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good Mexican food

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The Cherry Orchard
caps off the Theatre year

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Elisa Carey earns Sun
Belt honors, leads team

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Vanessa Rajnish managed to settle down long enough to discuss her work for the SoBe Festival.

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The new FAFSA application has arrived and it's making lives a lot easier.

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As the debate on Don't Ask, Don't Tell continues, one writer recounts experiences during basic training and questions the morals of these practices.

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Letter to the Editor: FIU's partnership with Pepsi brings out over-commercializing practices within the university.

LIFE! PAGE 5



Miami International Film Festival — South Florida's biggest film event enters its 27th year with international successes and local premieres.

SPORTS PAGE 8

Panthers look to redeem themselves in the Sun Belt tournament and surprise conference opponents.

SPORTS PAGE 8

FIU baseball takes its perfect record out west, putting their early season success to the test.

UPCOMING EVENTS

New Moon, March 5, 5 and 8 p.m.
Presented by SPC-MMC, free for students.
Movie plays in GC 140.

Relay for Life, March 5, 6 p.m. Help raise funds toward cancer research in this all-night long fundraiser. Relay will be held in the Ryder Business Building Complex.

Miami International Film Festival, March 5-7, All day. www.miamifilm-festival.com

FIU Tennis, March 6, 11 a.m. The Golden Panthers take on MTSU.

— More events can be found in our Monday and Friday issues of Life!.

WEATHER

	FRIDAY Sunny LOW: 45 HIGH: 70
	SATURDAY Partly Cloudy LOW: 50 HIGH: 71
	SUNDAY Partly Cloudy LOW: 53 HIGH: 73

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RELAY FOR LIFE 2010

RELAY RETURNS



BEACON FILE PHOTO

Community unites in fight against cancer

HECTOR MOJENA
Staff Writer

In the fight against cancer, no event has seemingly proven more effective than the American Cancer Society's Relay for Life. Started in 1985 by Dr. Gordy Klatt, this event has become not only a means to raise funds to support cancer awareness, but also a venue in which cancer survivorship can be celebrated.

Relay for Life will take place March 5 and 6 and run an estimated 15 hours.

Speaking to this year's marketing director, Angela Baker, provided a personal

story endemic to all who are involved in the relay.

"Both my grandparents [had cancer]; it affects everyone. It hits that soft spot and you say, maybe I can go without that latte today [and donate]," she said.

Every year, the event attracts more and more followers and this year appears to be no different.

"Last year our goal was \$80,000. We made \$82,000," she explained. "This year we want to make \$90,000. We plan to make \$20,000 the night of with all the fundraisers that all the teams have," Baker said.

Every year since 1985, the marathon has expanded, with many teams competing each year to raise as much money as possible for the cause.

The essential component of teams forming to run a marathon has broadened into a much larger set of festivities.

Each year, the Luminaria Ceremony honors those who have been affected by cancer and those brothers and sisters who have succumbed to it.

This year, professor Jeffrey Knapp, a long-time FIU faculty member whose own efforts bolstered support for

RELAY, page 5

Campaign markets FIU on global level

MELISSA CACERES
Staff Writer

If there are any doubts as to what exactly FIU is, President Mark Rosenberg and the External Relations Division are now working to provide a clear definition.

The University-wide branding campaign called Worlds Ahead was officially launched on the morning of March 2, at the Graham Center Ballrooms with faculty, administration and students present filling up every seat. Viewers who were not able to attend were given the chance to watch the presentation via Web cast.

"How many professors here have traveled to a conference and gotten the blank stare of unfamiliarity when you say FIU? How many of our professional staff have had to say it twice? Don't you think we are way too big and far too good for that question, [FIU who?]" Rosenberg said.

"Today we are launching a campaign that we want to put that question to rest. We're here today because FIU is worlds ahead and it's time that everyone knows it."

Worlds Ahead, which was prepared and researched during the course of 2009, aims to expose FIU as an institution to the community through marketing initiatives, which currently include a promotional commercial showing University students and alumni in action.

According to the research conducted by Stamats, one of the nation's top education marketing firms, only 30 percent of those surveyed rated the University as

FIU, page 2

FBLA prepares for national competition

NICOLAS SARAVIA
Contributing Writer

The FIU Chapter of Future Business Leaders of America, Phi Beta Lambda division, will be sending 35 of its members to the 60th annual Florida Phi Beta Lambda State Leadership Conference, to be held in Tampa between March 18 and 21.

The students will be competing to represent the state of Florida at the National Leadership Conference in Nashville, Tenn. from July 9 to 12.

FBLA at FIU is looking to promote competitiveness, as well as creating opportunities to network with business students and leaders from around the country. This organization has created partnerships with GEICO and the Pepsi Bottling Group, among other Fortune 500 companies.

"The essence of FBLA starts with the competitive edge that we thought FIU was lacking," said Bruno Cevallos, FBLA's official reporter.

FBLA, page 2

Haiti recovery to be discussed at teach-in

GABRIEL ARRARÁS
Asst. News Director

FIU will host its second ever teach-in as part of the University's long-term commitment to Haiti's recovery.

The School of International and Public Affairs, as well as the Latin American and Caribbean Center, are hosting the teach-in

which will be Haiti themed. According to an e-mail sent to the University community by external relations, the discussion will include the country's economic, political and social reconstruction, as well as the cultural preservation and public health issues it faces.

The teach-in will take place on March

6, from 1 to 4 p.m., in the Rafael Diaz-Balart Hall Auditorium at Modesto Maidique Campus. It will consist of two panels, each followed by a question and answer session. According to the e-mail, the first panel will feature Robert Maguire, associate professor of

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NEWS FLASH

TECH

Apple claims 'infringement violations' on HTC

Apple has filed a lawsuit against cell phone manufacturer HTC for infringing patents related to the popular iPhone device.

In the lawsuit, filed on March 2, claims that HTC violates 20 iPhone patents in the manufacturing and operating systems aspects of some of its popular devices, including the HD2 and the Hero, according to *Engadget.com*.

Google partnered with HTC to manufacture devices that run its Android OS.

"We are not a party to this lawsuit. However, we stand behind our Android operating system and the partners who have helped us to develop it," Google said in a written statement.

WORLD

Wave takes lives and damages cruise ship

Two people aboard a cruise ship were killed after a 26-foot wave hit off the coast of France.

