Library helps Haiti relocate local archives

ORLANDO AVELLANEDA    Contributing Writer

After a 7.0 magnitude earthquake ravaged the island nation of Haiti, the humanitarian efforts united around the world to help rebuild it. But the Digital Library Of the Caribbean sought to rebuild something else: their information. The dLOC, a coordinated effort of experts, through The Protecting Haitian Patrimony Initiative, are helping the Haitian community return to their regular lives. While others donate food, water, medicine and other immediate first aid needs, the dLOC, through the initiative, is focused on saving the four largest patrimonial collections, consisting of three of the biggest libraries and the national archives in Haiti.

The saving of these four collections is a very important step in the recovery and future of a country that has been a victim to several economic, political and natural disasters.

“We are helping Haiti protect their past while planning for their future,” said FIU Dean of Libraries Laura Probst.

BROOKE WOOLDRIDGE, Project Coordinator

Plans to renovate arena on the horizon

JONATHAN RAMOS    Sports Director

The University is in the early stages of a plan to expand the U.S. Century Bank Arena in 2011, which would include adding a video scoreboard and premium seating areas to the facility that hosts FIU athletics events and graduation ceremonies.

The project is also slated to include expansion of the East Wing with a new lobby, reception area and restrooms, among other things.

The forming of the U.S Century Bank Arena Expansion committee, which is the board planning the project, comes with the University’s recognition of the need for a quality convocation center, according to Senior Associate Athletic Director Julie Berg.

“We have a long list of items that need to be improved and we are looking to make long-term improvements that will not only serve athletics but also the other events that are held in the facility,” Berg said. “We are dealing with old arena limitations and no lower level concourse, which hinders the traffic flow. We have some things to consider when it comes to those limitations.”

Committee chair Jim Wusenaw said that Gould Evans Affiliates were the former voting system provider, Acceleration, caused problems for the University during last year’s SGA and Homecoming elections. Because of this the University decided to leave Acceleration and began working with Votenet.

However, as of March 22, it is still unclear if Votenet will be ready in time for the general elections taking place March 29 and 30. The contract wasn’t finalized until both parties, the University and Votenet, came to an agreement, and that wasn’t until March 19.

The contract was reviewed by SGA and the University’s Purchasing and Services Department. It went back and forth between both parties several times according to Jose Toscano, SGC at Modesto Maidique Campus Adviser. That process delayed the contract’s finalization.

An example was that Votenet said this would be a three-year contract, and Toscano said they didn’t want that.

“What if after Homecoming we don’t like the service and wanted to change it before the next elections?” Toscano said. “We wouldn’t have that option.”

The University will be able to use Votenet on election day.
Governor brings new members on Board

Governor Charlie Crist has appointed two new members to FIU’s Board of Trustees.

Sukrit Agrawal, chief executive officer of American Medical Depot, and Marcelo Claire, chairman and chief executive officer of Brightstar Corp, have been chosen by Crist to fill the positions left vacant by R. Kirk Landon and Patricia Frost whose terms expired on March 10.

“Our newest members will add new perspectives to an already dynamic and entrepreneurial board,” Board of Trustees Chairman Albert Dotton said Fuji Media Relations.

Director of School of Accounting appointed

Joyce Elam, executive dean of the College of Business Administration announced the appointment of Ruth Ann McEwen to the position of director of the School of Accounting. Elam announced the appointment on March 10.

According to an FIU press release, McEwen is currently the associate dean, dean of accreditation and administration, and professor of Accounting for the Sawyer Business School at Suffolk University in Boston.

Compiled by Gabriél Arrarás

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Corrections

In the issue dated March 24, 2010, in the article titled “Elections change passes, GSA awaits verdict,” SGC-MIDC Elections will be held on March 29 and 30, not May.

The Beacon will gladly change any errors. Call our UP office at 305-348-2709 or BBC at 305-919-4727.

