



The Frost Art Museum launches virtual gallery

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Golden Panthers win series over Troy to open SBC play

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SPOTLIGHT

AT THE BAY PAGE 3

BBC Housing: The majority of Bay Vista Housing residents see no need to increase security measures.

AT THE BAY PAGE 3



The Kovens Center hosted their annual wedding gallery so hundreds of brides-to-be could see the latest trends.

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SGA candidates should make transparency, constitutional integrity and constituency outreach their priorities for the new year.

OPINION PAGE 4



The Obama administrations' move to push junk food out of schools is causing controversy: read why one writer is in support of it.

OPINION PAGE 4

Soapbox: President of FIU Shalom hits back at accusations against the state of Israel and his group.

LIFE! PAGE 5

The Beacon Interviews: City Island actors Andy Garcia, Raymond de Felitta and Dominik Garcia-Loredo.

SPORTS PAGE 7

Get caught up on what happened in FIU sports over the last week in a special Spring Break Replay.

UPCOMING EVENTS

Smoke-Free/Tobacco-free Forum, March 23, 4 p.m. University officials will discuss the campus initiative and answer questions, in the GC West Ballrooms.

Organic Farmers Market, March 24, 12-3 p.m. Weekly farmers market features local, organic produce. The market is located in the Central Fountain of MMC.

Target Wednesday After Hours, March 24, 6 p.m. Enjoy a night of art, food, and good company at the Frost Art Museum at this monthly event.

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

WEATHER

MONDAY
T-Showers
LOW: 57 HIGH: 70

TUESDAY
Mostly Sunny
LOW: 55 HIGH: 77

WEDNESDAY
Mostly Sunny
LOW: 60 HIGH: 78

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STATE BUDGET HEARINGS

FIU awaits verdict on budget

MELISSA CACERES
Staff Writer

After two weeks into the annual budget hearings in Tallahassee, FIU continues to brace itself for the final verdict on where the University will monetarily stand.

With the legislative session lasting from March 2 to April 30, the priorities to be brought before the legislature include the sustaining of state investment in FIU, maintaining the new College of Medicine and support for the "New Florida" initiative for the State University System.

"We don't know yet the final numbers of what the legislature will have to make their budget," said Stephen Sauls, the vice president of Governmental Relations at FIU. "The House [of Representatives of Florida] issued a preliminary set of numbers which said that we would have about 7 percent less in state general revenue, which is a big primary source of funding for the University."

Sauls added that the House is "expecting about a 5 percent reduction in lottery funds for universities" and that the allocation of those funds is still not

clear.

Throughout the 60-day session, the University is requesting \$218 million in state support for FIU operations, \$11.6 million for FIU 2010-11 construction projects as well as bringing to light that the faculty is now facing their fourth year without a state-funded pay raise.

FIU is also pushing the legislature to consider "New Florida" the long-term strategy that is supposed to guide Florida's State University System to "build Florida's knowledge economy."

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SGC-MMC ELECTIONS

Molina deemed ineligible to run

JORGE VALENS
News Director

Student Government Council at Modesto Maidique Campus presidential candidate Yuniel Molina has been disqualified after the withdrawal of his second running mate.

Dania Castro, Molina's running mate and Alpha Omicron Pi chapter president, withdrew from the race citing a family emergency, according to Molina.

"I would find it unfair to FIU to partake in something I cannot fulfill to the best of my abilities," Castro said in an e-mail to the SGC-MMC Elections Board.

"It was shocking," Molina said, describing the situation as a "coincidence of life."

Molina was disqualified based on the section in the elections code that states that a candidate must attend mandatory information meetings, which were held on March 10 and 11. If Molina were allowed to replace his running mate again, that person would have not attended one of the mandatory meetings and would be ineligible to run.

Molina submitted a grievance to SGC-MMC Judiciary, however they refused to hear the appeal.

SGC-MMC Chief Justice Luis Robayo said that court did not hear the appeal citing that there was "no error" in the code and that the "SGC-MMC Elections Board was correct in its ruling."

Robayo added that the appeal was read and analyzed by the five justices on the SGC-MMC Supreme Court, if two justices ruled that the appeal should be heard it would be heard by the court, however no justice moved to hear it.

Molina found the Supreme Court's decision bothersome.

"It saddens me to not even be able to go through campaigning," Molina said. "I had a strong team, strong campaign, years of experience and good intentions."

He added that he has learned from the experience and that he is grateful for the support that students, faculty and staff gave him.

Molina's previous running mate, Ed Proenza, withdrew from the race on Feb. 25 to which the SGC-MMC Elections Board, per the elections code, ruled to allow Molina to replace his running mate. This marks the second time a running mate has withdrawn from Molina's ticket.

Campaigning for SGC-MMC elections will span the week of March 22, and conclude with a live debate on March 26 in the Graham Center Pit. Students will be able to vote for their desired candidates on March 29-30.

BALLS OF FURY



LINDA LEE/THE BEACON

Sophomore Scott Sakowski plays a friendly game of ping-pong while taking a study break in Everglades Hall Lounge.

Law school hosts competition

MEENA RUPANI
Staff Writer

During the weekend of Feb. 26, the FIU College of Law hosted the Super Regional Rounds of the Jessup International Moot Court Competition, sponsored by the International Law Student Association and the international law firm White & Case, according to Professor David Walter.

The University played host to 23 schools during the competition including Emory, Duke and Vanderbilt University. FIU also participated in the competition.

Professor David Walter was a main actor in hosting these schools and explained how the competition worked.

"All teams argued four times during the preliminary rounds on Friday and Saturday, with the top teams advancing to the advanced rounds late Saturday and Sunday," Walter said.

Although FIU did not advance to the quarterfinals, Walter felt that they were well represented.

"The College of Law was represented very well at the Jessup by four second-year students. The four faced Georgia

State, William & Mary, Florida Coastal and Vanderbilt in the preliminary rounds - the four delivered outstanding arguments," Professor Walter said.

One of the students that represented FIU in the competition was Brittany Juliachs.

Juliachs explained that the competition used cases decided by the International Court of Justice and the Permanent International Court of Justice, its predecessor. She added that decisions from the International

MOOT, page 2

NEWS FLASH

BUSINESS

Tech sector, strong dollar to blame for stock fall

Stocks sank on March 19 breaking and winning streaks for each of the three markets.

According to CNN, a strong dollar and lower than expected earnings from smartphone maker Palm were some of the reason's cited for investor reluctance.

Palm's stock plummeted 26% after lower than expected earnings. This comes after lower than expected sales numbers for their flagship mobile device, the Palm Pre.

