has had its ups and downs early on this season.

"Now that I'm in [Barrett's] role, it's really different," Gniadek said. "It's taken some time to get used to."

Through the first 24 games, Gniadek is 4-6 with a 3.29 ERA recording 61 strikeouts in 14 appearances on the season.

She is ranked first on the team in innings pitched with 66.

Although Gniadek may have not gotten off to the ideal start that she would have wanted, Coach Beth Torina praised Gniadek's athleticism and her work ethic.

"She is the total package. She makes all of the right decisions. She is extremely athletic. She is at the top of every athletic category when we test the team," Torina said. "She has so many

things going for her; not just on the softball field but in life. She is a special person."

As a leader, Gniadek is not the type of person who is overly boisterous. Instead her leadership is expressed by her actions rather than her words.

"She is going to go out and work hard and try to set the example [with her actions]," Torina said.

With the personality that Gniadek has of internalizing her focus and energy, Coach Torina feels that she may be placing too much pressure on herself.

"I think she feels the weight of the world on her shoulders and it really is not," Torina expressed. "We have a good team on all sides of the ball [around her]. If she relaxes, and makes adjustments she will be fine."

Barrett, who is currently a student assistant coach on the team, spoke about the intensity that Gniadek brings to the circle as well as how she supports her teammates.

"She is very focused, especially in games when she is pitching. Barrett said. "When she is not pitching she cheers and she is more relaxed."

When Gniadek needed advice on anything last season, she leaned on Barrett for guidance.

The relationship between Gniadek and Barrett continues to be very close.

"She was a great example for me," Gniadek said of Barrett. "When I came in as a freshman,



REBECCA VILLAFANE/THE BEACON

Jenn Gniadek [above] has made a team-high 16 appearances so far this season as she assumes the top pitcher role for FIU.

I had Kasey [pitching] in front of me. I use to love pitching with her. If I had a problem she would be the first person I would go to. With Kasey still here, it's good that she can still help me."

Barrett echoed the same sentiments about their relationship as well as the how her being a pitcher allows her to relate better to Gniadek.

"We have a really good rela-

**GNIADEK, page 4**

# FIU able to sweep MTSU in home set

**MALCOLM SHIELDS**  
Staff Writer

The Golden Panthers (15-12, 3-0 SBC) took to the field on March 15 and 16 against Middle Tennessee (5-16, 0-3 SBC) in their Sun Belt Conference opener at home and swept the Blue Raiders in the series.

## FIU 3, MTSU 2 (8)

In game one, both teams did not score until the fourth inning. With two outs, Brie Rojas doubled to centerfield to extend the inning for FIU.

Kayla Burri drove in Rojas from second on a single that just went over the glove of shortstop Brittney Banania to give FIU a 1-0 lead.

"I hit it off the handle. It wasn't a solid hit but it worked," Burri said. "If that's gonna get us a run, I'll take it."

The Blue Raiders countered in the fifth inning by loaded the bases on three walks and tied the game when Natalie Ysaïs was hit by a pitch to force in a run from third base.

The game went into extra innings. In the top of the eighth inning, with two outs, Kaycee Popham crushed a homer to right-center field to give MTSU a 2-1 lead.

**SOFTBALL, page 4**

## 2011 Regular Season Stats



W-L: 5-6  
ERA: 3.04  
SV: 2  
SO: 70

JENN GNIADEK

\* As of 3/17/11

## TENNIS

# Golden Panthers open conference play with wins

**BRANDON WISE**  
Staff Writer

The Golden Panthers, ranked No. 61 nationally as of last week, have been unbeatable the past two weeks and won again on March 15 over North Texas by a score of 6-1.

The team has now won seven consecutive matches and seems to be well prepared for the Sun Belt Conference Tournament.

Opening with a doubles victory, taking two out of three matches, the Panthers got off to a hot start.

The team of Liset Brito and Maria Spenceley won their match 8-4 to get the competition going.

After Christine Serendi and Guilietta Boha could not quite get a win, Lisa Johnson and Rita Maisak managed to clinch the doubles point with a solid 8-5 victory.

In singles, the team looked strong as Brito engineered yet another victory, her tenth of the season, in straight sets (6-0,

6-1).

This victory was number 57 of her career, which puts her up to sixth on the all time wins list at FIU.

Following her win, Johnson then downed her opponent in straight sets (6-0, 6-3). Serendi then clinched the match with her quick straight set victory (6-2, 6-3).

Also picking up victories were Maisak (7-6(3), 6-2) and Spenceley (6-3, 1-6, 6-4).

The win helped improve their record at home and the Golden Panthers are now 7-0 at home this season as they get into the midst of conference play.

## FIU 7, TROY 0

Earlier in the week, the Golden Panthers kept their unblemished home record intact on March 11 with a 7-0 sweep of the Troy Trojans.

The team has now won six straight matches and seems to have found their groove.

The team started out the

afternoon by sweeping all three doubles matches as Lisa Johnson and Rita Maisak won handily 8-1.

Liset Brito and Maria Spenceley fought off early struggles to pull out a come from behind victory 9-7.

Christine Serendi and Guilietta Boha also rallied from behind to take an 8-5 win.

In singles, Johnson won in straight sets (6-0, 6-1) and Maisak defeated her opponent in straight sets (6-1, 6-3). Boha then earned the match clinching point for the Golden Panthers with her victory in straight sets (6-2, 6-3). Brito, Spenceley, and Serendi also picked up victories for the team.

FIU is now 7-5 on the season and have won seven consecutive matches at home dating back to last season.

The Panthers will host the FIU Panther Fundraiser Invitational on Saturday March 12 before North Texas comes to town on Tuesday March 15.



CARLOS MONINO/THE BEACON

Maria Spenceley [front] defeated Jess Courtnell of South Alabama on March 18 in two sets 6-0, 6-1.

## BASEBALL

# Golden Panthers drop two of three against Texas A&M

**ANDRES LEON**  
Staff Writer

The Golden Panthers (12-5) would look to bounce back after a hard loss to Rice earlier in the week during their series against No. 14 Texas A&M (12-4). In a series of close games, the Golden Panthers lost two, but picked up a win in the middle game of the series. It was FIU's first win over a Top-20 opponent since 2008.