Documents vital to function of country and its history

The DLOC is asking FIU students and the general public to assist in this effort through the donations of different materials such as, packing supplies, standard boxes and archival boxes, protective white cotton archival gloves and face masks to secure the collections from future damage.

On the DLOC Web site (www.DLOC.com) interested students can contribute to this cause in ways such as donating money, committing to organize a fundraiser, volunteering to donate or packing supplies requested by the libraries, or, when the time comes, traveling to help support the preservation of the materials.

“We are engaged in this effort to preserve Haiti’s history for its citizens and the world,” said Probst.

New voting procedure offers more options

They did research on different companies and decided on Votenet based on its cost and the services offered. Toscano said in his talks with Votenet both he and students No. 1 concern was security.

“The parameters we made sure they had on their end were no double voting or misusage of passwords,” Toscano said.

Each student is allowed to vote only once per election. Only two administrators are allowed to look at the polls while people are voting and Toscano stressed that the Elections board members on both campuses do not have access.

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Justice Dil ready to ‘take care of home’ if elected

MAUREEN NINO
Asst. News Director

Ready to be the students’ voice, Student Government Council at Biscayne Bay Campus Justice Tания Dil promises to take the role of vice president.

“I will be here to take care of home [BBC]. I will still be here to advocate for our school,” said Dil. “BBC has an individual feeling and I can cater to our students. I want to take it further.”

Dil, a student ambassador and public relations major, pushed back her graduation hoping to be elected and make change for students during the coming semester.

As an active student in the University, having a full work load as a graphic artist and office assistant in the Campus Life and Orientation office, vice president of the Muslim Student Association at FIU, public relations coordinator for the Indian Students’ Association and as a volunteer at Salah Tawfik Elementary School, Dil feels she can represent students and offer them what they need: experience.

“I can cater to our students and get them excited,” she said.

According to Dil, she was not always involved and understands why commuter students may lack interest.

“I was never in the school and complained all the time,” Dil said about her college years in the University. “But I am taking a stand and will not be that person anymore. I want to fix the problems. I do not want to be that side voice.”

Dil showed her determination to take action during her current role as justice at SGC-BBC and reached out to her constituents.

“As justice, I was very involved in all the events SGA had,” she said. “As vice president, Dil aspires to focus on several student issues, from new hand dryers in the bathrooms to proper campus representation.”

“We offer some great programs on this campus, but we never get shown or represented properly. What about us?” she said.

Dil hopes to shine some light on great campus accomplishments and students, being an active member of the School of Hospitality and Tourism Management Department.

“I can cater to our students and present them with things to do,” Dil said. “It’s another thing to practice your skills so we can represent students.”

For Life 2010 and her position in the Student Government Association, Denise Halpin also believes that her experience can represent students and their needs.

“I’m qualified because I have experience in hospitality students to promote the event and work toward reducing tuition prices and improve the University’s current Park and Transportation system,” she said.

As a transfer student from Miami-Dade College, Tercier has noticed a lack of quality of advising available to students coming from other colleges.

“Freshmen and sophomores have their own advising officers. Upperclassmen go to the advising office of their major, but transfer students have nowhere to go,” she said.

She wants to open an advising office specifically for transfer students.

“If anybody has a problem coming to campus, they need someone to go to,” Tercier said. “I will be a resource and say ‘Look, here’s who you need.’”

Tercier also has an issue with the bathrooms to proper campus representation.

“Any competition is good for students,” she said. “We did [not] get any results and we did not have any change in facilities.”

To solve the problem, Dil suggests a more detailed interview process and in-depth explanations of SGA members’ roles and responsibilities.

“I really need to know what you are bringing to SGA as an individual because you not only represent SGA but also in the school and students,” Dil said.

Halpin prepared for race despite heavy competition

JASMYN ELLIOTT
BBC Managing Editor

Despite having no previous association with the Student Government Association, Denise Halpin, a sophomore hospitality management major, entered her bid for vice president for the Student Government Council at Biscayne Bay Campus.

“I would like to get involved,” said Halpin. “I would like to take action for solution.”

