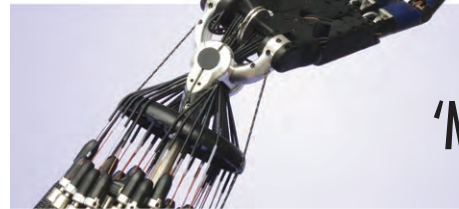




## Miller's Kick-Ass comes to life on the big screen

LIFE! PAGE 6



## MIT professor lectures on 'Merging Man and Machine'

LIFE! PAGE 6

### SPOTLIGHT

#### AT THE BAY PAGE 4

Student employees will be honored all week for their hard work, and one will earn the title of Student Employee of the Year.

#### AT THE BAY PAGE 4



SGC-BBC: The constitution is being revised to help the next generation perform their duties more efficiently.

#### LIFE! PAGE 7



Panel Panel: DC's Blackest Night series manages to bring a host of the comic house's most popular characters into the Green Lantern Universe.

#### OPINION PAGE 9

Getting Schooled: Time keeps ticking as Iris is closing in on making a decision for her graduate school.

#### SPORTS PAGE 12



FIU baseball prepares for homestand after struggling on the road while Jobe and Wittels have anchored the offense.

#### SPORTS PAGE 12

FIU softball hosts in-state rival Florida Atlantic in an important matchup.

#### UPCOMING EVENTS

**Finals Oasis, April 14, 12 p.m. - 12 a.m.**  
Come relax before finals with free food, music, yoga and more at the GC Panther Suite.

**FIU Softball, April 14, 6 - 7:30 p.m.**  
Cheer on the Golden Panthers as they take on in-state rival Florida Atlantic at the Softball Field.

**FIU Baseball, April 14, 6 - 9 p.m.**  
Cheer on the Golden Panthers as they take on Bethune-Cookman at the Baseball Stadium. Free with student ID.

-For more events, look for our calendar in the Life! section on Mondays and Fridays.

#### WEATHER



**WEDNESDAY**  
Scattered Showers  
LOW: 69 HIGH: 81



**THURSDAY**  
Scattered Showers  
LOW: 66 HIGH: 80



**FRIDAY**  
Partly Cloudy  
LOW: 66 HIGH: 80

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### SACS

## FIU ranks positively after visit

GABRIEL ARRARÁS  
Asst. News Director

The results from a visit by members of the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools as part of FIU's reaccreditation bid have officially been released.

According to an e-mail sent out to the University community by Interim Provost and Executive Vice President Douglas Wartzok, the recently received report of the SACS on-site committee provides an analysis of all the principles of accreditation and finds FIU in compliance with 89 of 90 principles.

"Our compliance with key SACS principles was indeed an accomplishment when compared to other institutions' record of recommendations at this point in the review process," Wartzok said.

The report shows the top four principles on which universities going through the review process received recommendations: identification and assessment for improvement of general education curriculum, certification of faculty qualifications for teaching assigned courses, identification and assessment for student learning, program and administrative outcomes, as well as the Quality Enhancement Plan.

Among all universities in the "general education curriculum" category, 46 percent of universities being reviewed had recommendations given to them by SACS; FIU had none.

For the "assessment of student

## SPRING LOVE



MEGAN KELLEY/THE BEACON

Sophomores Alicia Larrea (left) and Kim Armstrong (right) committed to each other during the Same Sex Commitment Ceremony on April 6 at the Graham Center Fountain, as part of LGBTQA Pride Week.

learning, program and administration outcomes" category, 63 percent of universities being reviewed had recommendations given to them by SACS; FIU had none.

"The learning outcomes focus is really all about what the students walk away from here in terms of what they know or what they can do with their life as it relates to global learning and global citizenship," said Dr. Ed Rugg, a SACS member from Kennesaw State University, during his visit to FIU in early March.

The one category for which FIU received recommendations from

SACS was the QEP, of which 71 percent of universities reviewed also received recommendations.

"SACS called our QEP topic a brilliant move for FIU, and by incorporating the suggestions made by the SACS on-site team, we are confident that our QEP will become a national model for global learning in higher education," said Hillary Landorf, director of the Office of Global Learning Initiatives.

According to the e-mail sent out by Wartzok, the next step in the reaccreditation process will be a response to the site visit report, which is due Sept. 12.

### SGC-MMC

## Senator resigns in disfavor of passed bill

PHILIPPE BUTEAU  
Senior Staff Writer

The resignation of one of the graduate senators was the highlight of the final meeting of the year for the senate of the Student Government Council at Modesto Maidique Campus.

Muhammad Saleem, graduate senator, felt that the proposed bill for the restructuring of the Graduate Student Association as a governing council within SGC-MMC should have been postponed because the advocacy part of the GSA restructuring was incomplete.

When the senate passed the bill with 17 in favor and two against, Saleem expressed his disapproval by resigning.

The Graduate Student Advisory Board, a committee made up of the four proposed graduate senators, will be responsible for conference funding. This is the funding arm of the restructuring. The advocacy part is incomplete as of the April 12 meeting, according to Jose Toscano, SGC-MMC adviser.

Toscano said during the meeting the advocacy part will be complete by the time the new SGA steps into power.

This was the reason behind Saleem's suggestion to postpone the bill.

"The proposal is not complete and we don't know the details so how can we decide on this?" Saleem said. "What we are trying to achieve may not be achieved because the proposal

SGC-MMC, page 3

# Law professor lands in Miami after travels

MEENA RUPANI  
Staff Writer

Professor Hannibal Travis joined the College of Law faculty after several years of practicing intellectual property law and Internet law.

As a child, Travis admitted he did not give much thought to becoming a lawyer and even as a young man in high school, he did not have a dream of one day practicing law.

"In high school, I wanted to be a

scientist or a fiction writer because I admired many of them back then," he said. "But as a child I was interested in astronomy."

Travis explained when and why he became interested in intellectual property, the specialty of law he is known for today.

"I became interested in intellectual property and tort law back in the 1990s when it was a new and exciting time for this subject, especially with the Napster court case. And

many people were ripping CDs and

mp3s," Travis said.

However, Professor Travis' journey as a lawyer led him to many cities around the country that finally landed him in Miami.

He began as a lawyer in San Francisco, practicing tort and contract law, then journeyed to Los Angeles to work under a federal judge in the year 2000.

Following this, Travis traveled to New York where he stayed for a few years before receiving the professor position at FIU.

"It was the place to be if I wanted to pursue my specialty; it

was the center of entertainment," Travis said.

Travis explained that he had always had the hope of one day becoming a professor.

"I had always hoped to become a teacher of law, however, it is hard to do this right after you receive your degree. There has to be some experience behind you," Travis said.

Travis has taught at both Harvard University and Villanova law school, but still felt FIU was

TRAVIS, page 3



TRAVIS



# Aramark company plans to give back to community

## Food distributor unites with City Year for community service project

ALEXANDRA CAMEJO  
Staff Writer

On April 15, Panther Dining and Aramark – FIU’s food service provider – will be stepping out of the realms of the kitchen to partake in a company-wide community involvement initiative, aimed at strengthening and supporting community centers at the Miami Rescue Mission.