## TEXAS A&M 6, FIU 5 (10)

FIU (11-4) would lose to Texas A&M (11-3) in a nail biting extra-inning series opener at College Station on March 11.

After an early single from Garrett Wittels and a ground ball from Rudy Flores, Mike Martinez would bring Jeremy Patton home after he was walked and off an error from the second basemen. Wittels would come home to give FIU the early two-run lead.

In the bottom of the first, the Aggies would steal bases off two errors and were able

to cut the Golden Panther lead back down to one. In the following inning, FIU starter Phil Haig would allow the tying run on an RBI single from Andrew Collazo.

With hard a fought game, the Golden Panthers were headed for extra innings with the score tied at five.

But an RBI single Kenny Jackson would bring in the game-winning run for the Aggies in the tenth inning, handing the Golden Panthers a tough loss.

## FIU 2, TEXAS A&M 1 (10)

As the Golden Panthers bullpen began to find rhythm before the road trip, they did so again in game to against the Aggies in a thrilling 2-1 victory in the second consecutive game to go into extra innings.

R.J. Fondon would lead the way for the FIU pitching staff, pitching a little over seven innings and only allowing one run and earning seven strikeouts.

The Golden Panthers would topple the one-run lead from the Aggies after

Pablo Bermudez hit a fielder's choice to bring in Joel Capote.

Later on in extra innings, the bases were loaded for the Golden Panthers when Jabari Henry would run home off of a wild pitch to score the winning run for FIU.

Bryam Garcia would earn the victory with two innings pitched and recording two strikeouts while only allowing one hit.

## TEXAS A&M 8, FIU 5

After beating their first Top-20 opponent since then No.1 University of Miami in 2008, the Golden Panthers looked to make upset history at College Station for their final game in a three game-series against the Aggies on Mar. 13.

Game three would prove to be a slugging contest with the Aggies as Tyler Naquin hit a double early on to start things off in the first inning. On the next play, Matt Juengel would hit a single deep into left field to bring Naquin home for the first run of the game.



KRISTI CAMARA/THE BEACON

Jabari Henry [above] scored the winning run for FIU against the Aggies on March 12.

The Golden Panthers would strike back as Mike Martinez doubled to left-center field and would eventually be brought home on a single by David Vazquez. With the game tied up, things were bound to break loose.

FIU would take a 5-2 lead

going into the seventh inning after a Jose Behar double drove in Yoandy Barroso and Joel Capote.

Things looked bright for the Golden Panthers, but after to lazy pitches from Arboleya and a few errors, the Aggies would rally back

to win the game 8-5.

Shortstop Kenny Jackson would come up big for the Aggies hitting a home run to bring in Charlie Curl for the eighth run in the game.

D.J. Swatscheno would close the game for FIU earning the loss.

## SOFTBALL

# McClain helps FIU in Nevada

## SOFTBALL, page 3

The Golden Panthers began the bottom of the eighth inning with a leadoff solo homer by Jessy Alfonso to tie the game.

After Beth Peller reached base, Ashley McClain hit a groundball and the throw to first sailed over first base, which allowed Peller to score from second to give FIU the win.

## FIU 3, MTSU 2

In the second game on March 15, the Blue Raiders scored in the top of the first on a solo homer by Corrie Abel, but FIU answered with three runs in the bottom of the first inning on a three-run homer down the left-field line by Burri.

"They got runners on for me," Burri said. "I sat on an inside pitch and she threw it to me and I swung."

The Blue Raiders added another run in the second inning on an RBI double by Kayla Toney to cut the deficit to 3-2. After the early scoring, starting pitchers Janelle Robinson for MTSU and Mariah Dawson for FIU turned the game into a pitcher's duel.

MTSU mounted one last push to win in the seventh inning when Kelsey Dortch led the inning with a leadoff walk and then stole second with one out. But Mariah Dawson struck out two consecutive Blue Raiders to end the game.

"I'm really trying to stay aggressive," Dawson said. "If I pitch to where I'm supposed to, they are going to get out. So I did my job."

## FIU 6, MTSU 4

FIU scored two runs in the first inning in the series finale on March 16 on two sac flies by Ashley McClain and Rojas. Alfonso, Rojas, and Burri hit solo homers to extend the Golden Panther lead to 5-0 after three innings.

"We showed a really versatile lineup today," Coach Beth Torina said. "We were able to manufacture and also hit the home runs. The home runs were nice but the key is that they were able to manufacture those first two [runs]."

MTSU got back into the game with RBI hits by Toney and Nina Dever cut the deficit to 5-2. FIU added a run in the fifth. A two run homer by Popham in the sixth, made it a 6-4 ballgame, but MTSU went down 1-2-3 in the seventh to end the game.

## NEVADA CLASSIC

Before opening conference play, the Golden Panthers participated in the Nevada Classic and went up against New Mexico twice, Boston College and Nevada on March 11 and 12. Ashley McClain went 7-for-12 in the four games for FIU in helping the team split the four-game set.

## NEW MEXICO 10, FIU 2

The Lobos jumped out to an early lead in the first inning as Jessica Garcia hit a two run home-run to give New Mexico an early 2-0 lead. The home run sparked an eight-run inning that proved to be enough to defeat FIU on March 11.

FIU scored its first run in the second inning on a passed ball by Lobo's catcher Ally Hakeem. Jackie Tetlow notched a RBI single, to cut the lead to 8-2. Lobos starting pitcher Kaela DeBroeck pitched a complete game allowing one earned run and two hits.

## FIU 11, BOSTON COLLEGE 7

Boston College scored first on a solo home run by Ali Lynette-Krech in the second inning. But the Golden Panthers struck back in the third inning when McClain doubled to left-center field, scoring two runs to give FIU a 2-1 lead.

The Golden Panthers broke the game open in the third inning by scoring six runs. The inning was highlighted by a grand slam by McClain, which pushed the lead to 7-1.

The Eagles scored two runs in the fifth inning and a four in the seventh inning, but it was not enough as pitchers Mariah Dawson and Jenn Gniadek combined to preserve the win for the Golden Panthers.

## NEW MEXICO 9, FIU 4

On March 12, the Lobos scored five runs off of five hits in the second inning and scored two more runs in the third inning on a single by Stefanie Carramusa to jump out ahead of FIU once again.