She cited her experience as a pre-events coordinator for Relay for Life 2010 and her position as a delegate for the Delta Phi Epsilon sorority in the Panhel-Lenic Council as more than enough experience needed for the task.

“I’m qualified because I have held other leadership positions,” said Halpin. “I feel I know what students’ concerns are.”

Halpin also believes that her approachable nature will help her fulfill the role of SGC-BBC vice president.

“If a student wants to tell me what their problems are, I will be there,” she said. “I will also lobby that our issues are resolved.”

Halpin plans to improve the quality of student life at BBC, with the example of reducing the cost of the Golden Panther Express bus fare – a real obstacle for students, Halpin said.

“I spend around $200. It’s a lot of money.”

According to her calculations, a student that uses the GPE may spend $100 to $450 per semester depending on the frequency of use.

If elected, Halpin plans on either proposing an initiative to lower the cost for the GPE for students that maintain a certain GPA or improving the package deals since she feels the $6 discount for a three week pass is “not enough.” She would also like to extend dining hours at BBC.

“Some students take classes after 6 p.m. The cafeteria is closed by then,” she said.

Halpin wants to create an online newsletter with details regarding the goings-on of SGA, which would help SGA “go green” as well as be a convenient medium to inform the student body.

She also wishes to increase student involvement by hosting a showcase event that allows the students to experience working in the field.

“We would recruit advertising students to promote the event and we would hire hospitality students to provide food,” she said.

Halpin believes that a campus-wide event of this nature would be an invaluable experience for students that participate.

“It’s one thing to learn in class; it’s another thing to try to preserve your field in real life,” she said.

According to Halpin, she is not at all intimidated by her more experienced classmates or the importance of the position.

“Any competition is good for students,” she said. “We’re all going to have to get people to vote. Whoever gets elected really needs to step their game up and do a great job.”

Improve parking, student advising part of Tercier’s goals

KATHERINE PORRAS
Contributing Writer

SGA Intern Wendy Tercier is another individual vying for the SGC-BBC vice president position. If elected, Tercier, a junior majoring in English, plans to open an advising office for transfer students, work toward reducing tuition prices and improve the University’s current Park and Transportation system.

As a transfer student from Miami-Dade College, Tercier has noticed a lack of quality of advising available to students coming from other colleges.

“Freshmen and sophomores have their own advising officers. Upperclassmen go to the advising office of their major, but transfer students have nowhere to go,” she said.

She wants to open an advising office specifically for transfer students.

“I had a friend transfer from Kansas State University to FIU,” Tercier said. “She did not receive advisement from anyone and ended up not being able to transfer some of her credits. Had she received advisement, she could have avoided.”

Tercier also has an issue with FiU’s tuition increase. According to Tercier, some students are even forced to drop out because they can’t afford it. She also says SGA is currently working on figuring out how to decrease the financial burden on the students and she wants to continue those efforts.

Another issue Tercier noted is in regard to student transportation.

“I see the shuttles are unreliable and too expensive,” she said.

Tercier says she will push to make the shuttles and parking decals cheaper or maybe even free, since she believes students already pay a lot through tuition.

Additionally, Tercier would like to implement a new forgiveness policy for parking, stating that the first two parking infractions would be waived.

“Some students are new and do not understand what the parking policy is. They should be forgiven,” Tercier said.

Tercier served in SGA for about eight months as an intern. She participated in many leadership seminars and activities including the Academy of Leaders leadership retreat.

“If transferred from MDC and knew I wanted to get involved, so I joined SGA as an intern,” Tercier said. “I saw what there was, and saw different ways I could get involved.”

Tercier has also participated in many community service activities through AOL including a toy drive for children. Her latest project was working within SGA in the committee in charge of Student Appreciation Week.

“I wanted to get local bands formed by FIU students to play, to motivate students more. But we did [not] get any results and got a D+ instead,” Tercier said.

“I still will not give up on that idea.”

Prior to participating in SGA, Tercier had never participated in any student government associations. She said most of her experience comes from different programs she worked with in high school.