Partnering with FIU and City Year, Aramark encourages all students, faculty, staff, friends and alumni to participate in this large-scale community service project. Along with FIU’s volunteers, Aramark employees will work with the Miami Rescue Mission to transform the downtown Miami community center.

Deemed as *FORTUNE* magazine’s 2010 top-ranked industry in “World’s Most Admired Companies,” Aramark launched its Aramark Building Community in 2008 with the intention to refurbish commu-

nity facilities, and provide assistance with human services such as shelter, food and clothing to those who rely on these community centers.

It is the desire of Aramark and Panther Dining to give back to the South Florida community through a day of service at the Miami Rescue Mission.

According to the event’s flyer, “The Miami Rescue Mission is a non-profit organization that has served low-income and homeless children and families of South Florida since 1922.” Through the collaboration between Aramark, City Year, a youth organization dedicated to gathering volunteers, and the Miami Rescue Mission, the company hopes to continue its successful service efforts throughout the nation.

Resident Aramark District Manager Roger Clegg highlighted the opportunity being given to FIU with this service project, “Aramark’s building community

program has scheduled a few events similar to this one across the country where we partner with a university community to support a local community center. We at FIU are fortunate to be included.”

This will be the University and Aramark’s first experience partnering together for any type of project like this.

By including the FIU community in its philanthropic efforts, Aramark

hopes for a greater multitude of people, like students, to volunteer with organizations like the Miami Rescue Mission.

Michael Oestreich, Panther Dining’s marketing manager expressed the need to involve more volunteers with this event.

“The reason we chose FIU was because we did a similar event with just Aramark people last year at the Miami Rescue Mission, we formed a good relationship with them and wanted to continue to help,” Oestreich said. “With FIU being the closest campus it was the easiest way to involve people outside of

Aramark.”

Oestreich, who participated in Aramark’s similar event in Orlando last week ensures that this events will not only benefit our community, but it will be “a lot of fun.”

Individuals still have time to sign up for the event, and anyone, whether a member of the FIU community or not, can participate.

Volunteers will perform painting, landscaping, trash pick up and light construction duties at the community center.

“The day begins, Thursday, April 15, at 8 a.m. at the Fresh Food

Company in [the Graham Center] where breakfast will be provided. Transportation will be provided to and from the mission. We should be back to campus by 4:30 p.m.,” Clegg said.

By aiming to recruit at least 100 people, Aramark hopes that tomorrow’s mission will not only contribute to the company’s building community initiative, but most importantly inspire more people to give back to the South Florida community.

Students interested in volunteering can sign up at <http://surveymonkey.com/s/7HRFGDS>.

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**CHA CHING!**

something. The waiter came over that the Italian restaurant that they had and started talking in Italian! Um... what to do.” for the group, ing Italian 101 y explained, “so comfortable in that and him say ad at us or what I to nome

**hacky-sack.**

“They were freaking tailgating?” Ben exclaimed furiously. “Charcoal grill, coozies, Chinese horseshoes... the whole shebang! They’re supposed to be helping us here... not grilling hotdogs and high-fiving.” The faculty did not deny the claim. In fact, Art History professor Michael Fineman spoke with great liberty. “Did we eat too many Doritos?”



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**ITALIAN 101 HELPS STUDENT ORDER PIZZA AT RESTAURANT**

What began as a typical dining-out experience quickly turned into a scary situation yesterday when sophomore Danny Rivers and his friends realized something. The waiter came over that the Italian restaurant that they had and started talking in Italian! Um... what to do.” for the group, ing Italian 101 y explained, “so comfortable in that and him say ad at us or what I to nome

Looking for something more authentic than local favorite Pizza Barn, the group had decided to venture out and try a new place. “I swear it was the scariest moment of my life,” Karl Winsey, a friend of Danny’s, recalled. “It was like we time-warped into Italy or

**WE BUY BACK EVERY TEXTBOOK GUARANTEED**

“Did we eat too many Doritos?”



**NOT BEAT THE CRAP OF BOOK**

affairs today as mascot at an incident “book” Money ted by re. An lved and ying book ys Sheriff press many r over ack of or released d on evidence. roving it was e, while Boc as thinking of nding in a closet f the rest of its life hoping to be gotten and never found.



# Effectiveness of council discussed

SGC-MMC, page 1

is still [being worked on].”

Saleem said during the meeting that he strongly believes the current system for GSA is effective.

Arts & Sciences senator Altanese Phenelus made the case that because the senate has already voted upon GSA's budget, its fate as a governing council is already decided. Her second point against GSA as a governing council was that there would be senators within the group.

Her argument was that SGA is above governing councils, and if the four proposed graduate senators were in GSA, it “wouldn't make much sense.”

Her final point was the ability of the council bill to be amended.

“It's a council bill so you add whatever changes when the next administration comes in,” Phenelus said.

William Jose Velez, Engineering senator and one of the authors of the bill, said it wasn't squarely aimed at GSA but rather all governing councils. He added that it was meant as a way to add accountability to the councils.

In his resignation address to the senate, Saleem said in their haste to pass the bill they had disregarded what graduate students want, adding that in the town hall meeting on March 10 all graduate students voiced their disapproval of the proposal.

“Ultimately they will be affected from [this bill] and we must not have neglected their opinion,” Saleem said.

**“Ultimately they will be affected from [this bill] and we must not have neglected their opinion.”**

Muhammad Saleem, Former Graduate Student Senator  
Student Government Council at Modest Maidique Campus

Saleem said his purpose for being in the senate was to present the point of view of graduate students and to protect their rights.

“Unfortunately I have failed to do that,” Saleem said.

As a form of protest to his constituents being completely ignored, Saleem resigned.

Vignesh Doraiswamy, Honors College senator, cited several reasons why he voted in favor of reforming governing councils.

Doraiswamy first brought up the effectiveness of GSA. He said they were not effective as far as what has been set up in statutes and constitutions.

His next reason was how GSA provided funding.

“Some of the ways in which they funded money was illegal,” Doraiswamy said. “Or lead to something that became illegal.”

The illegalities that Doraiswamy refers to are some graduate students being funded 100 percent for their conferences or being funded more than once.

Toscano stated the numbers

showing this are from Panther-Soft, which is not an SGA controlled auditing system but a University one.

The final reason was the Graduate Student Advisory Board, which he said is a more effective way of funding money.

Velez said to Student Media that he “firmly disagrees with [Saleem's] reasons for resigning.”

He said there's been evidence confirming the council system is not the best option for GSA and he stands by his vote to reform governing councils.

However, Doraiswamy said the money GSA would need for programming events would come from graduate student organizations within the Council for Student Organizations.

Doraiswamy said because of how long he's been in the University, he sees that GSA as a governing council is not an effective option.

“[GSA] has tried their best and they've proposed solutions, but the budget's been voted upon and approved,” Doraiswamy said. “We have found this to be a more effective way of dispersing money.”