The NASDAQ closed at 2,374.41, the Dow Jones Industrial closed at 10,741.98 and the S&P 500 closed at 1,159.90.

NATIONAL

Smith's estate loses appeal in inheritance case

The estate of Anna Nicole Smith lost a court battle over the \$300 million that was "promised" to Smith as part of her marriage with the late oil tycoon J. Howard Marshall.

According to CNN, the court battle outlived both participants as Smith died in 2007 and Marshall's son, E. Pierce Marshall died in 2006.

The ruling, passed in a federal appeals court, reflected a similar ruling by a Texas jury that the money was not a gift by the then 84 year-old oil magnate to Smith, who was 26 at the time.

– Compiled by Jorge Valens

CORRECTIONS

In the issue dated March 10, 2010, in the soapbox titled "GSA is deserving of an adequate governing council," Svetlana Tyutina is not GSA president. The current GSA president is Srikanth Korla.

In the issue dated March 12, 2010, in the article "Proposal addressed at GSA meeting," the town hall meeting was held on March 10, not March 1.

Also in the same article, the Graduate Student Organization point system was being considered for rescinding, not the Council for Student Organizations point system.

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

Next round to be held in D.C.

MOOT, page 1

Centre for the Settlement of Investment Disputes and the North Atlantic Free Trade Agreement were used to discuss bilateral trade agreements.

Juliachs also explained what the selection process was to have the opportunity to participate in the competition.

"Our professor approached us in late Fall to inquire if we would be interested in participating in the competition. In the end, we were selected based on our academic record and our oratorical skills," she said.

According to Juliachs, Professor Walter was instrumental in helping the

team prepare for their oral arguments throughout the competition.

In addition to having FIU represented in the competition, Walter explained that other members of the College of Law family were significant in playing host during the competition.

According to Walter, in addition to the competing law students and their coaches, during the competition over 150 attorneys served as judges and over 50 College of Law students served as bailiffs.

The final results, according to Walter, were as follows: Both Georgia and Chicago-Kent University earned the right to represent the Southeast Region in the International Round

arguments to be held in Washington, D.C. in late March.

According to Professor Walter, the last day of the competition was commemorated with an awards reception that included an audience of the 100-plus law students and 20-plus faculty coaches from the 24 law schools, as well as several representatives from the ILSA organization, who traveled to FIU from Chicago, New York and Mexico City.

"To sum it up, this is probably the most prestigious international law competition in the world, and it's one of two or three prestigious competitions in the United States," Walter said.

Sauls expects 'another tough year'

BUDGET, page 1

Among its many focuses, the plan seeks to create a strategic research agenda for each state university, center half of its funding on targeted degrees to meet regional needs, and use funds for enrollment and other system workload increases and capital construction.

The initiative suggests that the state "make a \$1.75 billion investment of recurring state funds in public universities over five years."

"Gov. [Charlie] Crist has integrated the New Florida plan into his proposed budget, recommending \$100 million in additional funding for Florida's public universities," said President Mark Rosenberg, in his budget update sent to the University community on March 3.

"Though it is impossible to tell at this time what kind

of budget the legislative process will yield, we are pleased that the governor has recognized the key role that investing in higher education plays in the success of a thriving 21st century economy," he added.

The Herbert Wertheim College of Medicine, which was approved for implementation by the Board of Governors in 2006, hopes to be receiving \$4 million in recurring funds for its fourth year from the state through this year's sessions. Yet the University may have

to settle for \$3.7 million due to the state of the economy, according to Sauls.

"We're expecting another tough year based on the many demands on state revenue. We're anticipating that we may have some cuts," Sauls said. "Because it is a priority state initiative, we're advocating money for the two new colleges of medicine off the top and we've got strong preliminary indication of support for doing that."

During the second day of session, March 3, the

University held "FIU Day in the Capitol," in Tallahassee.

FIU was represented at the state capitol by about 50 leaders from the Board of Trustees, Board of Directors, President's Council, Student Government Association, Alumni Association and University administration. Throughout the day, they were able to meet with more than 40 legislators.

For more information on the state budget hearings, visit government.fiu.edu

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Global Learning for Global Citizenship

Tuesday Times Roundtable

Title: **"When should newspapers WITHHOLD the news: the recent NY Times acquiescence to President Obama's request RE the capture of a Taliban leader."**

Moderator: **Jane Daugherty** (School of Journalism and Mass Communication)




Photo from the New York Times' article "Secret Joint Raid Captures Taliban's Top Commander".

Time & Location: **Tuesday, March 23, 2010 12:30pm - 1:30pm GC 150**
Lunch and refreshments provided.

presented by **The New York Times**

FIU Student Government Association **FIU** Global Learning

BAY VISTA HOUSING

Residents satisfied with campus safety

MELODY REGALADO
Staff Writer

Although some students have expressed concerns over security on campus, the majority of Bay Vista residents at the Biscayne Bay Campus say they feel safe. University president Mark B. Rosenberg stressed the importance of safety on campus during the Bay Vista Housing forum held last month.

Izabel Angelova, a junior economics and international business major, raised her concerns about the safety of campus residents, particularly during housing renovations.

She asked why repairs were not done year-round if the means were available, rather than going through “a month of everyday inconvenience” when renovations began promptly before Rosenberg’s visit.

She said unauthorized people walked around the building, which she felt was unsecured and accessible to anyone during that time.

“I think part of safety is having a secure building,” said Angelova at the forum, held Feb. 9. “I think the housing fee that we pay can cover a secure building.”

The University’s housing Web

site, housing.fiu.edu, provides information about emergency evacuation and lockdown, but no mention of the security and safety offered to student residents under normal circumstances.

According to the 2009-2010 Campus Security Report and Safety Guide, a total of eight crimes were reported in the residence halls at BBC from 2006-2008—seven were for burglary and one for forcible sex/rape.

The same report states that an additional 29 crimes reported in “other areas” at BBC include burglary, motor vehicle theft, arson, non-forcible sex offenses, robbery and aggravated assault.

One of the University’s safety measures involves the use of Public Safety patrols 24 hours a day, seven days a week.

“When the University closes at 11 p.m., our main concern is housing,” said Jesse P. Scott, captain of the University Police Department.

In housing, each resident has a key to the building and guests must be accompanied by a resident at all times. They are buzzed in through a speaker outside of the door and must wait for their resident host to sign them in downstairs.

Front desk staff holds on to a

ENCORE



CAROLINA LEVY/THE BEACON

(Left to Right) Opera singers Darren Littman, Charles Schneider, Teppei Kono, Lisa Layman, Jeffrey Michael Hoos, Philip Alongi and Ilian Iliev are congratulated by City of Sunny Isles Beach Mayor Norman Edelcup after their performance “An Evening of Russian Opera”, held on March 10 at Sunny Isles Beach Community School. The event was part of the FIU-BBC Prestige Cultural Series.

visitor’s photo identification until he or she signs out.