“The high school I attended had a magnet law program. With that, I got involved in legal affairs, law and public affairs,” Tercier said. “Anything that has to do with law, criminal justice and public affairs interests me.”

Tercier believes she’s the woman for the job because of her passion and commitment.

“I will work adamantly for my fellow Panthers, if I’m given the opportunity to be vice president. I’m determined to get the message out to administration and say, ‘Look, this is what we need.’”

With regards to her opponents for the position, she feels they all share a common ground on several issues.

“I would not say that our ideas are that far apart,” Tercier said. “We have some similar goals, ultimately we all do.”
undocumented students: don't be afraid to DREAM

María Murriel
Staff Writer

This past March 10 was National Coming Out Day. This nationwide liberation effort, however, was not geared toward gender minorities still “in the closet.” This particular event was National Coming Out Day for Undocumented College Students.

“Coming Out Day makes an event that has taken a backseat in the Democratic agenda to health care reform, a priority in the minds of millions of undocumented immigrants who are denied basic rights and live in fear of deportation. Thousands of these people are undocumented students,” said Ramirez.

These students have lived in the U.S. for most of their lives and were brought here by family at a young age, with no say in the matter. Today, they are just as American as anyone else living in the country, but the government refuses to recognize them. What they want and need is not autonomy, as some may think. They are advocates of the Development, Relief and Education for Alien Minors (DREAM) Act.

This legislation would provide undocumented youth with conditional residency, a path to citizenship and affordable college education, provided they have lived in the U.S. for five years, are under 16 years old and moved here at the age of 16 or younger.

In a moving effort to raise awareness and hopefully turn the president’s head their way, thousands of college-aged immigrant youth rallied, marched, wrote articles and broadcast videos telling the nation about their unjust status.

Their approach was modeled after the LGBTQ community’s historical efforts to gain equality. The large DREAM Act support Web site run by undocumented college students, Dreamactivist.org, frequently quotes the late politician Harvey Milk, first openly gay person to hold office in the U.S.

The Web site also provides a guide for undocumented students looking to “come out of the shadows.”

These are kids who were never able to apply for a driver’s license, have that first crappy McDonald’s job in high school, and most importantly—and painfully—most of them have never had the chance to attend college.

Each year, 50,000 to 65,000 undocumented students graduate high school, the financial hardships they face (no job, no eligibility for any kind of financial aid, out-of-state tuition costs) prevent more than half of them from continuing their education at a college level.

In Florida, every public university is said to have at least one undocumented student. The problem, however, is that the students cannot keep up with the pay. A regular 12-credit semester at FIU would cost undocumented students a whopping average of $8,000. Most scholarships, including private ones, clearly identify that eligibility is based on citizenship or permanent residency. These students do not qualify.

So how do they do it? Most of them, if they cannot find help from within the school (a connected advisor, registrar employee) are left without an opportunity. Those who are lucky enough to enroll face the enormous tuition problem.

Unable to get help at any regular established, undocumented immigrants will work any job they come across, sometimes compromising their integrity, dignity and talents. These students, however, are determined to do anything within their reach to succeed.

Miami-Dade College is probably the most active school in the DREAM Act movement. Eduardo Padrón, the college president, has been nationalized-wide as a crusader for immigrant youth and defender of equal rights.

The Honors College at Miami-Dade pays in-state tuition for undocumented students, so they only have to worry about the difference in cost for out-of-state.

The question is, with all of these efforts to bring the DREAM Act to light, and the only other public college in Miami working hard to help the movement along, why is FIU so far from involved?

Unlike practically every other major college in the state, the University does not have an immigrant student organization, does not hold rallies, lectures, or any other form of immigrant activism, and most students are unaware of this pressing matter.

Is this a lack of interest, or a lack of information?

FIU, like other public universities in Florida, admits undocumented students. They are here, among us, and different. They live quietly, with great hopes for the future but barely any means of getting there.