The Golden Panthers recorded their first hit on a double by Jessy Alfonso in the fifth inning. Jenny Welch brought in FIU's first run on a ground out that scored Alfonso from third base.

McClain hit a two-run homer that highlighted a three-run sixth inning to cut the deficit to 9-4.

## FIU 10, NEVADA 1

McClain hit another two-run homer in the first inning to propel the Golden Panthers to an early lead and Brie Rojas hit a solo homer in the third to give FIU a 3-0 lead.

After a single by Kayla Burri, Jackie Tetlow laced a double to right-center field, scoring Burri to give FIU a 4-0 lead later in the third.

Nevada scored their first run on a single by Megan Fincher in the fourth inning, but McClain added to her 2-for-3 day with a solo homer in the fifth inning. FIU added five more runs in the sixth inning to put the game out reach on hits by Patty Zavala, Alfonso and Kennah Orr.

Gniadek pitched six innings, allowing three hits in the win.

# More growth is expected from Gniadek as Sun Belt play begins

## GNIADEK, page 3

relationship on and off the field," Barrett said. "Both being pitchers, we helped each other out. If I had a bad day [pitching], I knew without a doubt Jenn can come in and

**This is a learning year being in the number one spot. It's hard to prepare for that... The more experience she gets the better she will get.**

Kasey Barrett,  
Former FIU pitcher

help me out. We would talk about situations and pitching and I think we were on the same page. We worked [well] together as a team and really I enjoyed pitching with her."

Gniadek has also embraced the role of being a mentor to freshman pitcher Mariah Dawson.

"She has a completely different mental attitude than I had as a freshman," Gniadek said of Dawson. "I try to help her out and she is

catching on real quickly."

With the Golden Panthers heading into the Sun Belt Conference portion of their schedule, Barrett expects continued growth from Gniadek.

"She will continue to get better," Barrett said. "This is a learning year being in the number one spot. It's hard to prepare yourself for it that. You kind of just get thrown into the situation and you just have to gain experience through trial and error and figure it out and I think she is handling it well. The more experience she gets the better she will get."

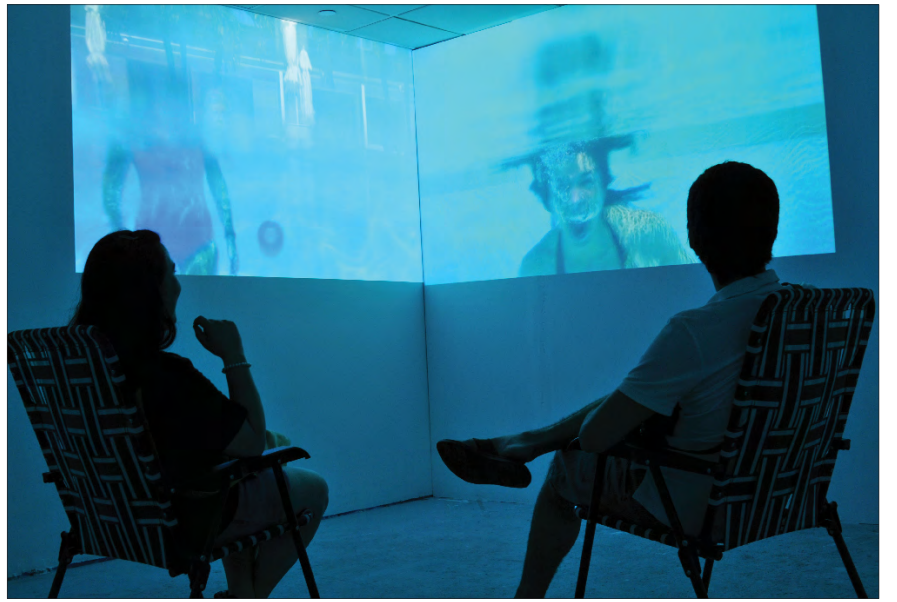
Although Gniadek and the team has had an up and down start to the season with wins over No. 17 Georgia Tech and North Carolina State and losses to Ohio State and Illinois, Gniadek maintains a positive outlook for her team heading into conference play.

"The losses did not feel good," Gniadek said. "It wasn't something that we were expecting, but if we pick it up from here, we are still going to have a great season."



# AESTHETICALLY PLEASING

## Students present local artists in annual art exhibit



GLORIA BAILON/THE BEACON

Left: "Sculpture No-1" by Jacin Giordano as part of the student curated exhibit. Right: Students sit inside Antonia Wright's "I Scream, Therefore I Exist" video installation.

### ALFREDO APARICIO Staff Writer

The Aesthetics and Values seminar, led by faculty fellow John Bailly, began as an underground class.

On the first go around, only 18 students filled the classroom and brought together the first Aesthetics and Values exhibit at the

FIU Green Library.

The number of students since that first class has only grown, tripling in the last five years.

"It's not about looking at art from a historical point of view," said Bailly, who teaches the class. "It's about how this art exists in society and how we approach it."

The students in the

class, who are required to participate in the yearlong exhibit project, have taken initiative to bring only the best elements to the table.

"They do everything, from funding to choosing the artists to promoting the event," said Bailly. "For me as a faculty member what I have found most rewarding is that the students take ownership

of the project and they're very creative in how they engage themselves."

Students choose from a list of established artists but are encouraged to seek out other artists who catch their attention. One of the artists who will be featured, José Bedia, was not part of the original list.

"If a student finds someone not on the list,

they make a proposal for the artist and present it to the museum. If accepted they have the go-ahead to contact the artists," said Bailly.

This year's exhibit will also feature well-established artists such as Daniel Arsham, Ivan Toth Depeña, Jacin Giordano, Karen Rifas, Cristina Lei Rodriguez, John Sanchez,

Jen Stark, Antonia Wright and Fabian Peña, many of whom have created original works specifically for this exhibit.

Peña will contribute to the exhibit by painting a quote around the gallery walls with letters formed from insect bodies. "It's supposed to make you think

**AESTHETICS, page 6**

### ON THE PROWL

## Dating younger men offers more reward than risk

If not automatically eliminating a guy from the running due to his age makes me a cougar then so be it. I can't quite say I prefer younger men to older men yet, but as of late they're looking like the better option.

About a year ago I got dubbed with a very fitting nickname: BP Lover. Since "cougar" usually refers to women twice my age dating men in my age range, it seemed appropriate to my friends.