## NEWS FLASH

### WORLD

#### US., China develop possible sanctions against Iran

President Barack Obama and Chinese President Hu Jintao announced on Monday that they are instructing their diplomats to develop possible sanctions against Iran.

The announcement came during the middle of a United States-led conference on nuclear proliferation currently being held in Washington.

White House National Security aide Jeff Bader said that the Chinese were “prepared to work with us.”

Further details have yet to be released about possible tactics for said sanctions. This came just after the Ukrainian delegation announced its intentions to abandon its weapons-grade uranium.

### NATIONAL

#### Dow Jones closes above 11,000: first time in almost two years

The Dow Jones Industrial Average closed at just over 11,000 on Monday for the first in over a year and a half.

The Dow closed at almost 11,006 points on Monday evening after gaining 9 points just before the end of the session. Meanwhile, the Standard & Poor's 500 index closed at nearly 1200 points.

This the first time the Dow closed at 11,000 points since September 26, 2008.

-Compiled by David Barrios

# Colleagues describe Travis as ‘compassionate, humble’

TRAVIS, page 1

different from the other schools he has taught at.

“FIU is a new school with new accreditation and lots of new exciting things happening. For example, the moot court competitions and the new clinics that are being developed,” Travis said.

He currently teaches intellectual property law, Internet law and anti-trust law and explained how he likes to structure his classes.

“I usually base my classes around a statute or a treaty and then provide evidence of the application of the principle involved with two or three court cases.

Lots of current events are involved in my classes. It is important for the students to extract the meaning and the principles from the cases we study,” Travis said.

When outside the classroom, Travis has other hobbies he enjoys pursuing.

“I have traveled Europe and would still like to do more traveling. I loved Venice for its architecture. But I would still love to visit Bombay, India and the surrounding smaller towns,” Travis said.

For now, Travis has no concrete plans to travel but in the meantime enjoys reading and watching films.

“I loved *Hamlet* for the pure reason of the great writing involved. I previously read philosophical books such as Thomas Hobbes and Foucault. Currently, I am interested in historical books,” Travis said.

Travis also has other projects in the works away from the law school.

He has published many articles and book chapters regarding software licensing, cyber law and the Google Books Search cases.

Professor Kerri Stone, an assistant professor at the law school, praised Professor Travis and pointed out the admirable qualities in him as a professor and colleague.

“I hold him in the highest esteem. I can say that Hannibal Travis embodies a very rare combination of extreme intelligence, compassion and concern for his students and colleagues, and humility,” Stone said.

Stone added that his research is “published by some of the most prestigious law journals, and they are widely considered to be first-rate and cutting-edge.”

Another colleague of Travis, Manuel Gomez, shared a similar sentiment.

According to Gomez, he and Professor Travis are working on a casebook for the “introduction to international and comparative” law course and share at least one course in common.

“Professor Travis works on areas that are very important to the mission of the College of Law and has shown commitment to help our students excel in their endeavors,” Gomez said.

Professor Stone best summed up how members of the faculty feel about this particular professor.

“He is a trusted friend of many on the faculty, and I am proud to call him my friend and my colleague,” Stone said.

## CLINICAL RESEARCH STUDY FOR BIRTH CONTROL

New Age Medical Research Corporation is conducting a clinical research study of an investigational oral medication for birth control.

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SGC-BBC

## Senate reviews, revises statutes

**MAUREEN NINO**  
Asst. News Director

To effectively prepare the following administration to serve in the Student Government Council at Biscayne Bay Campus, the senate reviewed SGC-BBC's statutes in complete detail during their final senate meeting on April 12.

"This needed to happen throughout the year, but it was just recently brought to our attention that we had to revise it. We are trying to get this done as soon as possible to have the next generation come in on a clean slate and be ready," said Andrea Cruz, SGC-BBC Honors College senator.

The statutes, according to Chapter 100.1, are "observed (per campus) by the student senate in enacting by-laws and by the Chief Justice in exercising judicial review," and they must be voted on and approved by the senate.

The meeting, which began at 3 p.m., ran past its usual time into the late hours of the night while they dissected each individual statute.

"The senate is staying late because we are committed to making the next senate better," Cruz said.

The revisions, according to Zahra Arbabi aski, SGC-BBC lower division senator, began on April 5 during the senate meeting.

"We started on Monday and completed the first title and half of the second title. We are continuing today and we will finish the remaining statutes today," she said.

The senate reviewed Title 1, System of Statutes, which specified amendments and compliances of student government statutes and terminology, Title 2, Membership, Powers and Purpose which defines the official SGA seal and logo and explains the compensation policy, Florida Sunshine Law, code of ethics, conduct standards, penalties and grounds for removal and order of succession.

Both titles had light revisions, mostly grammatical.

"We are reviewing the statutes in order to have a great kick-off starting next semester," said Dametreus Vincent, SGC-BBC graduate senator. "Something that everyone needs to know from front to back and pass off to the senators."

However, SGC-BBC's statutes include 10 titles, seven of which are completed. The three remaining titles – Title 5, Judicial Branch, Title 8, Finance Codes, and Title 10 University Wide Statutes – have yet to be completed. According to Christin "Cici" Battle, SGC-BBC president-elect, the missing titles were never completed since the members assigned to the task withdrew

### LET'S DO LUNCH



TOMAS LOPEZ-MELIS/THE BEACON

Jessica Senorin (left) alumni and tutor for the Center for Excellence in Writing talks with co-worker Omar Tolbert (right) fiscal assistant for WUC administration, Campus Life & Orientation, and Recreation on April 1 during the Student Employee Appreciation Day luncheon held in Panther Square.

from SGC-BBC.

"The missing titles will be completed before the next term," Battle said. "They need to be updated so senators can know what they are doing and be fully capable to help students."

During the meeting the senate discussed changes to Title 3, which outlines the structure of the executive branch's duties and authority and specified possible changes on Chapter 302, section 2, and subsection c "appoint or create positions not provided for in the Constitution or SGC Statutes. All appointments shall still require Senate approval as

prescribed in Article IX Section 4 of the Constitution."

School of Journalism and Mass Communication SGC-BBC Senator Robert Tassy expressed concern that the obligation to confirm all presidential appointments could be time-consuming to the senate.

"What I think we should do is only have potential members of the cabinet have senate confirmation," he said during the meeting.

The suggestion has yet to be approved although other senators agree.

"It is a system of checks and balances. This way we can make

sure he does not give a friend a position," Arbabi aski said.

The senate, however, did approve the change from monthly to bi-weekly reports from all directors of the cabinet including the directors of academic affairs, environmental affairs, community relations and outreach, legislative affairs, health and student services and lectures bureau.

"I think a month is too long. We should have enough work to report bi-weekly and it should be based on their duties and current projects and initiatives," Victoria Aguila, SGC-BBC Arts and Science senator said.

## Student employees recognized for hard work

**MELODY REGALADO**  
Staff Writer

For the first time, students working for the University are being recognized for their accomplishments during Student Employment Week, the week of April 12 to 16.