They live on hope, always uncertain of what their future holds. At FIU, they have not been offered moral support or camaraderie, and this is something that needs to change.

These students are just as talented and deserving as anyone else at the University, and they deserve to be acknowledged.

While the nation’s DREAM activists gather to push for their rights and their beliefs, here at FIU, we should make a conscientious effort to join the cause. Undocumented FIU students, now is the time to get out of the closet and into the streets.
THE BEACON REVIEWS: Bandcamp.com

Site hosts, streams bands’ tunes for free

Ronald Calero
Contributing Writer

I created an account, uploaded some songs with high quality, sleek-looking platform for distributing my music digitally in less time than it took me to write this article.

Bandcamp is a relatively new site that offers a definitely-not-so-new online service concept: to host and stream musician’s tunes, free of charge, on a personalized artist page. The site that immediately comes to mind is MySpace – and rightly so. MySpace is the Internet’s premier site for music streaming. If you’re feeling in the mood for some Lady Gaga, all you have to do is search for her name followed by the phrase “MySpace” and you will find her profile in a heartbeat.

Once on there, you’ll find everything that’s needed to satisfy your fame monster craving: an audio player with a couple of songs that can be listened to for free. If the immense popularity of Twitter has proved anything in the realm of design, it is that you don’t need 37 animated glitter pictures on your profile to make it look good.

Bandcamp has even gone a step further by making it possible for artists to sell their music directly to the listener right there from their profile. No label, no middleman, no hassle. Bands upload their music in uncompressed audio, name their price and then purchasers download it in the file format they choose. Artists can also bundle in other stuff like videos, additional art, liner notes or whatever it is that they feel someone who purchases their music is entitled to for their money. That is, if they want to charge anything for it; it’s possible for bands to distribute their work for free.

“Even though its design may sound very Spartan in the scarcity of elements, it all works extremely well to provide you with everything you need to interact with your songs.”

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

THE BEACON REVIEWS: Hot Tub Time Machine

References to ‘80s make up for flaws

Steve Mesa
Staff Writer

Hot Tub Time Machine takes the idea of time traveling films like Back to the Future, and adds the raunchiness of rated-R comedies like The Hangover to become the funniest movie of the year so far.

Adam (John Cusack), Nick (Craig Robinson) and Lou (Robby Corddry) are three men who have been friends since they were teenagers, but their lives are miserable as they have not lived up to their full potential.

When an experimental device, invented by Adam and Nick decide to take Lou and drug Adam’s nephew, Jacob (Clark Duke), to a wax museum resort where the guys used to hang out. After a night of getting wasted in a hot tub outside of their room, the four are transported to 1986.

The fact is that lawsuits in the tech industry are frequent and either end in settlement or last long enough to watch the disputed patent expire or even become obsolete.

Google and Apple aren’t getting along like they used to, and it shows. The lawsuit filed by Apple against HTC is a big deal on the surface, especially since HTC’s recent success with Android devices, releasing such hits as the Hero and the Google branded Nexus One.

The fact is that lawsuits in the tech industry are frequent and either end in settlement or last long enough to watch the disputed patent expire or even become obsolete.

Google and Apple aren’t getting along like they used to, and it shows. The lawsuit filed by Apple against HTC is a big deal on the surface, especially since HTC’s recent success with Android devices, releasing such hits as the Hero and the Google branded Nexus One.

As it turns out, Research in Motion is suing Sharp, Kodak is suing Apple, Apple is suing Nokia, and Nokia is suing everyone. It’s chaos out there in the Valley and, frankly, I am thinking about becoming a patent lawyer when I grow up.

The allegations of patent infringements in Apple’s lawsuit against HTC are many and vary from very specific to very, very broad. One of them, for example, explains that HTC infringed patent number 7,657,849, “Unlocking a device by performing gestures on an unlock screen,” obviously referring to the iPhone’s “slide to unlock” button. Yes, even they patented that too. I’ll leave the faults of our nation’s patent system to another columnist.