Now if you think you've taken a really good guess at what it means, let me clarify this endearing term. Yes, it means "baby penis lover." But I assure you it refers only to the age of the attached male, not the size of his manhood.

My first BP ever was only six months younger than me, so differences were hard to pinpoint. The most recent BP in my life is three years younger and our age difference can be very clear at times, usually only around our respective groups of friends.

Most of the negative opinions are from outsiders, but we never cared and we rarely even think about our age difference.

But let's not dwell on the cons when the pros can more than make up for them.

The thrill of being with a passionate, younger man can't be understood until you just embrace it and go for it. Unlike older men,

BP's are usually more passionate about life and love and know how to balance it with fun. They'll usually be more appreciative to have hit the jackpot with an older, open-minded woman.

Depending on the depth of your shallowness, younger men can serve as wonderful eye candy with their perfectly toned bodies and their fresh, youthful faces. If you picked well, odds are he won't have a beer gut and will still have all his hair.

The best perk to being with a BP is their willingness to please you. You can benefit from their loyalty and ambition to try new things. Not that they should have to prove anything to you, but they can't help but feel they need to assure you of your decision to be with them in spite of the age difference.

These are obviously not true all across the board, but if you decide to embark on this new adventure make sure it will be advantageous for both of you and take it as a learning experience.

My BP and I are taking it slow for now since he's starting a stage of his life I'm almost done with: college. I try to help him through his new experiences and he reminds me that I need to take time for myself.

In the end, we will both benefit from meeting at the halfway point between our lives.

*On the Prowl is a biweekly column on dating. Look for it every other Monday.*


Global Learning for Global Citizenship

## Tuesday Times Roundtable

at Biscayne Bay Campus (BBC)

**Title:** What it Means to be Literate in the 21st Century

**Moderator:** Laura Probst, Dean of Libraries



**Time & Location:** Tues., March 22 12:30-1:30pm  
WUC 159 (Wolfe University Center)  
**Free Lunch Provided**

presented by **The New York Times**

**FIU** Student Government Association **FIU** Global Learning

Image: africa / FreeDigitalPhotos.net



## CAMPUS GEMS

# Losing GC hangout is not a problem for 'nerds'

**ALEXANDRA CAMEJO**  
Asst. News Director

A long time ago, in a section of the Graham Center far, far away, the battle ground for FIU's ultimate video gamers and card traders was abruptly taken apart. The construction of Chili's Too left these students on a quest to find a new stomping ground to claim as their own.

"Everyone thinks we're all nerds," said liberal arts major and senior Eli Philippe.

Philippe and many of his friends who once filled the abandoned corridors of Gracie's Grill—now Chili's Too—have come out of the shadows and into the light sitting just outside of Sushi Maki.

When construction began for the restaurant, these gamers still had a TV for their video game duels, but its relocation to a second floor classroom never caught on. Soon enough after, the TV was gone, and these students made the tables in front of Chili's Too their new place of residence.

Not venturing far from their space at Gracie's Grill, video gamers and card traders show up to their new hangout to battle it out in a variety of games.

"Everyone assumes that there's a stereotype for this, but the truth is anyone could be a player," said senior and biology major Pleu Sinclair.

The players that Sinclair referred to do not play sports,

but actually play the collectible card game Yu-Gi-Oh!, where each card represents a fantasy monster used to duel another player in a mock battle.

"The card game is our own miniature economy. It helps us learn so much about business tactics and strategies. You have no idea how important it is to be an educated player," said Philippe.

Across the Yu-Gi-Oh! table, there are several oversized binders filled with "monsters," laminated card decks closely guarded and monitored by each owner, and a marked area reserved for battle space.

For both Philippe and Sinclair, the card game has become more than just a hobby—it's a source of income.

The value of the most exclusive playing cards can run up to \$1,000 a piece, and these two students have financially benefitted from such sales.

"Nerds make money. No one says nerds don't make money. You can call us professional nerds then," said Philippe.

While Sinclair understands that this world of monsters on cards can seem a bit out of reach for many students, he doesn't feel that people can assume what these players are like.

"I think people assume that we're the losers, we aren't well dressed," said Sinclair while looking down at his Polo t-shirt, "but there is so much money to be made from this

game, and I don't think that's nerdy at all."

Pointing over at a table of students playing Risk, Abram Foster, a junior and English major, confidently declared, "Now, those guys are definitely nerds."

Foster pointed out his dislike for the strategic board game when he said, "Not only is Risk a conniving and backstabbing game, but you can't make any money off of it."

Almost emulating the battle styles from their Yu-Gi-Oh! cards, a debate quickly ensued about what accurately classifies someone as a "nerd."

"I think the term nerdy has evolved from what it used to be. Before it was 'Star Wars' nerd, now it's something like Pokémon nerd," said Sinclair.