"This is the first time that FIU will be honoring student employees during a week and awarding the Student Employee of the Year. What Student Employment Week is all about is recognizing students employed by the University who best embody service excellence, dedication and whose academic achievements remain stellar," said Kathryn Lopez, a sophomore education major and student employee of the Office of Financial Aid.

"Student employees, like other employees, are major contributors to the opera-

tional and service mission of this institution," said Carolyn Jackson, director of recruitment services for Human Resources.

Rashida Taylor, a junior majoring in finance, describes the two years she has spent also working for the Office of Financial Aid as a "rewarding experience" that has allowed her to see the University "at a whole new angle."

"As a student, I am just a recipient of financial aid," said Taylor. "As a student-worker in Financial Aid, not only am I able to learn about available awards, I am able to work alongside some of the most hard-working staff members here at the University. Thanks to the work study program, I have been given the opportunity to enhance my role here at FIU."

Human Resources has been hosting events all

week, which started with a kickoff luncheon on April 12.

The events will culminate into an awards ceremony on April 16 in the Graham Center Ballrooms at the Modesto Maidique Campus, where University President Mark Rosenberg

will announce the winner of the Student Employee of the Year award, along with five finalists. The prizes awarded will remain a surprise for everyone until the awards ceremony.

"We are pleased with the excitement surrounding

this great week of recognition," Jackson said.

Each department nominated one student they thought excelled at their job. They had to be either a student assistant or Federal Work Study recipient with a minimum 3.0 GPA.

Mawou Francois,

### Most times, students are the first face, voice, and point of contact for other students, staff and visitors.

Carolyn Taylor, Director of Recruitment Services  
Human Resources

a senior majoring in accounting, is a nominee that works for the Office of Financial Aid.

"As an accounting major, working for the Financial Aid Office has given me some insight into my future career," he said.

"The people I've met in

enrollment services have opened doors of opportunities for me and I appreciate them for this. Being nominated means to me that my hard work and efforts for FIU are being recognized." Nearly 100 student employees were nominated this year.

A committee who reviewed and narrowed down the finalists submitted them for approval by the vice president, director of recruitment services and manager for temporary and student employment services in Human Resources.

"Most times, students are the first face, voice and point of contact for other students, staff and visitors," Jackson said.

Jackson feels that employment during college helps students develop good work ethic as well as responsibility and team-

work skills.

"Work experience can also help hone skills and abilities essential to starting and maintaining a productive and meaningful career upon graduation," Jackson said.

Lopez is also a nominee.

"Not only is working on campus convenient but it is a great and friendly work environment. My involvement in these programs has given me networking connections throughout the University which have been extremely useful," Lopez said.

"As for being nominated for Student Employee of the Year, I consider it an honor. It is amazing to be recognized by my office. This nomination validates all of our hard work and makes me feel appreciated as an employee."



# Medicaid plan approved

**BILL KACZOR**  
Associated Press

Advocates for the disabled, elderly, hospitals and other interests objected to some details and the timing of a massive Medicaid overhaul April 12, but the plan won near unanimous approval at its first — and possibly last — committee hearing in the Florida House.

The measures would carry out a plan to expand a five-county pilot program of managed care by private companies or other groups, including provider service networks made up of doctors and hospitals, to all of Florida's 67 counties over the next five years.

Miami-Dade County, the state's largest, would be added in the first year and the others later.

Lawmakers see the plan as a way to rein in the growing cost of the fraud-plagued state-federal program that provides health care for 2.7 million low-income and disabled Floridians. The program is expected to consume \$19 billion in the next fiscal year and account for more than a quarter of the state budget.

The panel's chairman, House Speaker-designate Dean Cannon, R-Winter Park, said there's enough anecdotal

and preliminary evidence that managed care cuts costs and fraud while still providing quality care to go ahead with the plan. However, data from the existing experiment has yet to be fully analyzed.

"As policy makers we have an obligation to make transformational change even though it may make people uncomfortable if we believe it's carefully constructed and the right thing to do," Cannon said.

There was plenty of discomfort about the bills that are on a fast track after getting a late start. House leaders waited until last week to unveil the plan, and now just 18 days remain in the 60-day session.

Alisa Snow of the Florida Community Health Action Information Network, which advocates for Medicaid patients, urged lawmakers to delay action for a year to get a complete analysis of the pilot program and assess how the new federal health care overhaul would affect it.

Rep. Gary Aubuchon, though, said there's no need to wait.

"There are pieces and parts that people are unhappy with, but I would submit to you if we studied this for the next 10 years and then brought a bill forward there would be pieces and parts that people were unhappy with," said the Cape

Coral Republican.

The panel also heard that the legislation might result in the loss of \$100 million in federal money for specialty physicians mostly at teaching hospitals, make it harder to attract such specialists to Florida and present a dilemma for public hospitals by requiring them to serve areas that don't contribute tax dollars to their support.

Florida Association of Health Plans president Michael Garner complained the legislation would give an unfair advantage to provider service networks over the HMOs he represents.

Democratic lawmakers said they'd also like to see some changes including adding requirements for public comment periods and hearings before regional plans are approved, a uniform statewide grievance procedure, an electronic claims system and information provided to Medicaid recipients in the language of their choice.

However, Rep. Keith Fitzgerald, D-Sarasota, withdrew amendments, saying Democrats would seek those changes later.

"There are a lot of details that need to be worked out," Fitzgerald said. "We commit to doing that in constructive manner."



Image courtesy of FIU's Art + Art History Department

**TARGET WEDNESDAY AFTER HOURS**  
Where curiously creative minds meet.  
April 28, 2010 / 6-9pm

**Crome Yellow**, Spring 2010 BFA Student Exhibition Walk-thru  
The Bachelor of Fine Arts class of Spring 2010 at FIU's School of Art & Art History, present a series of works produced during their tenure at FIU.

#### Sound Image Sound

Sound Image Sound returns to The Frost Art Museum with a new performance. The ensemble will explore new sounds with video projection on The Frost Art Museum's exterior facade. Guest Artists include Kristine Burns, Orlando Jacinto Garcia, Eric Goldemberg, Jacek Kolasinski, Paula Matthusen, John Stuart and Daniel Viñoly, with additional performances by FLEA laptop ensemble and clarinetist Julian Santacoloma from the NODUS ensemble.

#### The Art of Schmoozing - How to Work a Room

FIU Students are invited to join us from 5-6pm for this presentation by the FIU Career Services Office about the do's and don'ts of networking followed by a speed networking event presented by Target.

Target has teamed up with The Frost Art Museum to sponsor its popular programming series Target Wednesday After Hours. Designed to complement The Frost Art Museum's exhibitions, these events give visitors the chance to meet contemporary artists and engage with controversial art, live music, talks, films, dance, and performance art.

All events are free and open to the public.

For a full list of events please visit <http://thefrost.fiu.edu>



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## SIMULATING REALITY

### MIT professor aims to create prostheses that mimic real muscles

ASHLYN TOLEDO  
Life! Editor

The contributions that modern medicine has made to the quality of life that most of us enjoy today cannot be overstated. The human lifespan has almost doubled over the last century, and many people born with preexisting medical conditions have led long, fruitful lives thanks to some of those advancements.

