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The Beacon, September 16, 2009

Florida International University

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Loans should not be a financial avenue for students

PAGE 4



Kid Cudi's debut: an interesting, excellent album

PAGE 6

SPOTLIGHT

AT THE BAY PAGE 3

Find out how the health center on campus can help you make up for what your insurance company doesn't give you.

AT THE BAY PAGE 3

See the pieces of art a fellow student is sharing with the University - New York style.

OPINION PAGE 4

Unemployment among teenagers has reached an unbelievable high.

OPINION PAGE 4

Google Inc.'s recent settlement over books is a step in the right direction.

LIFE! PAGE 5



Wertheim Conservatory offers chance to admire exotic plant life.

LIFE! PAGE 6

Online game combines physics with one in a heretofore impossible combination.

SPORTS PAGE 7

Top performers for volleyball, soccer and football highlighted from busy weekend.

SPORTS PAGE 8



Men's soccer has biggest offensive game of the season - one win away from matching last season's total.

UPCOMING EVENTS

Shelly Berg Trio, Sept. 16, 9 p.m. Enjoy the musical stylings of the Shelly Berg Trio for free at the Van Dyke Cafe.

Unicef at FIU, Sept. 16, 5 p.m. Come be a part of the revolution at this meeting in GC 314; no cost.

New Comics on the Block, Sept. 17, 8:30 p.m. Laugh your worries away with this night of comedy.

Dance Marathon General Meeting, Sept. 17, 2:30 p.m. Be a part of the planning for Spring 2010 Dance Marathon in GC 314.

WEATHER



WEDNESDAY
Scattered T-Storms
LOW: 79 HIGH: 89



THURSDAY
Scattered T-Storms
LOW: 78 HIGH: 87



FRIDAY
Scattered T-Storms
LOW: 79 HIGH: 87

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Students weigh in on healthcare debate

JULIO MENACHE
Staff Writer

As the nation wrestles with healthcare reform, students have a wide variety of opinions concerning possible solutions to the debate.

"The only way to make healthcare cheaper, in my opinion, is to get government out of healthcare," said junior Yonathan Amselem, who is majoring in political science.

Amselem, who comes from a family of lawyers, believes that the best way to reform America's healthcare system is by "trying to fight the trial lawyers".

"It's the threat of being sued that makes doctors run patients through a battery of tests you really don't need and raise the premiums for everyone else. When a doctor can be sued for \$20-30 million, that raises the cost of insurance for everybody," Amselem said.

In a move to appease conservatives, President Obama said during his speech to Congress on Sept. 9 that he would be open to tort, or medical liability reform.

"The health insurance industry does need to be reformed, but it must be done in a way that unleashes the innovation inherent in all areas of the American economy. This, along

with massive tort reform, will truly lower health care costs for all Americans without sacrificing that which makes us unique," said Nick Autiello, president of FIU College Republicans.

"I don't believe malpractice reform is a silver bullet, but I've talked to enough doctors to know that defensive medicine may be contributing to unnecessary costs," Obama said during his address on healthcare.

He plans to work on demonstration projects across the country that would look for ways to reduce defensive medicine practices.

President Obama also gave Congress an outline of what should be included in the healthcare bill. He proposes to reform health insurance by preventing insurance companies from denying people with pre-existing conditions and setting a limit on out-of-pocket expenses.

In addition, Obama calls for the creation of a "one-stop" health insurance exchange, set to begin in 2013, where Americans can pick and choose low-cost private or public plans.

All Americans would be required to have health insurance. Large

HEALTH, page 2

AFTER HOURS



GIO GUADARRAMA/THE BEACON

WORKING LATE: Frank Alonso, freshman in architecture, works late into the night on his hybrid model for Studio I in the PCA building by combining linear, mass/void and planar models into one.