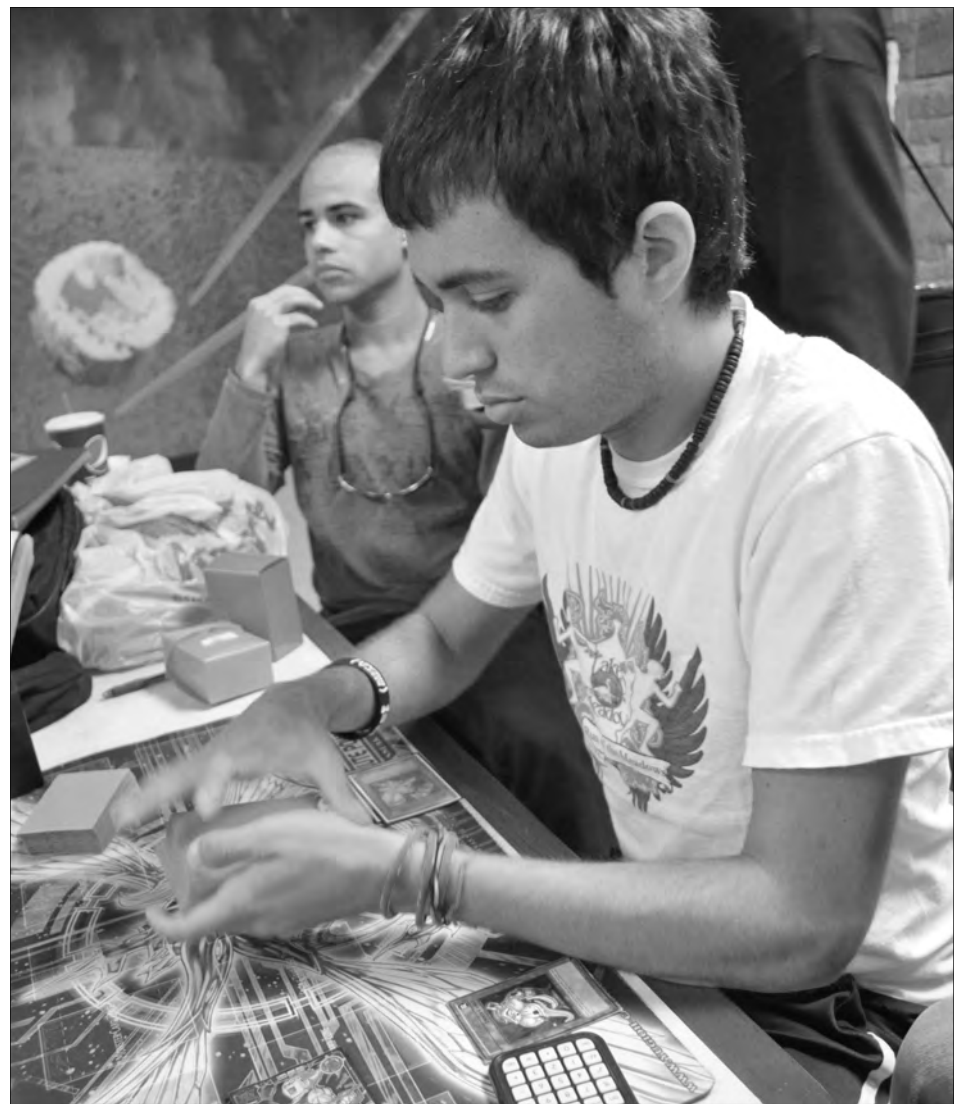
"Star Wars' is not really nerdy, but 'Star Trek'—that's nerdy," said Foster.

Directing his argument toward Jessie Negron, a freshman and international business major, who was fully engaged in a card battle, Sinclair declared that any player of the popular video game, "Super Smash Bros. Brawl", "qualified as a nerd."

Losing focus on the Yu-Gi-Oh! battle, Negron jumped into a duel with Sinclair.

"That's not true. I play professionally, I get paid, and therefore it's not appropriate to call it nerdy," said Negron.

As a professional gamer, Negron receives sponsorships from stores to compete against



LINDA LEE/THE BEACON

George Machado, a freshman engineering major, deals Yu Gi Oh! cards outside of Sushi Maki, the newest hangout for the "nerds."

other gamers in "Super Smash Bros. Brawl" tournaments. After winning several competitions and cash prizes, Negron is gearing up for a Texas tournament next month.

Even Philippe has considered getting paid to judge the

Yu-Gi-Oh! competitions held throughout the country.

So, while these students may have suffered the loss their gaming cave, their new spot has become an open playground where others are invited to play.

"A lot of people just think we're the nerds, the geeks, but that's a stereotype. And that's not true. You'll find a huge range of people around here, and we surprise people all the time with how we really are," said Philippe.

## Frost Museum the backdrop for student exhibition

### AESTHETICS, page 5

about the art," said Bailly. "What we want to do is start discussion on campus and have everyone bring their own perspective about the nature of art."

The exhibit, which had its humble beginnings in the FIU Green Library, caught the eye of Carol Damian, director of the Frost Museum.

"This exhibit has become a tradition at FIU and was located at the library and other places. Two years ago, when John Bailly asked to teach his class here, he described the exhibit and asked if it could be at the Frost. I was very enthusiastic," said Damian.

Damian was impressed with the stellar list of artists who were featured in the yearly exhibit as well as the class' ability to break down barriers between the different disciplines at the FIU Honors College.

"I would say only about 10 percent, if not less, of the students in my seminar are actual art majors," said Bailly.

The move to the Frost Museum also provided a bigger stage for the students to showcase the works of the artists of their choice.

"The platform and exposure is much larger but it still has retained its student ownership," said Bailly. "It amazes me the work they have done and how they have taken the initiative and made the exhibit their own and grown it from a class project to a professional exhibit."

The quality of the exhibit has also been responsible for a lot of its recognition at the University and around the country.

"Students have presented at national conferences and have gone to take part in internships around Miami as well as having some of them even become art majors," said Bailly.

Damian also credits the fact that many important local artists have taken the time to participate in the student-curated exhibition.

"It's not within the pristine galleries but rather in a very open place and they chose that location with the students. I think that's very attractive—to have artists work with the students to promote the next generation of art lovers," said Damian.

For Bailly, each year the exhibit brings with it equal shares of excitement and drama.

"Each year there is a crisis and we think we're not going to make it but we always pull through, said Bailly. "One year I had student who wanted to quit after one semester (it's a two-semester course) but I told her to stick through it and she did."

The student, Valerie Carisma, couldn't help but smile as she saw it all come together.

"I saw her on Monday with her artist, Antonia Wright, putting the final touches on her installation and it embodied all Aesthetics and Values is about: student determination. To me that's what's most important," said Bailly.

Bailly also credits the support of Lesley Northup, the Dean of the Honor's College, as a big help in establishing the class and exhibit. "She [Lesley Northup] and now Carol Damian have been a big support for the students and the exhibit."

The Aesthetics and Values 2011 Exhibit will run until Apr. 19 and will have a student guided tour on Mar. 22 and its official reception Mar. 24, both open to the public free of charge.

"I'm just the facilitator," said Bailly.

## THIS WEEK ON CAMPUS

### MONDAY, MARCH 21, 2011

#### HATHA YOGA



WHEN: 1:30-2:30 p.m.  
HOW MUCH: Free  
WHERE: Behind the organic garden

#### TABLING

WHEN: 10 a.m.-2 p.m.  
HOW MUCH: Free  
WHERE: MMC GC Tables

#### INTERNATIONAL MOVIE WEEK: PAN'S LABYRINTH



WHEN: 6-8:30 p.m.  
HOW MUCH: Free  
WHERE: MMC GC Porter Davies' Gameroom

#### SPC PIT EVENT

WHEN: 11 a.m.-2 p.m.  
WHERE: MMC GC Pit

#### GUIDE TO CAREER MANAGEMENT SERVICES WORKSHOP

Come out and learn about all the services, tools, and resources that are available to students in the College of Business.