“If a visitor comes and asks for someone’s number or to see them, the front desk won’t give out any personal information without permission first,” said Davon Johnson, a sophomore journalism major.

According to Johnson, although the police don’t come inside the building, he sees them patrolling outside and generally feels safe.

“The rest of campus is really

dark, but I feel safe around housing,” said Brad Bachew, a freshman hospitality management major. “You’ll see a cop parked outside the building at any time.”

University Police Department also offers free services by request, such as fingerprinting, special event security, and crime prevention courses and seminars.

One of these courses is the Rape Aggression Defense Program, a self-defense program open to women to learn different techniques to protect themselves

against an attacker.

“I think students should feel very safe at FIU, but they should never take their safety for granted,” said Cathy Akens, assistant vice president of Student Affairs.

“All of us, as members of the University community, have a responsibility for the safety and well-being of one another.”

Students can contact University Police with any questions or concerns at 305-348-2623 or 305-919-5559.

Annual wedding exhibition for brides-to-be returns to campus



MELODY REGALADO/THE BEACON

Robert Egert, a 1996 graduate from the FIU School of Hospitality Management and owner of Exquisite Catering by Robert, offers samples of his food along with his staff. Egert currently teaches Catering Management and is a graduate student at FIU.

MELODY REGALADO
Staff Writer

The home of the Golden Panthers is a place to learn, live and grow, and also to tie the knot.

The Kovens Center at the Biscayne Bay Campus hosted its third annual Wedding Gallery on March 11 with 300 guests in attendance.

Brides-to-be, along with their families, friends and future grooms were greeted with drinks while they browsed the tables of over 20 of the center’s preferred vendors. They showcased samples of their work for that special day, including catering, gowns, decor, music, photography and more.

Tables were set up to display a variety of different themes and arrangements for couples to choose from, whether they want basic packages or high-end deals.

They enjoyed food samplings, salsa lessons, and registered to win prizes ranging from hotel stays to discounts and limo rides to tiaras.

The ballroom at the center accommodates up to 300 guests and offers 5,500 square feet that “you could transform into anything,” said Jean Harris, director of the Kovens Center.

A 10,000 square foot outdoor terrace also provides a scenic view of Biscayne Bay, where many couples choose to take their vows.

“There are plenty of hotels that overlook the water, but we offer privacy and free

parking,” said Harris. “We are also extremely flexible and offer competitive rates.”

The Kovens Center hosts around 20 special events per year, such as weddings, birthdays and retirement parties. Discounts are also available for FIU faculty, staff, and members of the Student Alumni Association.

The Kovens Center offers internships and jobs for students interested in event planning and marketing.

“It’s a great hands-on job,” said Magena Pichardo, an alumna from the School of Hospitality and Tourism Management who worked at the Kovens Center. “You actually get to experience what you learn in class.”

Current interns also benefit from being able to directly collaborate with event planners and organizers.

“It’s a good experience if you like events,” said Andrea Rumble, a graduate hospitality management major who works as a client services representative at the Kovens Center. “You get to see how everything gets put together, start to finish.”

In this role, she assists in coordinating events along with Nathali Carroll, a senior hospitality management major who aspires to work in the hospitality suites at Yankee Stadium.

“It’s a great opportunity to learn the basics of putting an event together to work your way up to managing bigger events,” said Carroll.

For job and internship opportunities, Harris can be reached at 305-919-5647 or harrisj@fiu.edu.

THE BEACON | Editorial

Candidates should keep accountability, transparency among their top priorities

Coverage of the Student Government Association has been a primary focus for *The Beacon* over the past year. During this time, we have noted several issues that persist within the governing body which should be addressed by the next generation of student leaders who today begin their campaigns.

Among the most pressing issues that candidates should make a priority is supporting a new, lasting SGA constitution.

Currently, changes have been proposed by the SGC-MMC Judiciary that have the potential to make the constitution an amendable document, rather than one that is re-written yearly. That process is tiresome and devalues the integrity of the document.

Last year, candidates pushed for the openness of the governing process, including the improvement of SGA meeting minutes and their availability. Discussions also included the possible filming of meetings or streaming them online. Though “transparency” was last year’s buzzword, these initiatives had limited success.

Attempts were made to film meetings during last summer, but no significant progress was made in this respect.

Meeting minutes which were frequently being uploaded onto SGC-MMC’s Web site during the Summer of 2009 seemed to dry up in late October. SGC-MMC’s YouTube page, to post events and meetings, has not been updated in 10 months.

SGA is always seeking to raise student awareness on its existence and goals. Their general strategy of doing so through the Internet, specifically with their Web site and social networking, are insufficient.

If one visits fiu.edu/~sga, you find that both councils’ Web sites are just depositories for event flyers, some meetings’ minutes and a quick place to find a copy of their constitution. While the site should be all these things, if SGA seeks relevancy and exposure, it should become a more general, everyday resource for students.

Under SGC-MMC’s page, there is a “helpful links” page directing students to different departments within the University, but it is not prominent and seemingly an after-thought.

To effectively inform students of events and the goings-on of SGA in general, the Web site must be a one-stop resource for students; they need to have a reason to make it their homepage.

If students were eventually able to watch meetings on the SGA Web site, however, they would be able to note a disturbing trend within the senate: voting by acclamation. Essentially, senators vote in a “yay” or “nay” manner.

Voting in this manner makes it almost impossible to track how senators vote, making it difficult to establish trends. Ultimately students can’t see how their senators vote.

Accountability from our student leaders is key. Especially when they are voting on issues that are essentially non-issues. Earlier during this semester, SGC-MMC introduced a resolution into the Senate titled “In Support of K-12 Reform,” in which the council claimed that education reform was needed throughout the United States.

While discussing miniscule things, they should have been asking, “What do students really want?”

Surely, it’s little things: the enhancement of the PantherTram system is certainly a must, along with the expansion of library hours, which is also needed. Students need a sanctuary on campus to study and research in at any time. It is through constitutional reform support and constituency outreach efforts that an SGA candidate can truly make a difference.

This editorial is the first in a two-part series, the second of which will be published March 24.

Governmental hostility to junk food is justified

KELSEA JONES
Contributing Writer

First Lady Michelle Obama has declared war on obesity. Responding to statistics claiming that the rate of obesity has doubled since 1980, Mrs. Obama’s strategy aims to remove junk food from school meals and replace high-calorie and sugary items with healthier choices.