According to CNN, 14 people were also injured as a result of the wave that hit the Greek Louise Cruise ship. The wave also caused damage to five windows on the ship.

Shortly after the incident, the ship and its 1,350 passengers returned to its home port of Barcelona, Spain.

– Compiled by Jorge Valens

Initiative to begin campus-wide

FIU, page 1

"very good" or better.

Among those who gave the University positive marks were major donors, parents of undergraduate students and prospective undergraduate students. The study also found that of the words and phrases used to describe FIU, six were recurrent in their responses: Entrepreneurial, International/Global, Accessible, Community Focused, Vibrant and Ideally Located.

During the hour-long presentation, Rosenberg gave the audience an introduction to the campaign and the reasons that FIU is in need of a campus-wide initiative to showcase the University as well as claim a place on the South Florida map.

"Very clearly, our community stated that they're not hearing about our accomplishments or what sets us apart as

a university and, as a result, we have an image problem," he said.

Sharing the stage with the University president were guest speakers Troy Elder, an associate clinical professor at the College of Law, and Student Affairs Academic Advisor Bianny Fernandez. They elaborated on how the idea of being "worlds ahead" has extended to both of their respective departments.

Fernandez told the story of one student she advised who developed from being an undecided major to a community service leader traveling to the Dominican Republic to provide aid to children, while Elder elaborated on the accomplishments of the law school students in being able to represent human rights victims through the Carlos A. Costa Immigration and Human Rights clinic.

Derek Capo, an alumnus

from the FIU College of Business, who is currently working in Beijing, China, was present via satellite and spoke to the audience about how his experience at FIU influenced him to take his goals to an international level.

"FIU gave me that foundation of knowledge and confidence," Capo said through the video feed. "I look at Worlds Ahead as being an excellent definition of the graduates who are having huge impacts in this world."

It is through individual stories, like Capo's, that Rosenberg listed to the audience the numerous FIU faculty, students and alumni who have been successful because of their years at the University; from alum Tanta Lawrence who is an Olympic gold medalist in track and field to Garth Graham, who is one of the highest ranking officials in the Obama administration.

"Outside of Miami, there is confusion about who we are. We intend to clarify and cement our public image so everyone knows FIU is worlds ahead," said Vice President of External Relations Sandra Gonzalez-Levy, in the issue of FIU Magazine centered on the campaign that was handed out after the presentation.

"The campaign will be local, national and international in its reach. We're going to do a better job of telling the FIU story consistently and constantly."

The Web site for the campaign, *worldsahead.fiu.edu* will launch on May 1, 2010, but is currently compiling student stories about their University experiences to use for the site.

"Worlds Ahead [asks] you something," Rosenberg said, during his speech. "It asks you to have a little FIU swagger."

Financing aided with fundraising

FBLA, page 1

Last January, FBLA hosted the University's first Business Olympics, in which students competed in 35 categories of exams and performances to acquire business skills that ranged from word processing to business law.

Business organizations, such as the International Business Honor Society and the Finance Management Association, were represented at FIU's Business Olympics.

FBLA also organized a "Tribute to Children Week," which consisted of a series of fundraising events for the improvement

of the lives of children. The organization managed to collect a total of \$1,300 for the Children's Miracle Network at Miami Children's Hospital. The events included the distribution of get-well soon cards to elementary school children in hospitals, as well as a Children's Miracle Gala.

This association is linked to a national entity, with a total of a quarter million students interested in business-related fields. Business leaders, advisers and counsels guide the local chapters.

FBLA received 10 new memberships this year and currently has 53 active members in its FIU chapter.

FBLA-PBL at FIU is aided financially

by the Council of Student Organizations, under which it was on the top three organizations to receive the most points toward funding for last Fall semester.

The organization has a \$30 fee, which goes to finance its local and national fees. FBLA has a partnership agreement with the American Airlines Arena, for its members to fundraise to cover their expenses by working at games.

FBLA also frequently organizes fundraisers such as car washes, bake sales and raffles.

Additional information for FBLA, FIU Chapter, can be found at <http://fiufbla-pbl.com>.

Lectures to present steps for country

HAITI, page 1

international affairs at Trinity University in Washington,

D.C.

Maguire's presentation, "Rebalancing Haiti in the Earthquake's Aftermath," will

discuss how Haiti became a country out-of-balance, while also presenting ideas and options for Haiti to regain and

enhance its social, economic, environmental, political and demographic equilibrium.

Brooke Wooldridge, FIU's project coordinator of Digital Library of the Caribbean, will host the second panel. According to external relations, the second panel will present an update on FIU's initiatives to assist Haiti with the preservation of its archives and valuable historical collections.

Known as the "Protecting Haitian Patrimony Initiative," international contributors will come together to support Haitian libraries and archives as they begin the process of rebuilding.

The second panel will also be addressed by Pilar Martin, clinical assistant professor for FIU's Herbert Wertheim College of Medicine, who will discuss the current health situation in Haiti as well as prospects for the future.

The event is free and open to the public but an RSVP is requested. For more information, contact the School of International and Public Affairs at 305-348-7266.

THE BEACON



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WEEKENDS WITH PARADISE

Mexican eatery erases previous bad episodes

This week, my friend Kish and I met for one of those, “Oh my goodness, I haven’t seen you in a while” dinners.

You know – the ones you go on when you can’t recognize your friend’s Facebook picture anymore.

Before we went out, he asked me, “Have you ever had good Mexican?”

You’re kidding, right? I mean, sure, I’ve taken trips to a Taco Bell or two that did not result in a near hospital visit, but I’ll be honest: I don’t have the affinity for Mexican food that I do for Greek. Honestly, I’ve never been to any Mexican place that didn’t leave me regretting my choice the next day.

But, catching up with a buddy is more important than nausea.

I went along for some “real” Mexican at this place by Biscayne Bay Campus called Cheen Huaye Southern Mexican Restaurant, 15400 Biscayne Blvd., North Miami Beach.

Before I say anything else about this place, I would first like to make a public apology to all of the Mexican

restaurants I have gone to in the past and left thinking, “Wow, I am never having Mexican again.”

I now see that I shouldn’t have dismissed Mexican food just because your restaurant doesn’t know how to do it as well as Cheen Huaye.