Martinez broadens career choices Diplomat's ventures take him from Lima to Belfast

MEENA RUPANI
Staff Writer

The life of Hilarion Martinez has taken many turns. From an interest in math to an interest in foreign affairs that would impact him for the rest of his life and career, his years at FIU have been focused on helping students and he has spent an unprecedented three years as the diplomat in residence.

"I am a 'glass half full' person," Martinez said. "American diplomats are positive people with a strong sense of patriotism."

Hilarion "Lari" Martinez is the current diplomat in residence at FIU and Miami-Dade College and has made a significant impact for students both in and out of the classroom.

He is one of 16 senior diplomats

to become a DIR. As such, he is responsible for disseminating information about career opportunities throughout the region.

He also identifies and counsels candidates for career and internship opportunities, and engages in outreach to the military, professional organizations and other local groups.

Martinez teaches Diplomacy, a course that gives students an insight into how diplomacy has evolved over the years.

The objective of the Diplomacy course, he said, is to explore various aspects of diplomacy, especially as practiced by the U.S. government.

Several sessions at the end of the course are dedicated to the presentation and discussion of diplomatic policy reviews prepared by students. The course makes use of



MARTINEZ

guest lecturers, including many high-level foreign career diplomats who work as diplomats for their own countries.

"I've known Lari since he arrived and I'm delighted that he will be spending another year with us. He has distinguished himself by his sustained commitment to the University," said José Gabi-londo, associate dean for Academic Affairs and associate professor at the College of Law. "We're lucky to have him."

At Duke University, Martinez majored in math but his interests began to lie elsewhere. Martinez was introduced to the world of politics because of many trips he made to Washington D.C. and back.

He then applied to law school with recommendations both from the former U.S. attorney general and a member of the Supreme Court.

"When I speak with students now, I always reflect on my own life and underscore the need for students to identify opportunities and act on them," Martinez said.

MARTINEZ, page 2

Protesters call for spy liberation

ASSOCIATED PRESS

Thousands of Cuban demonstrators are calling for the liberation of five men arrested 11 years ago for spying in the U.S.

Protest leader and painter Alexis Leyva Machado wants President Barack Obama to free the men because he said "they are anti-terrorism heroes, not villains."

The so-called "Cuban Five" were convicted in Miami, Florida, in 2001 for being unregistered foreign agents.

Cuban officials say the men were heroes trying to avert terrorist attacks on the island and maintain they didn't receive a fair trial because of strong sentiment in Miami against former Cuban President Fidel Castro. Three will be resentenced in October.

CUBAN PROTEST, page 2

Obama hopes to put an end to defensive medicine

HEALTH, page 1

companies would also be mandated to provide their employees with insurance or help them cover the costs of obtaining insurance. However, small businesses would be exempt from the mandate.

According to Obama, the plan will cost \$900 billion over the next decade and will not increase the country's looming deficit, which currently stands at \$11 trillion.

The Obama administration has also proposed a public option to obtain healthcare, which has been a major source of division among Democrats and Republicans.

"The president and the Democrats in Congress need to realize that by undermining the private nature of health insurance they

will destroy the greatest healthcare system in the world," Autiello said.

But Savannah Altwater, treasurer of the FIU College Democrats, sees the public option as essential for meaningful reform.

"That's the most viable option right now because it creates competition for the insurance companies, leading to lower prices," Altwater said. "Especially with how the economy is right now...knowing that there is a public option out there that's going to cover you even if you don't get a job right out of school and your parents can no longer cover you in their plan, you will have something to go to, instead of having to buy an expensive plan."

Altwater, who is a dual citizen

of both the U.S. and Canada, says she gets to enjoy both the Canadian single payer system, which she claims is very efficient, and the U.S. healthcare system.

"I like how the system in Canada works because when I had something serious, something that would cost too much in the United States, I could go to Canada because I still pay Canadian taxes," Altwater said.

While Obama's plan doesn't call for a single payer system, a competing plan in Congress, called H.R. 676, looks to expand Medicare to all Americans to create a single payer system in the U.S.