WHEN: 5-6 p.m.  
HOW MUCH: Free  
WHERE: MMC CBC 123

#### GRAD SEND-OFF

A place for graduates' needs: cap and gown, commencement pass, grad-packs, alumni association memberships, free graduation photo and much more.

WHEN: 10 a.m.-10 p.m.  
WHERE: BBC Bookstore

### TUESDAY, MARCH 22, 2011

#### NEW MUSIC MIAMI ISCM FESTIVAL



WHEN: 7:30 p.m.  
HOW MUCH: Free and open to the public  
WHERE: Miami Beach Botanical Gardens

#### PRESTIGE CULTURAL SERIES

WHEN: 11:30 a.m.  
WHERE: BBC WUC Theater

#### BEGINNER'S SUNSET YOGA



WHEN: 5-6 p.m.  
HOW MUCH: Free  
WHERE: Organic garden

#### FIU SCHOOL OF MUSIC AT BISCAYNE BAY SERIES: LUNCHEON CONCERT



WHEN: Lunch at 11:30 am & Concert at 1 p.m.  
HOW MUCH: \$45 general admission  
WHERE: BBC Kovens Conference Center

#### AMSA & MAPS: UNIVERSITY OF FLORIDA COM FORUM

WHEN: 5-6 p.m.  
WHERE: BBC WC 130

If you are interested in having an event featured in the calendar, contact: [calendar@fiusm.com](mailto:calendar@fiusm.com)

# Social support of gays ahead of politics

**PAOLO RAMOS**  
Staff Writer

While conditions for the lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender community continue to positively develop in America, the rate at which they are proceeding is still relatively slow. At certain points, it has been stagnant.

It is frustratingly ironic that a culture that has brought into prominence gay icons like Lady Gaga has failed to mimic the same movements in the political sphere. Only recently has “Don’t Ask, Don’t Tell” been repealed, while President Barack Obama’s attitude towards gay marriage remains partial against it with civil unions being the most support he gives towards the issue. Compared to other developed nations within Europe and the rest of the Americas, gay rights in the United States are significantly underdeveloped.

There is no doubt that attitudes towards the LGBT community have been improving in recent years. Compared to any other point in American history, there could not be better time for anybody living outside of the social standards of heterosexuality that persists in all cultures.

The media has played a critical role in furthering positive attitudes towards gays. As mentioned earlier, artists such as Lady Gaga have actively promoted messages of tolerance and equality through their work. The

recent award show season also has reflected this cultural shift. Chris Colfer, who plays gay teen Kurt Hummel on *Glee*, won his first Golden Globe for that role, which he accepted with a speech encouraging young people all over not to be ashamed and feel disadvantaged for expressing their true selves. Also, the film *The Kids Are Alright* highlights some of the contemporary social issues that gay people face, such as domestic relationships and parenthood. If the media was the sole source of the American social temperature, all seems to be well for the homosexual community.

While it is great that the social attitude towards gays has shown significant improvement, the political attitude is still relatively inelastic when it comes to embracing the gay community. The recent repeal of DADT, though a successful breakthrough, seems slightly overdue when compared to countries such as Canada, who have allowed gays to serve openly since 1992, around the same time DADT was passed into law.

Other developed nations that have legalized gay participation in the military prior to the U.S. include the majority of Europe, China, Japan and all of South America, with the exception of Venezuela. If the U.S. had followed suit along with the rest of the developed world, approximately 13,400 soldiers that were discharged under DADT would still be able to serve their country, according to figures released by the U.S. Department of Defense.

The political actions regarding same-sex marriage are even slower than those regarding the military. As of 2011, only six states have recognized full same-sex marriage. The issue of gay marriage itself has been diffused across the states rather than being dealt with on the federal level. This has and will only continue to slow the progress if no further federal initiative is taken.

Though President Obama has condemned the Defense of Marriage Act to be unconstitutional, recent polls reveal the country to still be evenly divided on the issue. With the presidency being highly democratic in nature, and though Obama may very well be leaning towards legalizing gay marriage, the desires of the country, at least those who are politically active, will continue to stall the progress of true equality within America.

Gay rights are being put through unnecessary motions in order to be realized. Though the values of all Americans should be considered, progress for the sake of progress must be made. Full recognition of gay rights is something that can only benefit the American population in the long run by giving American citizens more of an incentive to treat each other with more respect and to devote more time and energy to more detrimental issues.

Plain and simple, the drama surrounding gay rights is entirely needless, and the only results that are derived from its complexities will only serve to hinder progress.

THE BEACON | Editorial

## Campus alert system effectiveness needs work

The University’s emergency text alert system, Panther Alerts, is plagued by inefficiencies which have led it to misinform students and, in some cases, cause panic.

The primary concern regarding the alert system is its reach. Although the system is implemented University-wide through a mandatory sign-up through myFIU, it seems that not all students are receiving the texts.

“It’s really impossible to hit every single person, but our goal is to get 80 to 90 percent to get the message,” said Ruben Almaguer, consultant for the University’s Office of Emergency Management. However, this is not the case. Of the total number of messages sent, 68 percent reach the mobile provider’s network but only 28 percent are confirmed to be delivered to devices, according to the OEM.

A survey of our editorial board showed that a majority of its members had not received the most recent alert. The few who did receive the alert got it as late as two hours after the incident.

Messages on this system should serve to clearly inform students to a emergency on campus without inciting panic. This has not been the case with some recent alerts, evidenced by an alert sent on Feb. 11 to alert students about a fire on the Engineering Campus, a significant distance away from Modesto Maidique campus.

“FIU ALERT! A hazardous condition exists at the Modesto Maidique campus! Remain cautious. Evacuate area immediately if instructed to do so,” the message read.

The message sent to students was not only light on details, but suggested that the entirety of MMC was “hazardous” rather than convey the true nature of the incident: a fire at a satellite campus a few blocks away. Messages sent out like this cause confusion and panic to recipients on and off campus, particularly MMC housing students, who live on campus and depend on this information for safety.