Kish had the *poc-chuc de pollo*, a grilled fillet of chicken breast marinated in sour orange and smashed garlic, topped with *chilto-mate*, *escabeche* red onions, and fresh cilantro. It’s served with vegetarian fried beans, Mexican rice and garnished with salad for \$12.95.

I don’t eat meat, but this dish almost made me take a bite of the chicken. Still, I didn’t give in – mainly because I had my own dish to worry about.

I had the *Tostada Vegetariana*, crispy corn tortillas, topped with vegetarian re-fried beans, lettuce, *pico de gallo*, table cream and Mexican cheese and guacamole for \$9.95.

Every bite of my dish made me smile. What made it better was that it came with fresh-made chips and salsa

COLUMNIST



PARADISE AFSHAR

STRESS RELIEF



RODRIGO ZAMITH/THE BEACON

Bernique Hanna, a health science alumna, receives a free massage at the 2010 Wellness Expo, sponsored by the University’s Wellness Center, in Panther Square on March 2. The exposition offered students free health screenings, information, and giveaways in order to promote well-being.

that was more than a cup with tomato and cilantro.

This place is super cozy, the people are so sweet that it feels like walking into a friend’s house. The owner welcomed us right in, and offered a drink on the house when there were

no seats. Kish and I ended up talking for two hours without getting the check thrown at us. There is nothing worse than sitting down in a restaurant and thinking, “When can I leave and how did I get here?”

Homemade food. Good conversa-

tion. Awesome weekend.

Catch “Weekends with Paradise” every other Friday. Our writers pay for all food and experiences and are not compensated in exchange for positive reviews.

Traveling student finds home in Miami, discusses festival experience

MELODY REGALADO Staff Writer

After years of travel, Vanessa Rajnish has found a place she calls home.

Rajnish, a sophomore and hospitality management major, led the Student Associate Team, which oversees more than 1,000 students, for the South Beach Wine and Food Festival.

The annual event is presented by the Food Network and has raised over \$8 million for the School of Hospitality and Tourism Management, which plays a pivotal role in the festival each year.

The Student Associate Team was in charge of assigning student volunteers their positions, signing them in at events, giving them their credentials, making sure they were where they were supposed to be and signing them back out of the events.

This team of 10 students held several meetings and orientations before the festival to ensure students understood what they were doing. Rajnish mainly worked at the Whole Foods Market Grand Tasting Village tent, where she says everything went smoothly.

“The sponsors were

happy, the guests were happy, and the students were happy,” Rajnish said.

Rajnish was also a part of the festival last year, where she worked at the Loews Hotel’s media suite and also at the festival’s Fun and Fit as a Family Zone, an area in the festival dedicated to kid-friendly options for healthy meals.

Born in Italy, Rajnish, a lover of travel, moved to the United States at the age of five and moved between Georgia and Saudi Arabia until she settled in Miami to attend FIU in Fall 2008. She also spends her summers in Switzerland.

“I never thought I’d be in Miami of all places,” said Rajnish. “I feel I’m exactly

where I’m supposed to be in my life right now.”

Eventually, she aspires to run an environmentally-friendly luxury hotel in Switzerland or Colombia.

“This field allows me to communicate with others and make other people happy,” she said. “That’s what I love about hotels. Normally when you go

on vacation, people are happy.”

Aside from traveling and the responsibilities of the festival, she is also a full-time student who likes to play volleyball and watch movies. Still, after all the work put into this festival and hectic schedule, she will be going through withdrawal now that it’s over.

“I want people to know how great an experience this is,” Rajnish said. “No matter what position you play in this festival, everything is important. It’s a great opportunity for networking possibilities and meeting new people. I recommend this no matter what you’re studying.”

FIU | STUDENT GOVERNMENT ASSOCIATION

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TUESDAY / MARCH 9, 2010

BISCAYNE BAY CAMPUS
MARY ANNE WOLFE THEATER
DOORS OPEN AT 6:30 PM
LECTURE STARTS AT 7:00 PM

FREE FOR FIU STUDENTS, FACULTY & STAFF
\$5.00 FOR NON-FIU STUDENTS
\$15.00 FOR GENERAL PUBLIC



This soldier's view: end Don't Ask, Don't Tell

CHRISTOPHER DIAZ
Contributing Writer

I have never been able to understand the thought process behind "Don't Ask, Don't Tell" as a policy.

Of course, you could note the fact that it limits the amount of possible recruits for the military. Then there's the fact that it costs millions of dollars to uphold the policy.

Then there is the moral issue at hand: a federal entity openly supporting a manner of segregation, which brings back memories from basic training when I met a young man who had never met a minority, aside from those he'd seen on TV.

While I was in basic training, the Army told us that there is no such thing as being black, white, male or female. We were all soldiers; all they saw was green drab. We all had similar problems. We all had the same gripes and the same nonsense to deal with.

While there, I met a young man who could only be called "incredibly effeminate" though not homosexual. One night, while out in the field, he was held down

and beaten with socks filled with rocks. They were careful not to hit his face. They held him down and brutalized him without relent.

The young man eventually brought this to the attention of the drill sergeants. He walked into their office with a few other soldiers, including those who helped beat him. He came out visibly upset, being told that he was making this all up and trying to cause problems.

I remember the tears he was fighting back. The look on his face was both of confusion and hurt, showing a sense of betrayal. But many thought he deserved it. He was guilty of angrily talking back to those who harassed him.

There was a time when blacks were not allowed to serve in the military. Then with time they were allowed to fulfill certain roles, but on a limited and segregated basis.

Fast forward to today and they make up a large percentage of our troops and do an outstanding job.

Of course, there are bigots and homophobes out there. But I would like to think

that in a country where service in the military is voluntary, where people risk their lives and sacrifice much to uphold the Constitution and keep us safe, that they would be judged on the merits of their ability.

Now is it hypocritical to say that denying someone belonging to a racial or ethnic minority to serve in our military based on prejudice, and then say that gays cannot openly serve in the military? Would it be right or reasonable to ask those who are minorities to mask or hide their ethnicity or race?

I have heard time and again about unit cohesion and troop morale. Quite frankly, there *would* be some problems if homosexuals would be allowed to openly serve. There would especially be conflict with those whose norms and upbringings are radically opposed to homosexuality. But we have been here before when we talked about allowing blacks or women to serve in the military.