Food consumption, especially junk food intake, is drastically increasing in high schools with the shifting dynamics of what it’s like to grow up in the 21st century. The time when students walked home from school and didn’t drink sodas with meals has long since passed.

With vast amounts of technology available today, people do not have to wait. Information is instantly at our fingertips with smartphones; credit cards speed up consumerism, and we don’t even have to wait in line at the video store because movies can be instantly streamed to countless devices.

The same goes for when we get hungry. We think a tiny hunger pang should be fulfilled immediately, usually with convenient sweets or salty chips. This generation is too accustomed to getting what they want immediately. This perceived advantage has unfortunately significant repercussions on overall health. The generation is turning into a group of sugar and fast-food addicts.

According to scientist Dr. Serge Ahmed, of Bordeaux, France, individuals that consume enough sugar can experience cravings, tolerance and withdrawals – classic indicators of addiction. Schools are openly supporting,

“The time when students walked home from school and didn’t drink sodas with meals has long passed.”

and even pushing a sugar addiction on children that later can lead to ill health. Michelle Obama says it’s time to go cold turkey.

The government has the Constitutional responsibility to protect its citizens. One of the best forms of protection is through education. By teaching the nation’s future generations to eat healthy and not succumb to the disease of obesity, millions could be in better health than the current generation.

However, the path toward better health for America is complex. Eliminating junk food from schools is easier said than done, as junk food sources like vending machines and school vendors are oftentimes an integral part of school programs – like athletics and music.

When children spend eight-plus hours in school per day, with only one chance to have lunch, they resort to hitting up these convenient vendors between classes for a quick fix. Cafeterias and fundraising vendors are also sources of non-nutritious snacking.

According to *The New York Times*, “the administration has proposed spending \$1 billion more each year on the \$18 billion meal program in order to provide children with healthy food choices. This can possibly crimp the already strained budgets. The bill would

exempt bake sales, parties and other occasional offerings of sweets.”

Those in opposition to the bill include the American Beverage Association and major snack-food/drink conglomerates, like The Coca-Cola Company and Pepsi Co., which are defending themselves by stating it is the parents’ responsibility to inculcate good eating habits to their little ones.

However, the argument placing most of the fault on parents’ irresponsibility of keeping kids away from junk food is quite null. If all kids listened to their parents, ideally, they would not buy junk food offered at school. The irony here is that the responsibility is not on the school because it needs junk food profits for funding programs. Putting the responsibility solely on parents’ shoulders is a way for schools to keep getting their profits; they know if it’s in kids’ faces, they’ll take it.

The government is proposing to step in and limit the drug that is junk food’s presence in schools.

Like an addictive drug, excessive amount of sugar leads to premature death, following a tough journey of malnutrition and struggles with weight. Like a drug, the substance needs to be controlled – which is exactly what the Obama administration is proposing.



Accusations against Israel are revolting

LUIS VALDEZ
Special to *The Beacon*

Recently some accusations have arisen on campus concerning the State of Israel. As the main FIU student organization in support of Israel, Shalom feels it is necessary to address these accusations and educate fellow students about Shalom’s goals and mission. More importantly, it strives to create awareness of realities occurring in the Middle East and Israel.

Shalom is a pro-Israel student organization that believes that a Jewish state should exist in harmony with neighbors.

Furthermore, Shalom strongly values peaceful resolution of Israeli-Arab conflicts. In fact, we are also pro-Palestine; we want them to live in peace and prosperity with their Israeli neighbors in their own state. We,

however, denounce violence, hatred and terrorism as a way to pursue one’s goals.

Shalom has been very active both on and off campus in educating students on the importance of continuing a strong American-Israel relationship. We have lobbied our elected representatives and have hosted many events on campus, including lectures with guest speakers, movie nights and student leader’s receptions.

Our membership is diverse; it is comprised of Jews, Christians, as well as students of various nationalities, races and political ideologies. It is important to note that our views are also very main stream. Every president since Harry Truman has openly supported the right of Israel to exist. Our current administration continues to hold the U.S. commitment to Israel

as its most valuable ally in the Middle East. In addition, last February a Gallup Poll showed that a vast majority of the American public supports Israel.

Recently, an FIU student organization has made some very bold accusations against Israel. Although we can play the same game and use their tactics, we will not fight fire with fire and degrade our organization to those levels.

Instead, we believe that through intelligent dialogues with students along with exposure and education to the facts concerning the Israeli-Arab Conflict and the U.S.-Israel relationship, we can further better our efforts – all while working to promote peace and tolerance, rather than hatred and anger.

In regards to the accusations made against the State of Israel, we would like to address these

with the following facts. The State of Israel is the only true democracy in the Middle East and has been since its establishment in 1948.

The Israeli government gives all its citizens, including Palestinians Arabs (whether Christian or Muslim), more rights than in any other country in the region.

These include the right to vote, as well as the right to freedom of religion and expression among others. Women and minorities enjoy equal rights and have more opportunities than in neighboring countries. Palestinian Arabs serve openly in the highest areas of Israel’s military and government (including the Supreme Court and Legislature); they are able to form political parties.

Luis Valdez is a third year political science major and president of FIU Shalom.

EDITORIAL POLICY

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

SEND US YOUR LETTERS

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

OPINIONPIECE

7

The number of years that have been spent on the battle lines of the current Iraq war.

QUOTATIONATION

“Even my daughter could end up ruling Denmark with an iron fist. The possibility is still there. You never know.”

Nina Maria Kleivan, Artist
On dressing her daughter as Adolf Hitler



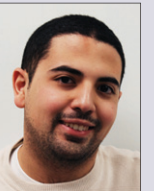
COURTESY OF THE FROST ART MUSEUM

MODERN CLASSICS

Documentary successfully conveys human advancement

For All Mankind is the biggest film ever made with one of the grandest scopes to ever appear in cinema. The budget was in the tens of billions, with a large ensemble cast chronicling the voyage of a lifetime: man's journey from the Earth to the moon.

COLUMNIST



DAVID BARRIOS

Yet, there are no special effects, no miniature models or fake pyrotechnics (unless you're a conspiracy theorist). Taken from footage held by NASA and filmed by astronauts during their voyage to and from the moon, *For All Mankind* is a documentary unlike many; the definitive document of the greatest technical achievement in the last half century.

The voices narrating are many: some with a more country spun accent, others cool and collected, others breaking out in excitement as they recount their experiences.

Images unfold in front of your eyes: floodlights illuminating a dark Florida night, an imposing Saturn V rocket with thousands of workers surrounding it.

As one the astronauts recounts, "I had the only window at this point, and I looked out, and doggone if the moon wasn't visible in the daylight right straight out the top of the window. I know they're doin' their job right because the moon's right straight ahead and that's where we're pointed and they're gonna launch us right straight to this thing."