Hugh Herr, double amputee and associate professor of media arts and sciences at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, has been working on developing prosthetic limbs that are biologically accurate – both in their skeletal structure and in their ability to mimic muscle behavior – that can greatly improve the quality of life of thousands who have suffered severe injuries.

On April 16 at 7 p.m., Herr will speak at the Wolfsonian-FIU during “Merging Man and Machine,” a lecture about the development of these new “smart” prostheses and his hopes of one day developing human-powered devices that can

outperform the body’s natural anatomy.

Herr will also discuss the development of social-emotional prostheses for persons born with autism and robots that can help keep children and the elderly safe by watching over them and monitoring their health.

The lecture, which coincides with the *Advertising for Health* exhibit currently open at the Wolfsonian, is part of the celebration of the Herbert Wertheim College of Medicine’s inaugural year.

The 44-year-old engineer lost both of his lower limbs below the knee in a mountain climbing accident when he was 17.

That accident motivated Herr to develop prostheses. He has since received a master’s in mechanical engineering from MIT and a doctorate in biophysics from Harvard University.

Before his accident, Herr was a well-respected rock climber in the United States.

He has since returned to the sport, developing specialized prostheses that allow him to traverse the rocky terrain.

Herr uses his knowledge of biome-

chanics and has studied biomedical devices already in existence to develop mechanical parts that mimic the movements of human tendons and muscles.

The lecture, which will take place in the Wolfsonian’s auditorium, is free for students and faculty, and \$10 for general admission.

For more information regarding this or any future event at the Wolfsonian, call 305-535-2644 or e-mail [Lydia@thewolf.fiu.edu](mailto:Lydia@thewolf.fiu.edu).



**Top:** Hugh Herr demonstrates the prosthetic leg at the Health Sciences and Technology Symposium.

**Left:** Herr wearing a robotic prosthetic on his right leg.

#### THE BEACON REVIEWS: KICK-ASS

### Movie remains true to comic book genre

STEVE MESA  
Staff Writer

Before *Iron Man* returns to the silver screen with the anticipated sequel to the 2008 summer hit, *Kick-Ass* marks an early start to the summer movie season by featuring some unlikely superheroes.

Based on the comic series created by Mark Miller (*Wanted*) and directed by Matthew Vaughn (*Layer Cake*), *Kick-Ass* tells the story of Dave Lizewski (Aaron Johnson), a young comic book geek who decides to become a crime fighter named Kick-Ass by putting on a home-made superhero outfit and fighting crime.

His first attempt as a superhero takes a near fatal turn when he gets stabbed in the stomach and run over by an oncoming car. This leaves him spending months recovering in the hospital and so much metal in his body that it makes his X-ray look like Wolverine’s.

With the ability to not feel any more pain, Dave puts on his outfit again and eventually becomes successful and an overnight sensation. However, he is not the only superhero in town as he encounters other heroes like Red Mist (Christopher Mintz-Plasse) and the father-daughter team of Hit Girl and Big Daddy, who are making their own plans by taking down angry and

violent mob boss Frank D’Amico (Mark Strong).

Vaughn and the rest of the filmmakers of *Kick-Ass* take the elements that make comic book movies what they are and set them in the real world, sometimes resulting in hilarious moments. The humor is not so over-the-top to be considered a spoof of the superhero genre as the movie has several nods and trademarks that remind the audience that it’s still a comic book movie. Written by Vaughn and Jan Goldman, the dialogue of *Kick-Ass* makes the film even more memorable and hilarious. The quick wit in the dialogue often seems reminiscent of *Superbad*.

The cast is tremendous as each actor brought their A-game to the table with performances that include an Oscar-winner and a young actress delivering the breakout performance of the year. British-born Aaron Johnson could have portrayed Dave as another stereotype from high school movies – an awkward and nerdy teenager – but he manages to create a performance that transitions his character from hopeless crime fighter to genuine superhero as the film’s finale allows him to live up to the name of his alter ego.

Following his crazy turn in *The Bad Lieutenant: Port of Call-New Orleans*, Nicolas Cage delivers

**KICK-ASS, page 7**

#### MODERN CLASSICS

### O’Day’s life told without remorse

Anita O’Day emerged from backstage at the 1958 Newport Jazz Festival festooned with a white-fringed black hat, a matching black dress and simple pair of white gloves – with glass slippers, no less.

Slim and beautiful, she stands atop the outdoor stage and launches quickly into “Sweet Georgia Brown,” that great standard covered by the likes of Louis Armstrong and Mel Torme.

The audience, yawning, is soon transfixed as the young jazz singer improvises phrases and melodies throughout her set. Explosive, unpredictable, O’Day uses her voice to spit out phrases like Charlie Parker would have let out note after note. It is still considered one of the greatest performances in jazz.

Cut to footage of O’Day in 2004. Gone are the stylish dresses and her youthful beauty. Years of addiction to heroin and abusive relationships have taken their toll on her body, and her voice can’t commit to the vocal acrobatics that defined her career. She croaks as she rehearses Otto Harbarch’s and Oscar Hammerstein II’s “Yesterdays.”

“Olden days, golden days/ Days of mad romance and love,”

sings the aging chanteuse.

An interviewer notes to O’Day in her later years that her personal experiences included rape, abortion, jail sentences and heroin addictions. O’Day quickly retorts, “Well, that’s the way it went down.”

And that’s the beauty of this documentary: a lack of sensationalism or sentiment.

Released in 2007, *Anita O’Day: The Life of a Jazz Singer*, follows this jazz titan’s career from her earliest days singing as the “canary” with the Gene Krupa Orchestra in the 1940s, to her meteoric rise with the Stan Kenton Orchestra along with her hit solo career.

It also traces the harder points of O’Day’s life, including her decades-long substance abuse issues and disastrous marriages.

Interspersed with archival performance footage are interviews with O’Day just before her death in 2006 at age 87. These interviews are fairly unsettling. With a singular camera set up, we sit and watch her frank observations about her profession and about her life.

We follow her to the Santa Anita Racetrack as she places her bets on her favorite horses, and we hear about the first time she

got high. At one point, after overdosing, she was declared dead by medics. She went cold turkey to kick the habit.

O’Day doesn’t spend time asking for pity and this certainly isn’t just watching her complain for the length of the film. She doesn’t complain. *Indestructible* was the title of her last album, released in 2004. That’s certainly the theme behind her life.

In between the personal conflicts and train wreck of a life she lived was the music, which the documentary delivers in bounty.

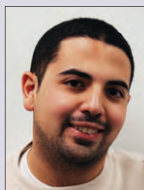
Live at Newport, in Tokyo; performing with Louis Armstrong, Lionel Hampton, Oscar Peterson, we see the consummate musician. Later in life, we see her in the studio, working through rehearsals, discussing her favorite key to perform in.