The military is only as good as the men and women in it. If we deny perfectly skilled and qualified men and women

to serve, then not only do we weaken or lessen our national defense, we are guilty of an unconstitutional hypocrisy.

In my time as a soldier, the subject of the draft has come up quite a few times. The overall consensus among soldiers was that there was no way any of us wanted to be "boots on ground" with a draftee. There is no way we wanted to be in a FOB (forward operating base), or heading down in a convoy with someone without a clue of what the heck they were doing.

When your life is on the line, it doesn't matter what a person's gender, race, ethnicity, or sexuality is. You want someone who won't get you or your buddy killed.

We can pretend that homosexuality doesn't exist. But in times like these when we are waging two wars and trying to instill democracies in other parts of the globe, then we should ensure that we have the best and brightest troops, and that our democracy is one to be proud of.

If we are to be that "shining beacon on a hill," let's prove it with actions and not rhetoric.

Streamlined FAFSA application a welcome change

DEAN WILLIAMS
Staff Writer

Something particular caught my eye while completing my taxes online. At some point during the process, the site asked me if I or anyone in my household would be attending college next academic school year.

Along with my 1040, I was able to print a single form that provided me with line by line information to complete my FAFSA, the Free Application for Federal Student Aid.

I then logged into my account at *fafsa.ed.gov*, where the single sheet made the process much more efficient. While completing the FAFSA, I noticed that I was allowed to skip many questions that did not relate to my financial situation, based on my responses to a few simple questions.

Instead of re-entering information that remained the same from last year such as address, e-mail, etc., FAFSA simply provided me with the opportunity to revise information as necessary. Instead of waiting weeks, instant estimates of Pell Grant and student loan eligibility are provided after completing the online form.

These changes bring a once-bloated process into an easily managed application, great for students whose time is precious.

These changes are in response to a September 2009 joint study conducted by the National Economic Council and the Council of Economic Advisors titled, "Simplifying Student Aid: the case for an easier, faster and more accurate FAFSA."

The study concluded that the FAFSA, before revisions, was six pages long, required responses to over 150 questions,

and could easily take over an hour to complete. The study asserted that approximately 1 million students who would have been otherwise eligible for aid failed to complete the application because of the tedious process. Student aid programs, in effect, were failing to ensure that qualified students receive financial assistance in pursuit of a higher education.

Questions relating to one's assets on the FAFSA are not furnished by the IRS, making access to such information tedious at best. Completing the FAFSA requires one to reveal information pertaining to college savings accounts, which encourages states and institutions to include such savings in their calculation of a student's estimated need, which creates a negative perception about college savings funds, leading many to misreport or shift assets into untaxed categories.

Legislation has been introduced to reform the process, so that an applicant would be asked if they own more than \$250,000 in savings and investments to determine whether it would be necessary for the student or parent to answer questions as it pertains to investments.

The study shed light on the verification system, noting that it is in need of reform, too. Students and institutions spend an estimated \$432 million annually because of the verification process. Not only do institutions fail to match the information that students provide during the verification process, but only one-third of all students are required to undergo verification, meaning that the process fails in pinpointing the misrepresentation of financial information for two-thirds of all students. Together, these factors, the study maintains, contributed to

\$600 million in Pell Grant overpayments in 2001 and 2002.

While there are still shortcomings with FAFSA, the Obama administration finally managed to effect change. Thankfully enough, these changes assist more students in obtaining financial aid through a hassle-free process. Further legislation will streamline the verification process to capture funds that can put back into the

system, as well as address the issue of the reporting of investments so that the process is fair and balanced toward middle-class Americans.

This is an instance where Obama set a high standard, and fortunately enough, was able to meet it. In the end, we all benefit from the current changes, and will benefit from future reforms to the FAFSA and student aid programs.



Pepsi ads taking over campus

I find the new Pepsi signs around campus repulsive.

The switch between Coke to Pepsi as beverage vendors on campus in itself does not bother me. My problem is with the signs that hang between the Gold and Blue Garages, and other areas around campus.

They are good words: "knowledge", "community", "prosperity". Words to live by. If they did not have corporate symbols and maybe inserted FIU-based symbols instead (or even better, no symbols at all), it would be more acceptable for me.

You see, the Pepsi insignia substituted the "O" in "knowledge." It seems that the deal with Pepsi included not just new drinks, but propaganda, to which my interpretation perceives as

"Drink Pepsi" or "Drink Pepsi at FIU," not "pursue knowledge" or "be better citizens."

I see no other interpretation from these signs. FIU needs an identity and the community has done an excellent job of establishing one over the recent years.

I don't believe that we need to incorporate non-FIU symbols on posts, bus stops, or other areas. I understand and accept that corporate sponsorship is practiced practically everywhere, but the deal with Pepsi included a not-so-glorious addition to the University, which is still a learning institution, not a forum for corporate interests.

- Orlando Leone, junior electrical engineering major

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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.

WINNER/LOSER



Captain "Sully" Sullenberger, pilot of the "Miracle on the Hudson," is retiring. Sullenberger, who has been flying for 30 years flew his last flight on Wednesday. Last year, Sullenberger landed Flight 1549 perfectly in the Hudson after the engines failed.



An air traffic controller at JFK Airport, the most frequented airport in the US, was suspended on Wednesday after allowing his son and daughter to communicate with pilots in mid flight. One of the pilots commented, "I wish I could bring my child to work."

QUOTATIONATION

"We remain committed to this effort and we'll use every option available to deliver meaningful reform this year."

Sen. Harry Reid (Nevada)
on health care reform



CHERRY ORCHARD



Final production explores meaning of home

ADRIANA RODRIGUEZ
Staff Writer

The FIU Theatre has chosen a story that anyone can relate to in *The Cherry Orchard*, the final production of the season.

The play deals with a Russian family who is losing their home, as well as their beloved cherry orchard, and the grief that comes from having something emotionally valuable being ripped from the family's life.

In light of the recent housing crisis and the period of recession that the country faces at the moment, *Cherry Orchard's* tale about the personal value of a place strikes a resonant and personal chord with many Americans.

"The play deals with the incalculable value of place and space with regards to personal history and memory," said Philip Church, professor at the School of Theatre and director of *The Cherry Orchard*.