Images of large rockets lifting slowly in a firey streak, men walking in space, Earth growing ever so smaller in the windows of the spacecraft – it's the stuff of science fiction made into fact.

You don't see their faces as they speak and no attempt is made to even identify whose voice belongs to which respective astronaut.

It doesn't matter.

Al Reinert (screenwriter of *Apollo 13*) is credited as the director of this film, yet an equal claim can be made by Alan Bean or David Scott, the men responsible for taking the images, whose footprints still remain on the surface.

But, this doesn't matter either. This is a film about the collective with no individual voice or testimony overpowering the other.

It is, in essence, a collage of visuals and thoughts, as pure a film as can be seen in cinema. A spirit of discovery pervades throughout it: men floating freely within the cabin of their spacecraft. This is not a film to simply be seen, but felt and absorbed.

CLASSICS, page 6

Virtual gallery enhances museum-goer's experience

ADRIANA RODRIGUEZ
Staff Writer

There's plenty to look forward to at the Frost Art Museum this Wednesday during this month's Target Wednesday After Hours, when the museum unveils the Knight Foundation Virtual Gallery.

The virtual gallery will give visitors the opportunity to tour the gallery, focus on individual objects and access information and links about the pieces from the museum's permanent collection.

The multimedia software is an educational project that allows visitors to be curators of the collection for a day. The software is made for visitors of all ages and art backgrounds.

The project allows the implementation of creative technical solutions to the exhibition's complexity and enhances the experience for visitors.

The Virtual Gallery Project will engage visitors with two

interactive virtual gallery kiosks with touch screens located in the permanent collection galleries.

It will present timelines, maps and enhanced text labels based on a multimedia system using the most recent technological innovations to give more insight and information to each piece's meaning and creation.

The program will create the opportunity for educational projects and other virtual experiences for students, visitors, curators and museum studies.

The Frost Art Museum's Permanent Collection offers a variety of art from all over the world including Africa, South America and Asia. The attention to the human figure in the collection emerges as a particularly significant aspect of all artistic endeavors throughout time and the virtual gallery will allow for further explorations.

"Through the grant from The Knight Foundation, museum visitors will be able to experience the objects in our collection

and the virtual gallery will serve as an entertaining and educational tool," said Carol Damian, director and chief curator.

Along with the virtual gallery, this Target Wednesday After Hours event presents *Aesthetics & Values 2010* and *Wanderlust*.

Aesthetics & Values 2010 is an exhibition and seminar taught by artist and Honors College fellow, John Bailly.

The seminar examines the role visual art plays in the social and cultural dialogue about controversial issues; how artists have challenged or enforced authority by creating new aesthetics; and how art is being used to initiate, accelerate, or combat social change.

This year's seminar includes artists Bhakti Baxter, Xavier Cortada, Guerra de la Paz, Richard Haden, Bert Rodriguez, Gerry Stecca, TM Sisters, Frances Trombly, Wendy Wischer and Ricardo E. Zulueta. *Aesthetics & Values*

2010 is organized and curated by Honors students.

Wanderlust, the Master of Fine Arts student exhibition, is a presentation of a series of works produced by Jason Galbut, Patti Laylle and Kim Yantis – the MFA class of 2010 at FIU's School of Art and Art History done during their tenure at FIU.

Target Wednesday After Hours is the love child of the Frost's and Target's idea to give visitors a different look at exhibitions. The event gives visitors the chance to meet contemporary artists and engage with controversial art, live music, talks, films, dance, poetry slams and performance art.

It provides an excellent opportunity to meet and socialize with other people interested in the arts while learning more about the museum, exhibitions and artists. The events are free and open to the public and take place from 6 p.m. to 9 p.m. one Wednesday each month.

THE BEACON INTERVIEWS: RAYMOND DE FELITTA, ANDY GARCIA & DOMINIK GARCIA-LOREDO

Actors reveal how *City Island* got started

STEVE MESA
Staff Writer

There have been a few movies that gave moviegoers a glimpse into the lives of dysfunctional families. Academy Award-nominated actor Andy Garcia (*Ocean's Thirteen*) leads an all-star cast that includes Emmy-winner Julianne Margulies (*The Good Wife*) and Oscar-winner Alan Arkin (*Little Miss Sunshine*) in his latest delve into this realm, *City Island*.

The film is about the Rizzo family, a dysfunctional family that has each member hiding secrets from each other including a New York corrections officer (Garcia) with a secret

desire to become an actor and his daughter (Dominik Garcia-Loredo) who has become a stripper after being suspended from college.

The Beacon had a chance to sit down and talk to Andy Garcia, Dominik Garcia-Loredo and director Raymond De Felitta before *City Island* made its Florida debut at the 2010 Miami International Film Festival in the Gusman Theater for the Performing Arts.

De Felitta said he wrote the screenplay for *City Island* a few years ago and he tried for a long time to get the movie made.

"After a long time trying to do it, my agent sent the script to Andy because we are represented by the same agency and he liked it," De



GARCIA



DE FELITTA

Felitta said.

De Felitta asked Garcia to help him get the movie made and Garcia agreed to help as producer.

CITY, page 6



NASA launched 13 Saturn V rockets (pictured above) between 1967 and 1973

Film provides objective perspective

CLASSICS, page 5

The climax comes not in the moon landing but in the visuals of Earth from another body.

One astronaut noted that, as he first saw the Earth rise while orbiting the

moon while seeking to discover a new world, he had discovered his old world: a blue marble surrounded by nothingness.

Modern Classics is a bi-weekly column reviewing modern day classics in film. Look for it every other Monday.

Andy Garcia describes his acting roots in Miami

CITY, page 5

"It is very romantic when you say you are going to produce a movie, but it is an actual commitment in your life because you are taking responsibility by not only acting in the movie, but raising the money for the film," Garcia said.

For Garcia, the most difficult scene for him to shoot during production was a monologue where his character tells his acting class his secret as part of an assignment in the class.

"It was actually an entire monologue that we ended up reducing because we felt it reiterated the movie that everybody saw, but it was a very emotional monologue for me," Garcia remembered.

De Felitta and Garcia-Loredo both said that they share a common scene that was difficult to shoot for both of them where the Rizzos each reveal their secrets to one another outside of their house at night.

De Felitta said the scene had to work on many levels with that scene being told truthfully and emotionally. He also said the scene has to be funny, but it could not be played for comedy because it has to be the truth.

"The scene was 11 pages of material and it was scheduled to shoot for only one night," De Felitta said. "This is one of the scenes where, once the actors get going, it is like a rush to the finish line and we had to capture the energy of it. It was a difficult evening as we had two cameras

rolling at the same time and the sun came up as we barely finished shooting the scene."