Most experts agree that this isn’t just something that Apple decided to do. This was calculated and completely aimed at Android devices by HTC, who is one of the most popular Android manufacturers.

“As of right now, it’s impossible to predict what’s going to happen in this case – Apple and HTC could settle tomorrow, or it could turn into a 10 year courtroom monster,” said Nile Patel, senior associate editor at Engadget.com. “But what we do know is that Apple’s specifically gone after HTC’s Android devices, and it’s organized its attack very carefully.”

Ever since Google CEO Eric Schmidt suddenly stepped down from Apple’s Board of Directors, a move that came after Google began moving all its troops behind Android, it was game on.

These lawsuits aside, Apple and Google being divided hurts Apple users more than it does anyone else.

Google’s current business model depends greatly on how many people use the Internet. The more people surfing the Web, the more they click on ad or Google search something. Google wins.

This is why Google invests so much in Android, Chrome OS, and even its project to bring reasonably priced, blazing fast Internet to towns and communities through its Fiber for Communities Program.

The more ways there are for people like you and me to sign up to the Internet, the better off Google is.

With that in mind, Apple’s iPhone uses the

Fistfuls of Tech

Apple, Google controversy only hurts consumers

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Ever since Google CEO Eric Schmidt suddenly stepped down from Apple’s Board of Directors, a move that came after Google began moving all its troops behind Android, it was game on.

These lawsuits aside, Apple and Google being divided hurts Apple users more than it does anyone else.

Google’s current business model depends greatly on how many people use the Internet. The more people surfing the Web, the more they click on ad or Google search something. Google wins.

This is why Google invests so much in Android, Chrome OS, and even its project to bring reasonably priced, blazing fast Internet to towns and communities through its Fiber for Communities Program.

The more ways there are for people like you and me to sign up to the Internet, the better off Google is.

With that in mind, Apple’s iPhone uses the

Fistfuls of Tech

Apple, Google controversy only hurts consumers

Google and Apple aren’t getting along like they used to, and it shows. The lawsuit filed by Apple against HTC is a big deal on the surface, especially since HTC’s recent success with Android devices, releasing such hits as the Hero and the Google branded Nexus One.

The fact is that lawsuits in the tech industry are frequent and either end in settlement or last long enough to watch the disputed patent expire or even become obsolete.
Indie fest combines vegan cuisine, beautiful scenery

FOLK, page 1

some new music. At the hostel, they will be selling vegan goods like black bean burgers and vegan cookies. Performers will be set against a beautiful backdrop outside the hostel next to a waterfall that you can jump into – in fact, it’s encouraged.

“I’m really excited about the waterfall, that and music equals a good time,” said DJ Roshana (Gossoff), a junior majoring in public relations who also DJs at Radiate FM.

Evam Mui, originally from New York, plays mostly acoustic, though recently he has been forming some full band songs which you can probably expect this Saturday.

Sam Fried, whose folk inspired music brings together fans of The Shins, also takes some of its muse from Bob Dylan.

Finally, Sirens and Sealoons, a band from Miami, recently played a packed show at Books and Books.

“They’re great music to lounge around and, especially perfect for impressing your girlfriend with sensitive lyrics and perfect harmonies,” said Krista Lopez, a sophomore majoring in anthropology. Perfect harmonies,” said Krista Lopez, a sophomore majoring in anthropology. 

Currently promoting the event.

WOMEN WHO LEAD

WHERE: Everglades International Botanical Garden

SPRING FEST FOR KIDS

Hands on Haiti will host activities for kids while accepting donations for hurricane relief.

EAT. SLEEP. FOLK.

• Starts: March 27 at 9 p.m.
• Ends: March 28 at 3 a.m.
• Where: Everglades International Hostel 20 SW 2nd Ave, Florida City, Florida 33034

EAT. SLEEP. FOLK.

Radar FM presents local musicians Sons and Snakes, Sam-Mila and Sam Fried.