The plot centers on Raneveskaya, owner of the cherry orchard. Due to bankruptcy and foreclosure,

Raneveskaya is forced to put the property up for auction, resulting in the loss of the orchard.

The play speaks about family and identity which ties it to FIU's last production, *A Lie of the Mind*. All members of the family and those closely associated with them are considered children of the cherry orchard — "people born of the memory of the orchard and what it has meant [to them]," Church explained.

"The subject of home, family and belonging is integral to every human being that has ever lived, and it is this power and this alone that drives the dramatic engine of Chekhov's most poignant, lyrical and haunting of plays. He was dying as he wrote it. He was aware of his own fading mortality as he wrote it; but then so was Russia itself as it moved from an oligarchy to socialism. The family splits. Tribes disperse. Identities become merged and a whole new social landscape appears, dotted with unanswered question marks. A time for youth to discover and build," Church said.

Though it was written 100

years ago, the story of the loss of one's home and identity are still pertinent.

"Fast forward to the tragedy in Haiti with hundreds of thousands left homeless and it is not difficult to see the parallels between the value and meaning of a home. Look under the overpasses of downtown Miami and one is instantly reminded of what 'home' really means," Church said. "Place fashions our very identity."

The period piece was a way to offer both the students of the theater school and audiences "a heavily classical production."

The costume design process presented a new challenge for designers and actors, dictated by the round setup of the stage with the audience being seated on all sides.

"You can't just go buy these clothes off the rack, so we have to build almost everything. Because the show is in the round, the audience is that much closer to everything, so there is much more attention to detail. For the actors, they have to learn to work with period

CHERRY, page 6



Lauretta Navarro-Watts (top) performs as Gaev and Doug Reilly (bottom) performs as Raneveskaya in *The Cherry Orchard*. The production runs through March 7 and March 11-14.

Professor remembered at this year's Relay

RELAY, page 1

for the event, passed away and the event has a special significance for all involved.

According to Baker, "he was one of our biggest fundraisers" and he will be sorely missed.

The Fight Back Ceremony is another big part of the proceedings.

It acts as a personal pledge to take up the fight against cancer by giving up something (like smoking) or developing some new, healthier habits.

"We have a volunteer chair, so if you want to get involved the night of you can go to her," Baker added. "Volunteers sign up for four-hour shifts and they get a T-shirt as well. They are assigned to committee members who need help

since there are only about 15 of us."

The breadth of activities doesn't necessarily end with these things.

In addition to the marathon and ceremonies, there are ways that one can donate for the cause.

The Relay for Life Web site, <http://www.relayforlife.org/relay/>, allows visitors to donate as much as they want and doesn't require participation in the event.

Ultimately, this year's Relay for Life looks to be a continuation of the beauty and goodwill that has so dominated these occasions. It's not too late to enter a team, after all.

For more information on volunteering, contact Janila Mirzatheri at jmirza218@yahoo.com.

FISTFULS OF TECH!

Company gives consumers choice

If I had \$1 for every cell phone manufacturer, I'd be a rich guy. However, if I had \$1 for every one of them who made a difference, I'd have maybe \$3.

HTC Corporation was founded in 1997 and began humbly as a company that designed hardware for cell phone companies to sell under their own brand, otherwise known in the biz as an "original design manufacturer."

So, they would design a phone that would be sold, for example, as the "T-Mobile MDAX3000c" or whatever ridiculously futuristic, Star Trek-sounding, pattern of numbers and letters they thought of.

Though an interesting (and lucrative) business model, I have always thought HTC made a hell of a phone, and branding their Windows Mobile devices as a T-Mobile or Sprint device is doing the potential of the company's brand a disservice.

Then, all of a sudden, things changed at HTC, and they started

kicking large amounts of ass.

HTC began churning out phones with both Windows Mobile and Android. The difference between then and now, however, was that HTC was branding their own phones but also innovating on the software as well.

The biggest accolade, I think, that this company has on its list of accomplishments is that it made Windows Mobile palatable.

HTC created the "Sense User Interface," a sort of mask over the Windows Mobile OS that hid its flaws and errors and adapted it for touch interface way before Microsoft ever thought of doing it.

Microsoft's ill-fated operating system teetered on the brink of complete market failure until HTC came along and resurrected it from the dead.

The company later worked dropped Sense UI on Android, though, granted, Android is not nearly as horrible as Windows Mobile.

COLUMNIST



JORGE VALENS

In the past five years, HTC has given consumers something that they never dreamed of having in the mobile technology: choice.

Currently, the company has over 20 devices on the market, powered by both Android and Windows Mobile operating systems.

The company also boasts hardware partnerships with Microsoft and Google, with whom they partnered to build the Google-branded Nexus One device.

At the end of the day, HTC has gone from an "original design manufacturer" to one of the biggest influences in the mobile industry — and that has made it a prime target for Apple.

On March 2, engadget.com broke that Apple filed a massive lawsuit against HTC citing that it has infringed 20 iPhone patents.

According to the filing, HTC has allegedly infringed such popular patents as "Time-Based, Non-Constant Translation Of User Inter-

FISTFULS, page 6

Dog makes its debut in play

CHERRY, page 5

garments, which they aren't used to, including corsets for women, and high stiff collars for men," said Caroline Spitzer, an assistant to faculty designer Marilyn Skow and a sophomore costume design major.

This production will also feature a special performer – stage dog, Regis.

Church held auditions for the dog role and invited students to bring their pooches for a chance to win their 15 minutes of fame.

The role demanded that the dog be "strange," as it will play the pet of an eccentric owner, Carlotta, played by Andrea Bovino, a junior majoring in performance theater. She says the dog is her "little companion who comes with me wherever I go."

The pup belongs to a friend who ran a theatre company, Magnetic Theatricals.

"It is important to note that the presence of a dog in the show will serve a far greater purpose than just entertainment ... besides the circus tricks and favors that it must constantly provide in the show, he is the sole source of comfort and consolation to the governess, whose voice is all but ignored by everyone within a 100 yard radius," Church said.

The play will run from March 4-7 and 11-14 at the Herbert and Nicole Wertheim Performing Arts Center in the Modesto Maidique Campus. Thursday, Friday and Saturday performances begin at 8 p.m., and Sunday matinees at 2 p.m. Tickets are \$12 for general admission, \$10 for students, alumni and seniors.