Garcia-Loredo said she felt pressure when shooting that same scene because she knew it was going to be complicated to shoot and take a long time to finish it.

"I felt I needed to do [my character] Vivian justice in that scene and I need to show that she is a likable character, not just the bitch of the family," she said. "I had to humanize her and show that she really cares what her family thinks of her."

Andy Garcia was a former FIU student where he participated in many of the schools' productions of plays like Chekov's *The Cherry Orchard* before he left the school in 1978 to start his film career in Hollywood. However, Garcia started acting at Miami Beach Senior High School where he took his first acting classes in his senior year. Garcia said that after graduating from high school, he went to Miami-Dade College, where he only took drama classes there before going to FIU.

"It was the beginning of my training and I depended on that experience at FIU," Garcia said.

"It was a natural place to go after MDC, but what I found is that I loved the people I was collaborating with, it was a very fond memory," Garcia said.

City Island opens on March 26 at the Regal South Beach Cinema 18 on Lincoln Road in Miami Beach.



Andy Garcia and Julianna Margulies play husband and wife in the upcoming *City Island*.

WIN UP TO A \$2000 SCHOLARSHIP!

ANNOUNCING

THE ROY LIKINS SCHOLARSHIP Scholarships valued up to \$2000 will be awarded in both undergraduate and graduate categories by the Florida Section American Water Works Association.

ELIGIBILITY: Applicants must have attained 65 college credit hours, have a minimum of 3.0 GPA based on a 4.0 system, and must be pursuing a degree related to the drinking water industry in a Florida college or university.

Apply before May 15, 2010. Please obtain an application by contacting:
Bill Young
c/o St. John's County Utility Dept.
PO Box 3006
St. Augustine, FL 32085
Phone: (904) 209-2703
Fax: (904) 209-2704
E-Mail: byoung@sjcfl.us
Website: www.fsawwa.org

ADDED VALUE: All applicants receive 1 year free student membership in The American Water Works Association, the definitive authority on drinking water health, science, engineering and management.

THIS WEEK ON CAMPUS

MONDAY, MARCH 22

YOGARDEN



Come relax with the Yoga Club.

WHEN: 1 - 6 p.m.
HOW MUCH: Free

WHERE: FIU Garden (between Baseball Stadium and nature preserve)

EXILE AND LITERATURE LECTURE SERIES

Lecture by Gustavo Perez-Fiermat.

WHEN: 7 - 9 p.m.
HOW MUCH: Free

WHERE: GC 243
Call 305-348-3155 for more info.

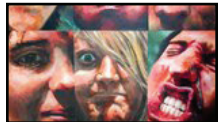
GRAD SEND-OFF



Pick up your graduation tickets, gear, and enjoy refreshments.

WHEN: 10 a.m. - 6 p.m.
WHERE: BBC Bookstore

RISING STARS VISUAL ARTS EXHIBITION



By New World School of the Arts students.

HOW MUCH: Free
WHERE: Artseen Gallery, 2215 NW 2nd Ave.
Call 305-237-3597 for more info.

SCIENCE CAFE SERIES

Dr. Mike Heithaus will discuss his work tracking and studying tiger sharks, sea turtles and more.

WHEN: 7 p.m.
HOW MUCH: Free
WHERE: The Bookstore in the Grove, 3399 Virginia St.
For more info, e-mail adym-scorrea@gmail.com

TUESDAY, MARCH 23

SMOKE FREE FORUM



University officials will discuss Smoke Free/Tobacco Free campus initiative and answer questions.

WHEN: 4 - 5:30 p.m.
HOW MUCH: Free

WHERE: GC West Ballroom

TUESDAY TIMES ROUNDTABLE

When should newspapers WITHHOLD the news.

WHEN: 12:30 - 1:30 p.m.
HOW MUCH: Free

WHERE: GC 150

FIU BASEBALL



The Golden Panthers take on Jacksonville.

WHEN: 6 p.m.
HOW MUCH: Free
WHERE: Baseball Stadium

9TH ANNUAL WOMEN'S STUDIES STUDENT CONFERENCE



"Cleaning up the Down Economy: Women, Gender, & the Global Economy." Presented by the Women's Studies Center. All majors/ students welcome.

WHEN: 8 a.m. - 4 p.m.
HOW MUCH: Free
WHERE: GC 243

GRAD SEND-OFF

Pick up your graduation tickets, gear and enjoy refreshments.

WHEN: 10 a.m. - 6 p.m.
WHERE: BBC Bookstore

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 24

ORGANIC FARMERS MARKET



Organic, local, fresh produce.

WHEN: 12 - 3 p.m.
HOW MUCH: Free

WHERE: Central Fountain (between Green Library and PC)

AESTHETICS AND VALUES CLUB Reception.

WHEN: 12 - 1 p.m.
HOW MUCH: Free
WHERE: Frost Art Museum

BELEN-COLUMBUS FIU NETWORKING EVENT

Join President Rosenberg and the Alumni Association in networking with FIU alumni from Belen and Columbus high schools.

WHEN: 6:30 - 9 p.m.
HOW MUCH: Free
WHERE: MARC Building - Lobby

YOGA AT FARMERS MARKET

By the Yoga Club.

WHEN: 1 - 2 p.m.
HOW MUCH: Free

WHERE: Central Fountain

TARGET WEDNESDAY AFTER HOURS



"Wanderlust" and "Aesthetics and Values".

WHEN: 6 - 9 p.m.
HOW MUCH: Free
WHERE: Frost Art Museum

FIU BASEBALL



The Golden Panthers take on Jacksonville.

WHEN: 3 p.m.
HOW MUCH: Free
WHERE: Baseball Stadium

THURSDAY, MARCH 25

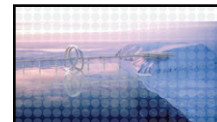
A NIGHT OF LAUGHTER



Presented by Alpha Kappa Psi, professional business fraternity. Funds will go to His House Children's Home.

WHEN: 8:30 - 11 p.m.
HOW MUCH: Tickets are \$20 for 2
WHERE: Miami IMPROV 3390 Marty Street

JEFRÉ LECTURE



Presented by FIU Landscape Architecture. Jefre will speak about his life journey and his renowned practice.

WHEN: 5 - 7 p.m.
HOW MUCH: Free
WHERE: Wertheim Performing Arts Center, Concert Hall

THETA ALPHA KAPPA COFFEE HOUR

WHEN: 3:30 - 5 p.m.
HOW MUCH: Free
WHERE: GL 220

DUELING PIANOS



Join SPC-MMC as they turn the ballrooms into a dueling piano bar.