The current system in place allows for the first responder from Public Safety to issue the Panther Alert. We agree that this is a good thing as it removes the bureaucracy of having to gain authority to issue the alert. However, those who carry the responsibility of being able to broadcast alerts on this system should use sound judgement and communicate to students an accurate account of what is going on and what they should do. Ultimately, it comes down to a proper balance of accuracy and timing.

University Chief Financial Officer Kenneth Jessell does not want the text message service to be the end all but rather a part of a system with various redundancies, such as email alerts.

While The Beacon agrees that redundancy is key when it comes to alerting the University community, we must stress another platform for information which the University community uses everyday: social media. The University should actively market it’s Twitter and Facebook portals as methods for students to be informed about important campus information, such as emergency alerts. Working with External Relations, the University can convey emergency information correctly and instantly to a wide net of students.

With fixes to the efficiency and the wording used, the Panther Alert system can be an effective way of reaching students in times of crisis. But by no means should it be the only way.

# Haiti undermined by foreign leaders

**SHEDWIN ELIASSIN**  
Contributing Writer

On Jan. 12, 2010, Haiti faced a catastrophic earthquake that will be remembered in the minds of its inhabitants as the decimation of their way of life. The earthquake not only shook the ground but it shook the foundations that kept the nation afloat. The country now faces problems that it must deal with socially, economically and politically.

This mass devastation has brought in a plethora of foreign aid and migration undermining the sovereignty of Haiti’s republic. It has also done its part in killing crops which 60 percent of the nation depended on for food and wages, and it has destroyed the capital. As the “White House” of Haiti lies in a heap of rubble, it has become a symbol of a fallen nation.

The United States has helped the nation rebuild and recover by sponsoring numerous programs and supplied the nations with temporary jobs. Furthermore, the response from the international community was astounding by working with USAID, The United Nations, and World Food

Programme in orchestrating the largest urban food distribution in history. According to the Bureau of International Information Program, the immediate aid helped feed 3.5 million people.

With many people put out of their homes, leaving about 1.3 million people displaced, the U.S. strategy for reconstruction includes focusing on infrastructure. Homes have been assessed and the U.S. government has put in \$19 million into the local economy and short term jobs have been provided to keeps families afloat.

Despite all of these things there is still more work to be done. Aside from the structural damage caused by the earthquake there are also strong internal problems such as the challenged integrity of the Haitian people and its politics almost completely dissolved. The problem that the aid has caused, in terms of long-term effects, is that of keeping the country from shaping its own future.

The main powers, the holders of the “purse,” have become large, looming puppeteers hovering over the nation pulling invisible strings and bypassing

the government. Alex Dupuy, a Haitian political analyst and professor at Wesleyan University has called Haiti “A republic of the NGO’s”. Due to the mass amounts of money and effort being put into the country by the U.S. and several financial institutions, they are in the posi-

**Haiti is going to require billions of dollars to repair infrastructure... This does not justify the lack of respect that the foreign powers have for the Haitians’ elite.**

tion to lead the reconstruction of Haiti.

These reconstruction strategies however consist partially of strategies that do not work but are implemented further their own ends. Two of these strategies include a plan to transform Haiti into the cheapest supplier of labor the garment industry and the second to get rid of tariffs against food imports and

other imports into Haiti.

These strategies have resulted in the devastation of Haitian agriculture taking away the ability of the country to produce its own food at home. Haiti went from being able to produce 80 percent of its own food in the 1980’s to 40 percent currently.

Former President Bill Clinton, who co-chairs the Interim Haiti Commission, has been quoted stating to the Senate Foreign Committee, that the strategies that he had been pushing in Haiti are not working. These strategies, however, have the goal of benefiting American farmers.

Haiti is going to require billions of dollars to repair the infrastructure, to cater to the needs of the people and to fix the republic. However this does not justify the lack of respect that the foreign powers have for the Haitians’ elite.

To see Haiti return to what it was prior to the earthquake as the poorest Caribbean country would not be an improvement. The foreign community has a direct role to play, with combined effort from Haiti’s elected officials, to improve the condition of the country.

### DISCLAIMER

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

### 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 (550 words maximum) regarding or in response to its editorials, send them to [opinion@fiusm.com](mailto:opinion@fiusm.com)

### SEND US YOUR LETTERS

Have something on your mind? Send your thoughts (550 words maximum) in to [opinion@fiusm.com](mailto:opinion@fiusm.com) or drop by our offices at either GC 210 or WUC 124. With your letter, be sure to include your name, major and year.





## ARGENTINA

### Judge finds no crime in US cargo dispute

Marcelo Aguinsky, an Argentine judge, said Americans committed no crimes when a U.S. military team flew in undeclared cargo after being invited to provide training to Argentine federal police.



## CUBA

### Church says dissident, 9 others to be freed

Officials will free a political dissident from prison and let him stay on the island, while nine other inmates jailed for crimes against state security are being sent to Spain, the Roman Catholic Church said on March 10.



## MEXICO

### Tsunami swells reach Mexican resorts

Heavy swells have been rolling through the ports and marinas of the Mexico's Baja California resort of Cabo San Lucas. Some are several feet (more than a meter) high, but no damage has been reported.

## STUDENT GOVERNMENT ELECTIONS

# Candidate seeks to improve Honors College exposure

BECCA GRIESEMER  
Staff Writer

Pablo Haspel has joined a handful of committees, gained the speaker pro tempore position, and is running for honors college senator: all in his first two months in the Student Government Association.

At-Large Senator Haspel, who is on three separate committees: finance, lectures, and rules and regulations, said the remaining senators are feeling somewhat disappointed after four senators resigned in February, largely due to unmet academic requirements.

"You expect [council members] to be a high achievers, to be people that value their school work; that's why you join SGA: because you value your education and you want to make it better."

Haspel said. "So when you find out that some of your fellow members can no longer be part of this organization because of grades, you feel a little disappointed: maybe there was something you could have done to help them, maybe taken some of their responsibilities so they could have a little more time, and maybe instead of them doing everything by themselves, you could've helped them out."

The senior, double majoring in international relations and economics, is running unopposed, and will automatically serve on the honors leadership council with election.