MIFF Hefner documentary to be screened at fest

STEVE MESA
Staff Writer

Avid film buffs or those seeking films different from the usual big-budget blockbusters can look forward to the 27th annual Miami International Film Festival, which begins tonight at the Gusman Center for the Performing Arts in downtown Miami.

Tonight's opening film is a 2009 Cannes Film Festival favorite, *Looking for Eric*, the latest movie from director Ken Loach (*The Wind That Shakes the Barley*). The film is about a post worker named Eric (Steve Evets), a soccer fanatic suffering from a mid-life crisis. As his life starts to take a downward turn, he begins to receive philosophical life coaching from his hero, Manchester United's legendary French soccer player Eric Cantona.

Two of this year's Oscar-nominated films will also be screened at the festival. *The Milk of Sorrow*, a Peruvian import, will be shown as part of the festival's yearly exchange linking experienced professionals with up-and-coming filmmakers. The film is about a woman who suffers from a rare disease that is transmitted from the breast milk of women who have suffered trauma from the ongoing war and terrorism.

The Secret of their Eyes is an Argentinean film about a retired prosecutor who revisits the unsolved murder of a young woman from Buenos Aires. This film will be screened at the Gusman Center on closing night, preceded by the festival's

award ceremony.

Aside from these Academy Award-nominees for Best Foreign Language film, MIFF will also showcase recent films from a selection of Oscar-nominated actors and filmmakers.

Oscar-winning writer and film director Michel Gondry (*Eternal Sunshine of the Spotless Mind*) will screen his documentary, *The Thorn in the Heart*, this being its United States debut. The documentary chronicles the life of Michel's aunt and family matriarch, Suzette Gondry, and her troubled relationship with her son, Jean-Yves.

Gondry's entry will compete with other documentaries, including a revealing portrait of the founder of Playboy, *Hugh Hefner: Playboy, Activist and Rebel*, and the story of Pablo Escobar as told by the infamous cartel

lord's son in *The Sins of my Father*.

Academy Award-nominated actor Andy Garcia (*Ocean's Thirteen*) leads an all-star cast, including Emmy-winner Julianne Margulies (*The Good Wife*) and Oscar-winner Alan Arkin (*Little Miss Sunshine*), in *City Island*. This is the story of a dysfunctional family where each member is hiding secrets from each other; including a New York corrections officer (Garcia) who secretly desires to become an actor and his daughter (Dominik Garcia-Loredo) who has become a stripper after being suspended from college.

Festival tickets are available to purchase online at miamifilmfestival.com, via telephone at (305) 405-6433 or in person at Regal South Beach Cinema 18, 1100 Lincoln Rd.



COURTESY OF MIFF

Top: Peruvian film, *Milk of Sorrow*, is about a women afflicted with a rare breast disease. Bottom: Brigitte Berman will screen a documentary about Playboy founder Hugh Hefner.

PEACE CORPS TEACHES
Your skills. Our jobs.

Peace Corps is now expanding its overseas assignments around the globe. The application process is competitive. Full health insurance, travel and training. Learn how you may qualify for the toughest job you will ever love. Visit with our FIU Campus Representative: (305) 348 1006.

FIU seniors encouraged to apply before March 15th deadline.

APPLY ONLINE
www.peacecorps.gov
Check website for local FIU events.

THIS WEEKEND

FRIDAY, MARCH 5

NEW MOON



Presented by SPC-MMC.
WHEN: 5 and 8 p.m.
HOW MUCH: Free
WHERE: GC 140

WOMEN WHO LEAD

The fourth annual conference will feature keynote Dawn Walzak.
WHEN: 8:45 a.m.-2 p.m.
HOW MUCH: Free for students, \$20 alumni, \$25 general
WHERE: Mary Anne Wolfe Theatre at BBC Register at women.fiu.edu

STAR PARTY

WHEN: 8 p.m.
HOW MUCH: Free
WHERE: CP 145

THE CHERRY ORCHARD

Presented by FIU Theatre.
WHEN: 8 p.m.
HOW MUCH: \$10 students
WHERE: Wertheim Performing Arts Center, Main Stage

RELAY FOR LIFE



Cancer fundraiser.
WHEN: 6 p.m. - 9 a.m.
HOW MUCH: Free
WHERE: Ryder Business Building Complex

LATIN AMERICAN-MIDDLE EASTERN RELATIONS LECTURE

Speaker: Dr. Maria Logrono.
WHEN: 3 - 4 p.m.
HOW MUCH: Free
WHERE: GC 314

SATURDAY, MARCH 6

THE CHERRY ORCHARD



Presented by FIU Theatre.
WHEN: 8 p.m.
HOW MUCH: \$10
WHERE: WPAC, Main Stage

MARCH FOR A MIRACLE



A walk benefitting the Christopher & Dana Reeve Foundation.
WHEN: 8 a.m.
HOW MUCH: \$10 students
WHERE: Crandon Park Key Biscayne, Fla. For more info: www.teamreeveallstars.kintera.org

FIU TENNIS

The Golden Panthers take on MTSU.
WHEN: 11 a.m. - 1 p.m.
HOW MUCH: Free
WHERE: FIU Tennis Courts

MIAMI INTERNATIONAL FILM FESTIVAL

Annual festival presented by Miami-Dade College.
WHEN: All day
HOW MUCH: \$7 students
For more info and venues, visit miamifilm-festival.com.

GRADUATE OPEN HOUSE

WHEN: 10 a.m. - 12 p.m.
HOW MUCH: Free
WHERE: College of Business Complex

SUNDAY, MARCH 7

OPERA GALA



Benefits go toward FIU's Music Excellence Scholarship Fund. Conducted by Adam Turner.
WHEN: 7:30 p.m.
HOW MUCH: \$50
WHERE: WPAC Concert Hall

MIAMI INTERNATIONAL FILM FESTIVAL

Annual festival presented by Miami-Dade College.
WHEN: All day
HOW MUCH: \$7 students
For more info and venues, visit miamifilm-festival.com.