WHERE: Everglades International Hostel 20 SW 2nd Ave, Florida City

SPRING FEST FOR KIDS

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SUNDAY, MARCH 28

MIAMI HEAT VS. TORONTO RAPTORS

WHERE: American Airlines Arena, 601 Biscayne Blvd

THE FAIR

Miami无线电 County Fair and Expo

WHERE: 12 - 10 p.m.

WOMEN’S TENNIS VS. DEPAUL

WHERE: 2 p.m.
WHERE: 7965 Biscayne Blvd

THIS WEEKEND, SATURDAY, MARCH 27

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Senior focusing on consistency

Polizzano, page 8

seems to always get me. I have to get rid of that inning. At least keep it to one run, not three.”

The former Miami Southridge standout’s deck of pitches includes a fastball, changeup, curveball, and slider with good control. The most improved pitch is the changeup, according to Polizzano, who brings his windup down to his knees to give him more rhythm on the mound.

“That’s why we have tried to concentrate on. Since I have had so much better rhythm. I used to keep my hands up, every time,” he said.

“Now he told me ‘try dropping your hands back to the step back to get more rhythm with your arms.’”

Added Allen: “The thing that has held him back is he kind of hurts himself with walks and hit-by-pitches. He still has a tendency to give up the big play and that’s what we have tried to concentrate on. He will get up in the zone a little bit, so we started his hands with a little bit more rhythm so he can fill his delivery and his release point.”

Polizzano says his rhythm is fine, but focus remains a factor.

Roster Moves

The current situation is not exactly what FIU head coach Rudy DeSimone had in mind when last season ended, but ace and senior-to-be Tom Ebert was drafted in the MLB first year player draft. Although that wasn’t surprising, the Golden Panthers lost talented right-hander Miguel Mejia to the Detroit Tigers organization after an impressive summer league performance.

The offseason shuffle left Polizzano pitching on Saturdays, the usual slot for No. 2 starters.

“That doesn’t really matter who goes where or who stays,” Polizzano said. “Starting pitching has always been a problem here, and we feel like we have to step our games up no matter if Tom or Miguel stayed.”

The problem is resurfacing this season, as the Golden Panthers are leading the Sun Belt conference in hitting with a .342 average, but are eighth in the SBC in staff ERA, and are one of three teams allowing opponents to .300 batting average.

That is expected to improve, and much of the expectations are on the shoulders of the Golden Panther’s most seasoned pitcher.

Polizzano has the overwhelming confidence of his team.

“Corey is a kid that whether you pitch him on Friday, Tuesday, Wednesday, out of the bullpen, he doesn’t care,” Allen said. “He’s a great teammate, he pushes other guys and that’s why he’s one of our team captains. He understands the importance of his role. Corey is only going to pitch probably another eight weeks, and that’s why I think every time he goes out he lays it all on the line because baseball is going to be over.”

The FIU lineup has been able to carry the team to a solid record, but the pitching will likely need to trend upward for the Golden Panthers to win the SBC and beyond. If the team is to take that step, Polizzano will be a big part of it as one of the most important pieces on the team.

“It’s all focus to me. Once I hit a guy I’m like ‘Oh, crap here we go again,’” he said.

“I have to step. I’m a senior. I just need to pitch the way I usually do.”

Funding for project estimated at $4.5 million

Arena, page 1

recommends the selection committee for the architectural and design work, but the hiring is not official.

Gould Evans Affiliates has recently been recognized with awards such as the Library Building Award in 2009 for work on the Palo Verde Library and Maryvale Community Center in Phoenix, Ariz.

Berg said the decision to appoint an architect is still being pondered internally but should be finalized soon.

The original project budget has grown, we will make facility upgrades.

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DeSimone pitches well, Flores flourishes in victory

Sweep, page 8

Junior Arrojo holds up at third on T.J. Shantz’s RBI double in the second inning of the Golden Panthers’ 14-6 win on Mar. 24.
The Golden Panthers sweep series against Dolphins

JOEL DELGADO
Asst. Sports Director

The Golden Panthers (15-7) picked up two victories against the Jacksonville University Dolphins (11-11) as they prepare for their first Sun Belt Conference away trip this upcoming weekend.