"There's a lack of exposure, I guess at this campus especially, because the main colleges here are obviously hospitality, journalism and mass communication," Haspel said. "So [I plan to] maybe increase exposure, and allow the students that are part of the honors college to know that they really do have a voice, that there

is someone there who listens to them."

Lesley A. Northup, interim dean of the Honors College, is impressed with Haspel's involvement for the school.

"I don't know Pablo personally, but I do know he has been very active and an excellent representative of Honors students already," Northup said in an email to Student Media. "He has met with our Coordinator for Student Programs about student issues and is clearly a young leader."

The coordinator of student programs Northup referred to is Daniel Anzueto, honors leadership seminar instructor. Haspel went to Anzueto about the difficulty some students have fulfilling the 10-hours-a-semester community service requirement.

"So Pablo came up with some ideas on how to change it around or how to give more access to students for community service, either to do it closer to their homes or to do it on campus," said Anzueto.

Anzueto would be happy to have the goal-oriented Haspel as the college's senator, he said, and would want him to approach BBC-specific issues, by maybe planning an event to inform students about the Honors College.

"As well as maybe increase the community within BBC that's already up there," Anzueto said.

After the former speaker pro tempore, Deyan Ivanov, resigned from the position and told Student Media it was because background politics were involved, Haspel was elected into the position on Feb 28. Haspel is confident he wouldn't resign similarly because unlike Ivanov's perception, Haspel feels that everyone's opinions get heard.

"But like everything, it's a democracy so

## CARNIVAL DEDICATION



LUIS ROCA/THE BEACON

University administration, students, and staff were in attendance at the Ribbon Cutting Ceremony of the Carnival Student Center, donated by Carnival Cruise Lines, on March 10.

everything goes based on votes," Haspel said.

"Sometimes you can't convince as many people as you want, but there's definitely a forum for diverging opinions."

Haspel said he does feel that the council is limited by its lacks of members, especially in the senate.

"That isn't really the fault of SGA, it's just the fact that not a lot of people are committed to be part of it or understand what it really involves, so they just see SGA and they're like 'Oh, I don't feel like doing it, or it'll be too much work, or whatever,' so the lack of people results in everyone having to do more," Haspel said. "So that might lead for you to now have enough time to focus on school, so your GPA drops and you're removed."

Haspel proposed to start a SGA-only tutoring program.

"At the end of the day, we're here to help the students, and if the best way to help the students is by helping each other remain here, so that they have a voice, it's a way to attempt to make everyone work both on their SGA stuff, but also remember that first and foremost, school comes first," Haspel said.

Visit our web site for more the rest of this story and other web exclusive content.

[www.FIUSM.com](http://www.FIUSM.com)

# Students join local campaign with love in their hearts

JONATHAN SZYDLO  
Staff Writer

From spending a night on the streets to feeding politicians, members of Humility Now are no strangers to the struggles and degradation that the homeless endure on a daily basis.

On March 1, Humility Now and Time-Peace, along with a handful of volunteers, gathered in the Downtown Miami area to hand out t-shirts to the homeless as part of the "Love Your Neighbor" collaboration.

In an ongoing mission to develop face-to-face relationships, spreading awareness of the struggles of living on the streets, and acknowledging and recognizing the humanity of the homeless, Humility Now has partnered with Time-Peace as part of the "Love Your Neighbor" campaign.

"Humility Now is a company we met at a market we were working and we got to know the guys and what they do with their organization, [which is] pretty much the shirt for shirt donations, for every one sold, one gets donated to the homeless," said Ron Muram, a third year University law student and co-founder of Time-Peace. "That was in line with what we like to do as a charitable contribution. Every core philos-

ophy we have, every ideal, everything we speak of is about giving back. It just naturally and logically came together that we'd work with them."

From the beginning of the year, the two organizations set the initial goal of selling 100 "Love Your Neighbor" shirts in order to distribute 100 shirts to individuals who find themselves sleeping under the stars and on the streets of Downtown Miami.

Roderick Camacho, a sophomore journalism major, found out about the campaign through a Facebook post announcing the two organizations would be meeting at 6:30 p.m. in front of the American Airlines Arena to hand out "over 100 TP/Humility Now shirts to our homeless friends," and decided to take part in the action.

Humility Now is "based on the idea that true humility counts others more significant than yourself. Through events, campaigns and advocacy, we hope to extend the opportunity to not only serve the homeless in our communities but also acknowledge their humanity through tangible, face-to-face relationships," according to the Humility Now's website.

"We did something good other than giving out shirts, we started talking to people. I think

what they really wanted to hear was us talking to them, figuring out why they got there, and hopefully we can help to keep them from getting back there," said Muram

As the group of volunteers made their way through the streets of Downtown Miami, which has 1,347 homeless people on an average night, according to the Camillus House website, the impact of the project could be seen in the faces of the unfortunate.

"Right now, I'm looking at a man who's wearing a shirt we gave him. The people are very happy and grateful, even if it's just for a shirt," Camacho said. "They seem pretty happy about it since they probably don't get things like this very often, and they see that there are members of the community who care."

David Merida, 21, and Julio Anta, 20, both students at Miami-Dade College, started Humility Now in November 2009 through their involvement with the Miami Christ Fellowship.

The duo, as a means of gaining a better understanding of the plight of the homeless, began by "dumpster diving" for non-spoiled food which they would hand out to the hungry, and even spent nights on the streets of Downtown Miami, becoming homeless by choice to better

understand the homeless situation.

Humility Now's activism has extended past donations. In early 2010, the City of Miami proposed legislation to ban the feeding of homeless without prior training.

To combat this legislation, Anta and Merida organized groups of homeless people in front of the City of Miami to hand out food to the politicians involved in the proposed legislation, as a means of protest.

The legislation never passed.

Humility Now and Time-Peace plan to continue their collaboration, and the Love Your Neighbor campaign, and are expecting another order of shirts in the coming weeks.

"It isn't only about the shirts. It's also about the awareness of the shirts, the message on the shirts," said Ian Koslow, 24, co-founder of Time-Peace. "Everything we do is about spreading awareness."

As a non-profit homeless advocacy and relief organization, Humility now is constantly seeking out local advocates throughout the United States to assist in the spread of humility.

For more information on how to become involved with Humility Now, visit their website at [www.humilitynow.com](http://www.humilitynow.com).