THE CHERRY ORCHARD

Presented by FIU Theatre.
WHEN: 2 p.m.
HOW MUCH: \$10
WHERE: WPAC, Main Stage

FIU TENNIS

The Golden Panthers take on Louisiana-Lafayette
WHEN: 10 a.m. - 1 p.m.
HOW MUCH: Free
WHERE: FIU Tennis Courts

FAMILY FUNDAYS



Fun for the whole family.
WHEN: 12 - 4 p.m.
HOW MUCH: \$20, free for members
WHERE: Fairchild Tropical Botanic Garden

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

Apple turns on HTC

FISTFULS, page 5

face Objects Between States," and "Touch Screen Device, Method, And Graphical User Interface For Determining Commands By Applying Heuristics."

I'll let your brain rest for a second. This lawsuit has blind-sighted not only me, but tech experts worldwide. No one even suspected that Apple would file such an extensive patent lawsuit against HTC, when other phones like the Palm Pre infringe on the iPhone's patents much more blatantly.

Experts everywhere agree on one thing though – this lawsuit isn't about HTC, it is all about Android.

Pick up next Friday's issue of *The Beacon* for part two of this edition of *Fistfuls of Tech!: The War Between Google and Apple*.

SOFTBALL

Barrett, Rojas collect accolades as team starts strong

STEPHANIE GABRIEL
Asst. Sports Director

The FIU softball team has been cleaning up. Just after sweeping Western Kentucky in a three game series on Feb. 26-28, senior pitcher Kasey Barrett and freshman slugger Brie Rojas swept the Sun Belt Conference softball awards with Pitcher and Player of the Week honors.

For Barrett, the award is her second so far this season as she was also named Pitcher of the Week on Feb. 22.

Meanwhile, Rojas enjoys the first honors of her collegiate career after batting .667 across the three contests against the Hilltoppers.

"It feels great. I've been working hard so I think I deserve it," Rojas said. "The team is behind me and it is all flowing into place."

The first year player, who stands at about 5 feet, knocked out a pair of three-run homers

in game one against WKU and recorded six of FIU's seven RBI.

"It's about quality at-bats every time," she said. "I go to the plate feeling confident and I just think, 'I have to help my team out.'"

With just two losses as of March 3, the FIU bats have been flowing, but players and head coach Beth McClendon are aware that the pitching staff has also played a huge role in the team's early success.

"Our pitching staff is fantastic and they keep working hard," Rojas said. "The hitting is coming along just as well."

Barrett threw two complete games against WKU and notched a 0.58 ERA in 12 innings of work while also striking out 12 batters. She holds a record of 6-1 as of March 3 and leads the entire pitching staff with an ERA of 0.47.

"I really think that our offense and knowing that there's defense behind me to make all the

plays has helped me out a lot," Barrett said. "And then when I have run support that definitely allows me to relax."

McClendon agrees that although Barrett has been successful since her arrival to FIU, she continues to improve.

"I think she is doing a better job of approaching each game more focused on herself than the opponent," she said. "She's trying to go out and do the same thing every game no matter who we're facing."

The team continued play on March 4 against Eastern Michigan at FIU, with results available on *FIUSM.com*, and will travel to the University of South Florida on March 5-7 for the Under Armor Invitational which features games against Robert Morris, Fordham, Penn State, Boston University and Bradley.

"I don't think we've earned the right to be too cocky or big headed yet," McClendon said.

I don't think we've earned the right to be too cocky or big headed yet.

Beth McClendon
Head Coach

"We're out to win all six games so we definitely have our work cut out for us but I think we're ready."

Untimely injury, slumps hinder postseason hopes

MEN'S, page 8

"They're zone was weak," Gary said. "I saw holes all over their defense, they're predictable so I should be able to capitalize on their mistakes this game."

Three-point shooting has been a reoccurring issue for the Golden Panthers all season, and they shot an embarrassing 16 percent against Denver in the first game.

"We have to try to get them at our pace offensively and defensively," Gary said. "They don't turn the ball over; they hold the ball on

offense for 35 seconds straight."

MISSING LINKS

J.C. Otero is not the only Golden Panther FIU is going to miss when they take on Denver in the first round.

Guard Antoine Watson had a game-high 20 points in the first contest against the Pioneers, but was indefinitely suspended before the ULM game at the U.S. Century Bank Arena on Jan. 7 for violating a team procedure.

He has not played since then and won't be back for the tournament.

"Players like me, Marvin [Roberts], and Stephon [Weaver] all have to step it up offensively," Gary said. "Everybody has to contribute their maximum effort in order to be successful."

Roberts, FIU's leading scorer, has been on a shooting slump of late, producing most of his offense in the second half, along with poor shot attempts.

"We have to get him going early," Gary said. "We feed off of his energy, so if he doesn't come up early, it makes it tougher to get us going offensively."

FIU head coach Isiah Thomas could not be reached for comment after numerous attempts.

Gary states that Thomas is providing much wisdom to the team and feeding them confidence while sharing his past experiences with them.

"All we have to do is win four games and we're in the NCAA tournament," Gary said. "Coach told us in the NBA he had to face teams seven times, so it was much tougher, but here all we have to do is surprise teams one time for 40 minutes."

SPORTS REPLAY

Tennis returns after road trip to beat Boston College

TENNIS

After dropping two straight matches, the Golden Panthers (6-5) returned to Miami on March 3 to defeat Boston College 5-2.

The strong wind had little effect on the Golden Panthers as they were determined to shake off the stench of a rough road trip in which they dropped five of eight matches.

After falling in her singles match this past weekend, Christine Seredni picked up the intensity, defeating her competitor 6-3 and 6-1 to get to 8-3 on the season.

Before the win vs. Boston College, the Golden Panthers dropped to No. 49 nationally after being ranked as high as No. 27 earlier in the season.

They have seen many of their woes when facing nationally ranked teams, against whom FIU is only 1-4 this season.

FIU will play its next eight matches at home, starting with Middle Tennessee on March 6.

TRACK AND FIELD

The Golden Panthers had a rough day at the 2010 Sun Belt Indoor Track and Field championships on Feb. 27 and 28.

The team placed ninth out of nine teams in the men's competition with a total of 14 points and ninth out of 11 teams on the women's bracket, who accounted for 28 points.

Both squads finished well off against a Western Kentucky team that dominated both the men's and women's categories, as both walked away with the conference championship.

The majority of the points on the women's side were picked up by freshman T'keyah Dumoy, who scored 5 points in the women's 200-meter dash.

She would go on to finish fourth in the event.