WHEN: 6 p.m.
HOW MUCH: Free with Panther ID
WHERE: GC Ballrooms

WILL CHINA RISE PEACEFULLY?

Lecture series presented by Sigma Iota Rho. Lecture by John Mearshiemer, University of Chicago.

WHEN: 2 - 3 p.m.
HOW MUCH: Free
WHERE: MARC International Pavilion

Write to calendar@fiusm.com to have your event featured.

SPRING BREAK SPORTS REPLAY

Henry racks up accolades

BASEBALL

Jabari Henry had a great start to his spring break.

The freshman outfielder accumulated an array of recognition for his efforts in the week ending on March 14.

Henry was named National Hitter of the week by Louisville Slugger/Collegiate Baseball News, named to the College Baseball Foundation's "National All-Star Lineup", and came away with College Baseball Insider's award for National Player of the Week.

In addition, Henry was the

Sun Belt Conference Hitter of the Week.

Henry, who was drafted in the 39th round of the 2009 Major League Baseball First Year Player Draft but opted to play in college, went 9-of-18 at the plate with five home runs during the week.

As a team, the Golden Panthers were swept in three games at the hands of Rutgers on March 13-14. The team gave up 46 runs during the three contests.

FIU rebounded for a pair of wins during the week, however, by defeating Florida Gulf Coast

8-6, and dropping Southern Utah 10-3 at home.

SOFTBALL

After winning three of four contests over the weekend of March 12-14, FIU dropped three games in a row to ranked opponents. On March 16, the Golden Panthers lost two contests to No. 19 Florida State, and on March 18, lost to No. 5 Alabama.

Playing nationally ranked FSU and Alabama was a huge test for the Golden Panthers, who entered with their best start through 23 games (18-5) in the program's history.

FIU, however, was unable to get its offense going against the Seminoles as they dropped two games by scores of 8-3 and 7-2.

The performances in the circle were also uncharacteristic for FIU.

In the first game, senior pitcher Kasey Barrett allowed five earned runs in 4.1 innings of work after not giving up a single earned run since Feb. 27 against Western Kentucky. Similarly, sophomore Jennifer Gniadek gave up seven hits, five earned runs and four walks in the second game to earn her third loss of the season.

The struggle to upset a nationally ranked team continued against the Crimson Tide. The Golden Panthers took a 1-0 lead in the top of the fifth inning but Alabama squeaked by with two runs in the bottom of that inning to make the final score 2-1.

GOLF



VICTORIA LYNCH/THE BEACON FILE PHOTO

Freshman Jabari Henry burst onto the national scene with his blistering 9-18 week that included five home runs, two of them grand slams.

The Golden Panthers tied for a fifth place finish at the Northern Migration Invitational on March 16-18, after a rally fell short in the final round of three.

In a field of 19 teams, FIU tied for fifth with Nebraska by shooting 916 (+52) for the series, and placed behind East Tennessee State, Minnesota, Idaho and Texas, who won the event with a stellar score of 895 (+31).

Heading into the final round on March 18, the Golden Panthers were tied for sixth, but jumped Kansas, who stumbled all the way to a 12th place finish on the final day.

FIU could not close ground on the top four teams, however, as they finished firmly in the same spot they were in after the second round.

The Golden Panthers were led by Paula Hurtado (+9) and Christina Marin (+10). Hurtado, a native of Colombia, finished in 13th place on the event's individual leader board to pace FIU.

FIU will take the course at the Georgia State Invitational today in Atlanta, Ga.

TENNIS

Liset Brito was named the Sun Belt Conference Women's Tennis Athlete of the Week for the week ending on March 14.

The junior, who is ranked No. 84 in the latest ITA polls, has a 5-2 singles record and a 4-3 doubles record over the past seven matches.

Compiled by Jonathan Ramos and Stephanie Gabriel.



CHRIS ADAMS/THE BEACON

Liset Brito, the 84th ranked singles player in the country, won the Sun Belt Conference Women's Tennis Athlete of the Week.

TENNIS: FIU 4, MISSISSIPPI STATE 3

Team looks to defend Sun Belt title following tough road trip

SPENCER MANLEY
Staff Writer

Following a challenging road trip, the Panthers have won five of their last six matches, most recently defeating Mississippi State 4-3 on March 20.

"I told my girls in January that this is when I wanted them playing their best tennis," said coach Melissa Applebaum after the victory.

Just a week prior, March 13, FIU took down No. 24 Yale 4-3, beating their first nationally ranked team since Jan. 29 against Southern Methodist University.

"A win is a win," said Coach Applebaum. "I think people forgot that we were ranked No. 27 earlier in the season."

FIU's own nationally ranked, No. 84 Liset Brito obliterated her opponent in singles compe-

tion 6-0, 6-0 against Mississippi state.

She and her partner, Priscilla Castillo successfully routed their challengers 8-1 in doubles competition. Castillo beat her opponent 6-1, 2-6, 6-1, making this her first singles victory in three matches.

Brito and Castillo are 10-4 and 10-5 respectively this season.

"We're just looking forward to the Conference Championship because we have to defend our title from last year," Castillo said.

With only three games left in the regular season, the Panthers are looking to close out strong and head into the Sun Belt Conference Championship, commencing on April 23.

The Panthers may potentially face No. 13 University of Miami, who defeated the

Panthers on March 10, 7-0.

"It's not about confidence," said Coach Applebaum of the Hurricanes. "Without the name, they are just another tennis team and we must treat our matches as such. If we focus more on our strengths and emphasize them during the match then we can defeat anyone."

Without the name, they [University of Miami] are just another tennis team, and we must treat our matches as such.

Melissa Applebaum, Head Coach
Tennis

Berkowitz earns first saves of season

BASEBALL, page 7

After Jabari Henry got things going for FIU with a single to left field, Jeremy Patton hit a high fly ball that floated over the left field wall for a two-run homerun to put the Golden Panthers on the board in the first inning.

"You want to start good and you want to end good," Patton said. "We started good tonight and we need to carry that into tomorrow."

But the Trojans struck right back when T.J. Rivera stroked a hanging breaking ball from Scott Rembisz with two outs to tie the game at 2-2.

Garrett Wittels gave the Golden Panthers the lead in the third inning with an RBI single over third baseman Chase Whitley to drive in the go-ahead run.

It was a pitching duel from there on out as Rembisz and Trojan ace Andrew Dickinson were going back and forth until the seventh

inning, when Dickinson ran into trouble and was pulled from the game.

With two outs and the bases loaded, a passed ball allowed Jabari Henry to score from third base to add an insurance run for FIU.