FIU 14, JACKSONVILLE 6

The starting time was unusual for a weekday game, but the Golden Panthers had the usual strong offensive performance as they cruised to an easy victory over the visiting Dolphins, completing the two-game weekday sweep on March 24.

In most weekday series, teams often have to rely on pitching depth to get them through the strain and for FIU, that depth proved to be sufficient.

“Both teams had an issue with how many arms were available,” head coach Turtle Thomas said. “It was good to have Dillon Vitale get us through four innings; Alberto Cardenas getting us through the sixth and Jorge Marban get us through the eighth. That made a big difference.”

The offense picked up from where they left off the night before and scored two runs in the first inning thanks to an RBI double from Mike Martinez and a walk to Yoandy Barroso with the bases loaded.

Jacksonville took a brief lead in the top of the third after a three-run blast by Dolphins slugger Jamaal Hawkins, but FIU scored three runs of their own in the bottom half of the inning and never surrendered the lead again.

“Those midweek games mean a lot to us and so far we’ve been able to win a lot of those games this season,” Martinez said.

After the Dolphins hammered back-to-back home runs in the seventh inning to cut the Golden Panther lead down to two runs, FIU responded with six runs in their next two innings at the plate with more help from Martinez, who crushed a two-run blast over the wall in left-center to help cement the victory.

“It’s the monkey off the back,” Martinez said after hitting the home run, his first of the season. “Having a goose egg in the home run column isn’t real nice and it’s nice to get that over with.”

Martinez finished the game 2-for-5 with a team-high four RBIs, leading an FIU offense that never had an earned run average (ERA) under six, numbers that don’t sit well with him.

“That’s what I’ve been shooting for since I’ve been a freshman here,” Polizzano said after his second start of the season, when his ERA stood at an impressive 3.48. “I have had three years with an ERA above six, and that’s not good enough for me right now.”

“I feel like those numbers don’t relate to how I pitch, though. I feel like I pitch better than that. I might have one or two bad starts, but I feel like I’ve been able to get our teams into the late innings. The numbers are numbers.”

The numbers have recently dipped again, however. After a promising start to this campaign, one in which he opened the season by holding Maryland scoreless in six innings, the senior was pulled in his third start after allowing six runs to Rutgers in 3.1 innings on March 13, and he recently gave up the lead against Troy on Saturday.

Polizzano says that the slip is attributed to focus issues.

“I just have to focus more. That one inning

POLIZZANO, page 7

Pressure mounts for veteran starter

JONATHAN RAMOS
Sports Director

The Golden Panthers were used to the kind of performance they got when Corey Polizzano left the mound after giving up two runs in the seventh inning of a 7-6 win against Troy on March 20.

Polizzano left with the game tied at five, but it was a quality outing for the veteran pitcher nonetheless.

Seven innings. Four earned runs allowed on six hits. Three walks. Five strikeouts.

The line had Polizzano written all over it. FIU is usually okay with that, but Polizzano usually isn’t.

“Corey’s a kid that’s going to give his heart and soul every single time he goes out there. That’s what he did tonight. That’s what you ask of starting pitchers,” FIU pitching coach Sean Allen said. “The great thing about Corey is that if you ask him if he’s happy, he’s not happy. He knew going out there in the seventh it was his ball game to win.”

When questioned by reporters after the game, Polizzano followed the script Allen described.

“I felt alright,” the 5-foot-9 lefty said with a sigh. “Coming out you know I’m going to be mad, letting up five runs. I felt good, just had some dumb mistakes.”

BIG ROLE

One reason Polizzano knows he must improve this season is that he is being asked to assume the largest role he has had in his career. The grizzled senior is now the second starter in the weekend rotation, sandwiched between staff ace Scott Rembisz and inexperienced Aaron Arboleya.

In three seasons, Polizzano has never had an earned run average (ERA) under six, numbers that don’t sit well

POLIZZANO, page 7

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