Certainly not as famous as Billie Holiday or Ella Fitzgerald, her name is usually touted among theirs in the jazz community in terms of sheer greatness. We’re able to see why. She doesn’t seem to care. It was about the music.

Maybe she was not as renowned as Billie or Ella, but she got to do what she loved best: sing. Without remorse.

*Modern Classics* is a bi-weekly column reviewing modern classics in film.

#### COLUMNIST



DAVID BARRIOS



## PANEL PANEL

# New imaginative series brings dead heroes back to life

Putting all their eggs in one basket is not a new idea for comic book companies. Since the formation of the Justice League, superheroes have been crammed into one series and forced to work together for multiple reasons.

## COLUMNIST



SEAN GONZALEZ

The interaction between characters provides unique storytelling devices and the cluster of characters that could sell their own comics alone simply multiplies the sales of a team comic.

This is why comic companies, such as DC and Marvel, put so much time into books such as *The Justice League* and *The Avengers* – the more heroes means the more sales. This is also the reason that, almost yearly, a company-wide crossover event takes place.

These events tie the entire array of the company's characters together into one story that is meant to change the status quo of the superhero universe as well as promote every hero's own series. DC's latest endeavor brings the dead back to life in *Blackest Night*.

The premise is closely tied to the *Green Lantern* series, yet manages to involve the whole DC universe by incorporating an entire spectrum of color into the Lantern Corps. Now there are Yellow Lanterns that spread fear, and Red Lanterns that embody rage and more lanterns for every color.

With every color in the spectrum having its own Lantern, the biggest threat arises in the first issue of *Blackest Night*.

The Black Lantern battery sends black rings all across the universe reviving the dead and turning them into vindictive, evil, zombie-like incarnations of their past selves. Most of the characters that are revived were

killed off in past crossover events.

Their deaths were sometimes an integral part of the stories yet, more often than not, they were purely shock-value fodder.

I applaud writer Geoff Johns for

bringing these characters back in such an interesting way. Usually, when a character in a comic series dies, it's detrimental to the series and the story opportunities in the future.

This is why so many comics end

up bringing the heroes back. Who wants to read Superman comics if Superman himself is not the main character?

The entire series is fun and inventive. The interactions between every hero and their deceased relatives, friends and even enemies gives it an emotional side that lends more to the thought provoking side of comics, while not ignoring the action and engaging part of the medium.

My only problem with the series lies in its last issue. Never being one to spoil a good read, I'll just state that the repercussions that are supposed to affect the entire universe are a bit too serving to the selling of comics and less to the storytelling. I would prefer the series being self-contained but, like everything related to comic books, I'm sure fans would disagree.

*Panel Panel is a weekly comics column written in tandem by Sean Gonzalez and Pablo Penton. Look for it every Wednesday.*



PHOTO COURTESY OF PRESSDEMOCRAT.COM

## Moretz steals the silver screen as her role of Hit Girl in *Kick-Ass*

## KICK-ASS, page 6

his second best performance of the year as Damon Macready/Big Daddy, a former cop-turned-vigilante with a tragic back-story and a speech pattern that pays tribute to Adam West's, Batman.

The biggest breakout performance of the

film – and probably of the year – comes from Chloe Moretz (*500 Days of Summer*) as Mindy Macready, a.k.a. Hit Girl. She easily steals any scene that she is in, whether she is sharing father-daughter moments with Cage, or dicing and slicing her way through grown men while cursing like a sailor. The majority of the action that takes place in *Kick-Ass* involves Moretz

moving like a speed demon, taking down men twice her size and doing a variety of flips and kicks that would make Steven Segal and Chuck Norris look like pansies. However, her prowess as an actress can also be dramatic in certain scenes that make her character more than just a pint-size killing machine.

One of the best and entertaining films this

year, *Kick-Ass* lives up to its name as the story, the dialogue and performances pay tribute to the comic book genre, while making it a humorous and action-packed look at superheroes set in the real world.

*The Beacon does not accept any free goods or services in exchange for positive reviews.*

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## GETTING SCHOOLED

# Grad school selection can be overwhelming

Tomorrow is D-Day. Tomorrow will be the day I decide (if I haven't done so by then) where I will be attending graduate school in September for my master's degree in writing (and likely publishing).

After I make up my mind, I will finally send off my enrollment deposit to the lucky school and call the others to decline their acceptances.

Tomorrow I will likely panic.

April 15 has been marked on my calendar with red ink since January. I did not think I'd make it this far, for I was sure the tediousness of the applications would have done me in by December.

After hundreds of dollars spent in overnight delivery fees, color portfolio copies and flights across the states, I can happily say that the fretting will finally come to an end. I will no longer frantically check *TheGradCafe.com* for acceptances and denials from anonymous souls like me who are in the same boat as I am: flustered, panicked and tremendously concerned about their admission status.

I've received acceptances from four schools, and only one of these lies on the West Coast (Portland); my other choices are in Baltimore, Chicago and Boston.

All of these locations are plagued

with extreme temperatures. (Of course, by "extreme" I mean "anything below 60 degrees," but when you're a Floridian you're going to have some biases.)

To all you northerners: yes, I'm a pansy. I admit this. And I am terrified.

Aside from the weather, for the past couple of weeks, I have been thinking how drastically my entire life is going to change once I step onto the plane that will take me far away from Miami – the only city I've ever really known.

This will be the first time I leave the nest, so to speak, and the impact of my decision is evident within my family.

My mom has prepared herself for the shock for a while now, yet I'm sure she's quietly counting down the days.

My dad couldn't be more proud of me, but I'm positive he's thinking, "My little girl is growing up" and will soon reach for the Kleenex.

I think my grandparents, however, are in complete denial. *Abuela* believes I'm not going anywhere; in fact, according to her, it's way too expensive to leave. How on earth could I do such a thing? What kind of a grandchild would I be?

As much as I would love to stay at her house and enjoy her freshly fried plantain chips with

### COLUMNIST



IRIS FEBRES

## FORGIVE ME FATHER



a plate of rice, beans and *vaca frita*, I know that this decision will make me a better person through a true taste of independence.

Like snow, this also terrifies me.

No matter where I end up, I'll be hoofing it. Public transportation and I will be BFFs; I'm already missing Boston's "T" system tremendously. Yet I don't think it's hit me that I will soon have to lug my groceries everywhere, come September – onto subway cars and buses, down sidewalks, up stairs.

Yet every time I think about moving away I become incredibly nauseous. The thought of finding an "affordable" apartment in a strange new city and packing up most of my posses-

sions into cardboard boxes forces my stomach to twist like a pretzel, leaving me queasy and anxious. Let's not talk about U-Haul prices. Don't even mention the goodbyes.

I know, however, that I have to face tomorrow with the same amount of courage I held when I began applying to graduate schools. Now that it's over and the dust has settled, I have to make a choice.

I can't draw a name out of a hat – as much as I would like to – and I wish I could flip a coin. But, now is the moment I've been waiting for. I am confident I will make the right choice.

In the end, tomorrow is another day, and a new life awaits.