Rembisz turned in a strong performance for the Golden Panthers, striking out 10 Trojan batters while walking only three in 6 1/3 innings on the mound to earn his third victory of the year, improving his record to 3-2.

"He threw a good ball game," Thomas said. "That's Scott Rembisz right there."

Eric Berkowitz came in to relieve the senior right-hander and ran into trouble in the eighth, putting the tying run on second base with one out.

Berkowitz got out the jam, however, striking out two straight batters to end the inning and then shut the door in the ninth to earn his first save of the season.

BASEBALL: FIU 4, TROY 2; FIU 7, TROY 6

GRAND OPENING

Timely hits key in conference opener

JOEL DELGADO
Asst. Sports director

The Golden Panthers (13-6, 2-0 SBC) picked up close victories against conference rival Troy (7-10, 1-4 SBC) to open up conference play, including a comeback victory on Saturday.

FIU 7, TROY 6

It was a race to the finish as the Golden Panthers and the Trojans exchanged the lead numerous times throughout the middle game of their three-game series on March 20.

FIU managed to come out on top with a late-inning spurt to keep the Golden Panthers undefeated in conference play going into the series finale on March 21.

Corey Polizzano started on the mound for FIU and Troy countered with starter Tyler Ray and both were locked in a metaphorical staring match, cruising through their first three innings on the mound.

Polizzano blinked first in the fourth, giving up three runs after loading the bases with nobody out.

“He threw very well,” FIU head coach Turtle Thomas said. “He always seems to have that one inning that gets him. And if he can limit the number of runs he gives up in that one inning, he would be better served by that.”

The Panthers would answer in the bottom half of the inning, when Rudy Flores hit a sacrifice fly deep to center field to drive in Mike Martinez from third base to cut into the deficit.

Raiko Alfonso, coming in to pinch hit for FIU, tripled deep into left-center field in the sixth inning to drive in the tying runs and the Panthers would take a 5-3 lead after tagging on two more runs shortly thereafter.

The lead was short lived as Chad Watson slapped the first pitch of the seventh inning from Polizzano over the right field wall and the Trojans rallied to tie the game but nothing more as the senior lefthander managed to escape any further damage. Polizzano earned a no-decision in seven innings of work with five strikeouts and giving up five runs, four of which were earned.

“I felt good, but I just made some dumb mistakes,”



CHRIS ADAMS/THE BEACON

FIU pitcher Scott Rembisz takes the mound in a win against Troy on March 19. Rembisz had 10 strikeouts in the victory.

Polizzano said of his performance.

Troy took the lead with another home run in the eighth but could not hang on as the Panthers took the lead on sacrifice flies from Mike Martinez and Garrett Wittels.

Eric Berkowitz set the Trojans down in order to

secure his second save of the season and the Panthers' fourth consecutive victory.

FIU 4, TROY 2

Both teams meeting at FIU Baseball Stadium were known for their potent offenses and for putting up runs on the scoreboard.

But no one would have guessed after what became a chess match between the pitching staffs for FIU and Troy.

The Golden Panthers were able to come out of it with a 4-2 victory over the visiting Troy Trojans in their first Sun Belt Conference matchup of the season on

March 19.

“Troy is an extremely well-coached team,” Coach Turtle Thomas said. “Every game we have against them seems like it’s a one or two run tight ball game every single time. We’re two very equal clubs, it seems to me.”

BASEBALL, page 7

SOFTBALL: FIU 3, TROY 8; FIU 10, TROY 2

Barrett struggles as team splits road double header

STEPHANIE GABRIEL
Asst. Sports Director

Over spring break, it wasn't all fun and sun for the FIU softball team.

Instead, the Golden Panthers set out on the road to face some of their toughest opponents of the season, including No. 19 ranked Florida State, No. 5 Alabama, and conference rival Troy.

In the end, FIU endured four straight losses before capturing their 19th win of the season against Troy.

TROY 8, FIU 3

As the Golden Panthers continued their road trip and returned to Sun Belt Conference play against Troy, they were pumped.

After coming so close

to beating the No. 5 team in the nation, they thought that maybe facing one of the best pitchers in the conference, Ashlyn Williams, wouldn't be a problem.

They were wrong. “After the loss to Alabama we were all really pumped up,” said freshman Brie Rojas. “We thought we were ready for Troy.”

The Golden Panthers were scoreless until the top of the sixth inning when Rojas knocked out a three-run shot – her fifth homerun of the year.

Meanwhile, the Trojans turned three FIU errors and a five run fourth inning into an 8-3 win over the blue and gold on March 20.

“I think that they were pretty excited about the way they played against Alabama

and came out confident but Troy's pitcher threw a great game,” FIU head coach Beth McClendon said.

For Williams, it was a typical day.

The Trojan hurler had nine strikeouts and gave up just two hits in seven innings of work.

Meanwhile, pitcher Kasey Barrett struggled in the circle on a day her team needed her most.

“She wasn't great today,” McClendon said. “I wish we could have done some more things offensively behind her but she would have had to be almost perfect for us to get past Troy's pitcher.”

FIU 10, TROY 2

The second game was completely different.

Led by an explosive offense and a solid performance from Jennifer Gniadek in the circle, the Golden Panthers bounced back to defeat Troy 10-2.

Jessy Alfonso led the offensive attack with a 3-for-4 effort at the plate and continues to pour in quality at bats in her freshman season.

Meanwhile, the defense showed improvement in game two as Gniadek gave up just two earned runs and recorded seven strikeouts in five innings.

“We bounced back pretty well and wanted to send a message that we're here to play this weekend.”

Not only was McClendon pleased with the way her team fought back in game two, she knows her team

SUN BELT SOFTBALL STANDINGS

| | OVERALL | CONF | PCT |
|---------------------|---------|------|------|
| FIU | 19-9 | 4-1 | .678 |
| WKU | 15-9 | 2-4 | .625 |
| Louisiana-Lafayette | 16-10 | 0-0 | .615 |
| Troy | 16-13 | 4-1 | .551 |
| North Texas | 10-9 | 4-1 | .526 |
| South Alabama | 11-11 | 0-0 | .500 |
| Florida Atlantic | 16-16 | 1-2 | .500 |
| ULM | 9-11 | 1-2 | .450 |
| Middle Tennessee | 8-10 | 0-3 | .444 |

*All records up to date as of Mar. 19

is tired and is pleased with the way they performed on such a long trip.

“I thought this whole week was a good experience for us,” she said. “It was our first test against some really good compe-

tion, the girls got to see a lot of good pitchers, and it's going to help us in the future.”

FIU wrapped up the series against Troy on March 21. Look for results on FIUSM.com.