Other notable womens' performances were freshman Benia Gregoire, who picked up three points in the weight throw as well as another point in the shot, bringing her total to four points. Junior Britany Smith also picked up four points in the women's shot with a fifth place finish.

On the men's side, points were much harder to come by, as proven by the mere 14 points that they accumulated as a team.

Junior Pedro Bigorra was responsible for the majority of those points, gaining eight points with his second place finish in the 800-meter run.

GOLF

The Golden Panthers finished second at the 2010 USA Lady Jaguar Invitational with a +55 (919) on March 1 and 2.

Unfortunately for FIU, Memphis rallied on Wednesday to finish first after the Golden Panthers held a lead going into the final day.

Christina Marin finished third overall individually with a +7 (223), just behind Memphis' Marissa Steen, who beat out Lauren Cate in a playoff to win.

The Golden Panthers will travel to Phoenix, Ariz. next on March 16 to take part in the University of Nebraska Invitational.

Compiled by Spencer Manley, Tom Dean, and Jonathan Ramos.



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WOMEN'S BASKETBALL

Carey leads FIU to No. 7 spot and earns SBC award

STEPHANIE GABRIEL
Asst. Sports Director

Elisa Carey was close to unstoppable this season.

Her efforts, which include a team-high 13.8 points per game, earned her a spot on the All-Sun Belt Conference Second Team and have also led the FIU women's basketball team to the No. 7 seed in this weekend's SBC tournament.

Carey hopes to lead her team again as FIU (14-15, 9-9) will face No. 10 North Texas (8-21, 5-13) on March 6 at 3:30 p.m. ET in Hot Springs, Ark.

FIU already defeated the Mean Green twice this season. Carey, however, stated that NT should not be taken lightly.

"We're going out there

sluggish and [NT is] fired up because we beat them twice," Carey said. "We definitely have to not take anybody lightly. You never know when they can explode and maybe they were just off those two games."

Head coach Cindy Russo agrees that the Mean Green should not be underestimated.

"[NT] is a very good team and both of those games were very hard [during the season]," Russo said. "They are a very aggressive and athletic team."

FIU did not look like a No. 7 team the entire season. They started out with a 3-7 record in conference play before going on a six game win streak and then ended the season with two straight losses to No. 2 Middle Tennessee and No. 3 Western Kentucky.

In recent practices, FIU has been focusing on some of the basics of the game in order to be successful in the post-season. According to sophomore Rakia Rodgers, the team has focused on handling pressure because teams love to use a full-court press against FIU, who averaged 20.1 turnovers this season.

"We've been working on pressing because we know that the teams we're going to play are probably going to try to put a lot of pressure on us," Rodgers said. "We've also been working on handling pressure, blocking out, and rebounding."

In the end it will all come down to defense.

"We've been focusing on defense more than anything. Defense wins games along with rebounding," she said.

2ND TEAM ALL SUN BELT ELISA CAREY



ELISA CAREY

Carey, a junior, netted career highs in points (13.8), rebounds (9.5), and free throw percentage (.748) in 2009-10. Carey scored a career best 26 points on two occasions this season.

MEN'S BASKETBALL

Tournament offers redemption

JOEY CRUZ
Staff Writer

Whith FIU forward J.C. Otero out for the postseason with a torn ACL in his right knee, the Golden Panthers head to Hot Springs, Ark. to take on Denver in the first round of the Sun Belt Conference tournament with a major challenge in the size department.

"He's averaged a double-double in the past 10 to 15 games," FIU point guard Phil Gary Jr. said. "I might even have to move to the two spot at my size (5-foot-11) and grab rebounds."

Playing without Otero (6-foot-7) will not be the only obstacle FIU has to overcome.

In the lone regular season matchup between the two on Dec. 17, Denver (17-12, 10-8 Sun Belt) had a great offensive night, especially from beyond the arc while shooting 50 percent from the three-point line. They opened the second half with two back-to-back threes to shift the momentum the Pioneer's way the rest of the game to hang on to the win, 59-53.

"They love shooting threes," Gary said. "We have got to switch defenses depending on the double staggers and screens they run; they killed our zone last time we played them."

Despite the outcome, FIU (7-24, 4-14 SBC) out-rebounded the Pioneers and shot a better percentage from the field as well.

Phil Gary Jr. was the high man in assists (5) and steals (3) in the first game.

This was before the injuries that



RODRIGO ZAMITH/BEACON FILE PHOTO

FIU head coach Isiah Thomas will return from a one game absence to lead the Golden Panthers into the Sun Belt Conference tournament on March 6.

have slowed down the Chicago native, including the reoccurring issue of tendinitis in his left knee.

After the loss against Middle

Tennessee on Feb. 25, Gary slightly sprained his left wrist, but fortunately for FIU, it's not his shooting hand.

MEN'S, page 7

BASEBALL

First road trip of season poses test

JOEL DELGADO
Asst. Sports Director

The Golden Panthers (6-0) put their perfect record to the test as they head west for a tournament in Surprise, Ariz. in their first road trip of the season.

BIG TEST

Playing four games in four days forced head coach Turtle Thomas to make some adjustments to the starting rotation, including having Daniel Desimone start the first game of the tournament on March 4 vs. Utah Valley.

Scott Rembisz will pitch vs. UC-Riverside with Corey Polizzano on the mound against Cal Poly. Aaron Arboleya will handle the most difficult game of the tournament against Arizona State (7-0), the No. 12 team in the nation according to the latest Baseball America Top 25 rankings.

"He's been good," Thomas said of Arboleya. "Hopefully he'll continue to improve. The big thing with Aaron is that he needed to develop a second and third pitch that are good, quality

college pitches. And he needed to keep the ball down in the strike zone better. And those are two things that he has done a better job of this year."

In addition to adding speed to his fastball, Arboleya has also developed his slider and changeup, pitches that have allowed him to have a 1.80 ERA and nine strikeouts in his two starts.

SWING AWAY

Thomas has also been pleased with the way his offense is performing so far this season. Garrett Wittels leads the team with a .538 batting average with seven RBIs, but Thomas has stressed that FIU's success at the plate is attributed to consistency throughout the batting order.

"You can't just have three or four guys at the top of the order and the guys at the bottom of the order can't hit," said Thomas. "We feel like we have 13 or 14 capable hitters."

The team as a whole has been efficient in its first six contests with a .360 overall average.