# Leaked video raises question about U.S. military actions

## ROMNEY MANASSA Staff Writer

After nearly a decade at war, Americans have largely become accustomed to the horrors of conflict that have played out so very far from their lives.

Films based on wars draw few crowds; news reports have become so routine as to be rendered redundant. We remain concerned but distant, informed but ignorant.

Most of us remain in the dark about the grim details and the human cost: we hear all the tallies of the dead – mere numbers – without truly gasping their humanity.

Videos like the one leaked on April 5 by Wikileaks, a whistleblower Web site, offer a rare glance of the war we've come to forget. The full, uncensored video, recorded from one of two Army helicopters involved, show three related incidents that occurred in Baghdad on July 12, 2007.

The recording includes audible dialogue between the pilots and helicopter gunners, troops on the ground and military command.

In the first and most well-known piece of footage, the helicopter pilot identifies several men he believed armed, including one who appeared to be preparing a grenade launcher.

After receiving authorization to engage, the helicopters began firing on the Iraqis, killing several. Two of those killed, Saeed Chmagh and Namir Noor-Eldeen, later turned out to be journalists working for Reuters.

The video proceeds to show the arrival of an unmarked van that enters the scene, attempting to collect one of the wounded, believed to be Chmagh.

The pilots presumed those in the van to be involved with the enemy combatants and permission was requested and authorized before opening fire. The number killed from the second attack is unconfirmed, though two children were later found to have been in the van, alive but severely wounded.

Later into the day, armed insurgents from the previous engagement were reported to be entering a building. The pilots were given authorization to attack if they confirmed that the occupants were armed

combatants; subsequently, they fired several missiles and destroyed the building, killing an as yet unknown number of people.

Both the shortened and full-length video are available on Wikileaks and YouTube. Wikileaks obtained the recording from an undisclosed source in 2009; Reuters reports that an anonymous official within the U.S. Defense Department confirmed the authenticity of both the audio and visual footage.

An Army report of the incident was posted the day after the video leak by another Internet leaks site, *cryptome.org*. It compiled the incidents in detail and concluded that the journalists were misidentified due to their camera equipment thought to be weapons, their lack of identification (such as a media vest), and the absence of records indicating that journalists were embedded in the area.

It also claimed that weapons were recovered from among the dead, confirming that the journalists were among armed insurgents. Needless to say, the video has sparked numerous controversies, such as whether the

*"The video has sparked numerous controversies, such as whether the military is culpable in the killings..."*

military is culpable in the killings or whether those killed were actually insurgents or otherwise armed.

Most analysts, including Wikileaks itself, thus far remain unsure about how clear the journalists appear to be unarmed. Most sources view it as yet another tragic consequence of war, in which innocent people are caught in the crossfire, with no fault on anyone.

David Finkel, who had described the nearly three-year-old incident in his book, *The Good Soldiers*, noted in an interview with NPR that, at the time of the incident, U.S. forces had taken heavy casualties and tensions were high. He made a point not to lay blame to any of those involved, stating that:

"The Reuters guys walked into the hottest spot of a very hot morning.

There had been running gun battles. There had been a lot of RPG, grenade fire and so on, and they were doing what journalists do. They heard about something, they came to it and they just wanted – from everything I've learned since, they were just there to get that side of the story."

Some controversy has even been made of the video's release, with some contending that such footage should not be leaked to the general public.

Given how so few Americans are engaged in the conflict, and how even less the public truly grasps the grim realities of war, these revelations are crucial reminders of the everyday tragedies that have transpired over the last nine years of warfare overseas.

Expect more incidents like this to come to light once the war ends.

### 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.

### 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](mailto: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.

### WINNER/LOSER

Everyone's favorite red-head (besides Ron Howard) is finally on his feet. Conan O'Brien, former host of *The Tonight Show* has a brand new show on TBS. The program will follow the George Lopez show Monday's through Thursday's at 11:00p.m.

Charlie Crist, Florida's governor endorsed legislation which proposes to have teachers pay tied directly to the their student's performances on standardized tests. The bill is sitting on Crist's desk and must be signed by Friday to go into law.

### QUOTATIONATION

*"The good news: I will be doing a show on TBS starting in November! The bad news: I'll be playing Rudy on the all new Cosby Show."*

Conan O'Brien  
on new late night talk show on TBS.



## SPORTS REPLAY

# Tennis defeats UCF to cap season

**JONATHAN RAMOS**  
Sports Director

The Golden Panthers capped off their season by defeating in state rival Central Florida 4-3 on April 10 at the UCF tennis complex, giving them a chance to turn their attention to the 2010 Sun Belt Conference Tournament on April 23-25.

FIU gained an advantage by earning the doubles point behind the dominant duo of Liset Brito and Priscilla Castillo, who earned their ninth victory of the season and 17th of their careers together. The pair dropped Jenny Frisell and Alexis Rodriguez in a clean sweep.

The doubles point turned out to be crucial.

After FIU (12-7) managed to split the six match single competition, with both teams earning three victories, the doubles point was the difference.

UCF (11-6) won singles points behind Rodriguez, Andrea Yacaman and Jenna Doefler. The Golden Panthers won with Brito, Castillo and Maria Vallasciani.

Brito (No. 92) improved her record to 13-4 on the season, as she moved into 16th place on the school's all-time wins list, tied with Gabriela Calderon and Maria Ycaza.

The win was the team's seventh in its last nine contests.

## GOLF

After a promising start, the Golden Panthers' momentum stymied down the stretch as they finished 14th in the field of



CHRIS ADAMS/THE BEACON

Maria Vallasciani (left) and Maria Spenceley celebrate after earning a point against Brown on March 31.

15 at the SunTrust Gator Women's Invite in Gainesville on April 10-11.

Michigan State had a stellar score of +28 to take the event, while Florida State was not far behind, shooting +31.

The Golden Panthers were competitive in the early going, placing eighth in eight in the first round.

FIU, however, fell to 13th in the second round, and ultimately dropped

further in the final round. Paula Hurtado shot a +13 on the weekend, while teammate Christina Marin shot +14, putting the pair of Golden Panthers in 23rd and 26th place on the individual leaderboard, respectively.

SBC rival Florida Atlantic finished last in the tournament, with a horrid score of +129. FIU will play next in the SBC championships on April 19.

# Golden Panthers look to build on recent success

## SOFTBALL, page 12

The native of Brandon, Fla. now leads the team in home runs with seven on the year.

## ON TIME

Aside from McClain's game-tying home run, there have been other Golden Panthers tracking down timely hits as of late.

Freshman Brie Rojas went 3-for-10 against Louisiana-Lafayette last weekend but notched a game winning hit in the bottom of the ninth inning in game two of the series.

The win gave FIU the series win.

After the game, head coach Beth McClendon commented that it was one of the best days the team has had.

"I was pleased with the entire day," she said. "I thought that was probably the best day we've had this year. I think Louisiana is a great team. To come out and win two against them

is a great day; I'm proud of the entire group."

Freshman Kayla Burri has also been productive as of late for the Golden Panthers with a .393 batting average, but she could be out against FAU after suffering a knee injury in game three of the UL series.

FIU will hope to see more offensive production from sophomore Jenny Welch and senior Lauren Spiers, who are batting under a .250 average so far this season, especially if Burri is out.

After the wins against arguably the best team in the conference, FIU remains confident that they are on their way to the top spot in the SBC.

"This is huge. We're on our way to the conference championship, I can tell you that," Rojas said.

"This got us rolling and from here on out we'll take it to everybody."

## THE BEACON

A Forum for Free Student Expression at Florida International University

Vol. 22, Issue 53

www.fiusm.com

Wednesday, January 13, 2010

# HELP WANTED!

## SPOTLIGHT

As always, *The Beacon* is looking to recruit ambitious, self-driven and talented writers, photographers and graphic artists to join our staff.

Submit your application in GC 210 or WUC 124.

**The Beacon is looking to recruit editorial positions for the 2010-2011 school year.**

**Positions include:**

- **Opinion Editor**
- **Life! Editor**
- **Photo Editor**
- **Production Manager**
- **Copy Chief**

If interested, come into The Beacon office at MMC and sign up, or email Jorge Valens at [jorge.valens@fiusm.com](mailto:jorge.valens@fiusm.com). Deadline is Friday, April 16.

Other positions are also available for the 2010-2011 year.

## REMEMBERING BERRY



CHRIS ADAMS/THE BEACON

The FIU softball team is paying tribute to Kendall Berry with helmet stickers noting the No. 19, Berry's number.



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## RIVALS REUNITED

### FIU looks to keep hold of conference against FAU

**STEPHANIE GABRIEL**  
Asst. Sports Director

The FIU softball team has been gaining momentum as of late, and Florida Atlantic has been riding a recent wave of success as well.

But something has to give as the Sun Belt Conference rivals face off today for the first time this season at the FIU Softball Complex at 6 p.m.

The Golden Panthers (25-14, 7-4 Sun Belt) are coming off a series against former conference leader Louisiana-Lafayette in which they took two of three games to grab the top spot in the Sun Belt Conference standings.

Meanwhile, the Owls split a series with Troy last weekend and have now won six of their last 10 games.

A solid pitching staff have led FAU (20-19, 5-5 SBC) to their recent success.

The Owls' staff has the lowest combined earned run average in the conference at 1.94.

Their combined batting average, however, is lowest of teams in the conference at .210.

As for the Golden Panthers, they rank second in the SBC in team batting with a .288 average and have 81 more hits than FAU this season.

FIU's pitching staff, which has been inconsistent at times, ranks fourth in the conference with a 2.78 ERA.

The last time the teams met was May 1 and 2 of the 2009 season.

The Golden Panthers took the first game

7-0, but the Owls came back in game two with a 2-1 win in extra innings (9).

#### SWEEPING AGAIN

For the second time this season, FIU has swept the weekly SBC Players of the Week awards.

Senior pitcher Kasey Barrett and sophomore right fielder and pitcher Ashley McClain were both recognized by the conference for their efforts versus Florida Gulf Coast and Louisiana-Lafayette on April 10 and 11.

Barrett appeared in four of the five games and went 3-1 in the circle.

In three starts she pitched two complete games and one shutout while recording a season-high tying 12 strikeouts against FGCU.

After the wins she notched against Louisiana, Barrett was relieved.

"Since I've been here at FIU I've struggled against them so it was an

awesome feeling to finally beat them twice," she said.

The native of Starke, Fla. is now 12-8 on the season and boasts an ERA of 1.97 in 26 appearances, bouncing back from a few rough appearances.

As for McClain, she hit .471 across the five contests.

Her best appearances were coming against the Ragin' Cajuns with a .545 average in the three consecutive contests and two home runs, including a game-tying homer that led to an FIU victory.

**SOFTBALL, page 10**



CHRIS ADAMS/THE BEACON

Ashley McClain (above) has been clutch for the Golden Panthers and will be looking to contribute more vs. Florida Atlantic. McClain is the reigning SBC Player of the Week.

**SOFTBALL**

- What: FIU vs. Florida Atlantic
- When: Today, April 14
- Time: 6 p.m.
- Where: FIU
- Broadcast: None

## Golden Panthers gear up for brief home stand

**JOEL DELGADO**  
Asst. Sports Director

The Golden Panthers will probably be very happy to play in front of a home crowd today considering their struggles on the road this season, particularly in Sun Belt Conference play.

FIU now has a 6-6 conference

record, losing four of those contests on the road in series losses against Arkansas-Little Rock and Middle Tennessee. Overall, the Golden Panthers are now 3-4 away from home this season.

After getting off to a hot start, the team has cooled off and has lost four of its last six coming into a weekday contest with Bethune-Cookman

tonight at FIU baseball stadium.

The road gets tougher for the Golden Panthers with a little more than a month left in the regular season. After a home series with New Orleans this weekend, FIU plays 12 of its last 18 games away from FIU.

#### STRONG OUTINGS

Sophomores Aaron Arboleya and R.J. Fondon have become the bright spots for the starting rotation and have become reliable arms for head coach Turtle Thomas among a pitching unit that has struggled to keep opposing offenses in check.

Arboleya picked up his third win of the season, a team-high, after pitching seven innings against Middle Tennessee on April 11 to help FIU avoid being swept for the first time this season.

The right-hander threw a season-high seven innings against the Blue Raiders, allowing just three hits while striking out six batters.

Since being promoted as the Saturday night starter, Fondon has made two starts, picking up the loss in his first weekend start and earning

a no-decision in the second. But the southpaw has been effective in both outings, allowing six earned runs in 14.2 innings on the mound while earning 10 strikeouts.

During that span, Fondon has allowed just two walks and now has a team-best 3.99 ERA.

#### JOBE ON A ROLL

Tim Jobe did not start the season off the way most expected him to, but as of late his offensive production has been on the upswing.

Since March 26, the preseason All-Sun Belt team selection at first baseman has hit .452 and scored 13 times while knocking in 13 RBI.

Jobe has also been providing the kind of power he was expected to bring to the middle of the lineup before the season began with seven home runs, trailing team-leader Jabari Henry by one homer.

"It feels real good, especially after the start I had," Jobe said on April 2 after a 3-for-4 performance against Louisiana. "I was kind of pushing at the beginning of the season, trying to do too much. Lately I've been relaxed

and trying to get the job done."

#### HIT STREAK

If there is one word that could describe what Garrett Wittels has been for the Golden Panthers this season, it would be dependable.

The sophomore infielder is bringing home a 28-game hitting streak and has a hit in every game that he has hit in so far this season.

Wittels is currently third in the conference in overall hitting with a .417 batting average.



VICTORIA LYNCH/THE BEACON

Tim Jobe (above) has hit his stride as the Golden Panthers prepare for a short homestand. Jobe is now batting .365 on the season.

#### BASEBALL

- What: FIU vs Bethune-Cookman
- When: Today, April 14.
- Time: 6:00 p.m.
- Where: FIU
- Broadcast: Radiate FM, 88.1, 95.3, 96.9