Altwater believes that the current debate on healthcare has been limited to insurance, neglecting the need for incentives to increase

the quality of care.

"True healthcare reform will address that issue, not just who is insured and who isn't," Altwater said.

While most students get health insurance from their parents or from their employer, University Health Services offers care at little or no cost, thanks to a health fee already included in the tuition.

"If you are a registered student and have paid the health fee, your visit with the doctor won't cost you anything, but you will have to pay a nominal fee for any procedure or lab test done," said Oscar Loynaz, medical doctor and head of the General Medical Clinic at Modesto Maidique Campus.

According to Loynaz, the University hires an insurance

broker that helps it find insurance plans that are comprehensive and low-cost.

Yet even those without insurance can still see a doctor.

"If you don't have insurance, your visit to the doctor here is free. The visit is not going to cost you anything, except for, let's say, a test for strep throat," Loynaz said.

Senior criminal justice major Franz Bernadin says he was aware of the care he could receive at the University, even though he has been without healthcare for eight years.

"I do worry about getting sick, but I am not sick," Bernadin said. "I'm healthy. The only thing I need to do is go to school, get myself a better job – then I can get health insurance."

NEWS FLASH

LOCAL

Man arrested for Gucci store robbery

One man has been arrested in relation to the Gucci store robbery at The Village of Merrick Park early Monday morning.

According to WSVN, police believe that six more men were involved in the smash and grab robbery of various expensive purses the store kept in its display window.

The robbery is currently under investigation by Coral Gables police.

Hybrid pythons may turn to humans for food

Scientists are concerned that a local breed of python could develop a taste for humans.

Scientists believe the breeding between the African Rock pythons and the more common Burmese pythons will lead to an unlocking of recessive genes that could produce more aggressive offspring. This is known as *hybrid vigor*.

According to the Christian Science Monitor, African Rock pythons have been known to eat humans in their natural habitat.

Florida is currently implementing a bounty hunter program to capture and contain the spread of these creatures. Its goal is to protect people and important wildlife areas.

– Compiled by Jorge Valens

Cubans aim to resentence alleged spies

CUBAN PROTEST, page 1

The demonstrators began their vigil at midnight Sept. 11 and protested throughout the morning Saturday, Sept. 12 in front of the U.S. mission in Havana.

In January 2006, two University professors were indicted for espionage.

Carlos Alvarez, then associate

professor for the educational leadership and policy studies, and his wife Elsa Alvarez, counselor for the Psychological Services Department, were discovered to be spies for the Cuban government.

The Alvarizes revealed their affiliations with the Cuban government in June 2005 to the Federal Bureau of Investigation.

According to prosecutors, the Alvarizes were accused of reporting U.S. political information and details regarding prominent Cuban Americans in the local community. It was also alleged that they divulged the identity of a University student who was an agent with the FBI.

Additional reporting by Jorge Valens.

Diplomacy course a tool for networking

MARTINEZ, page 1

Martinez attended law school at the University of Florida. He then worked for a law firm in Miami and passed the Foreign Service Exam.

"I took the exam because I had enjoyed my foreign studies and felt that my ideal job would combine travel, cross-cultural experiences, use of my legal training and experience, language skills, while having the security of working with one employer," he said. "In the end, I realized that becoming an American diplomat would fit these requirements ... and after 23 years doing this, I was right."

Martinez was the chief of the U.S. embassy in Lima, Peru, deputy consul in Belfast, U.K., special assistant to the consul general at the embassy in London, U.K., and most recently the chief of a Regulatory and Compliance Unit he established to monitor international exchange visitor programs in the Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs.

He speaks Spanish, French, Italian, Greek and English.

"I learned to speak and read Italian and Greek as part of being a foreign service officer," he said.

Martinez came to FIU in 2006 and has impacted lives at the University for a few

years.

"Lari has been an enormous asset to FIU because of his excellent education and experience in the U.S. Foreign Service," said John Clark, former chair of the former Department of International Relations and professor in the new Department of Politics and International Relations. "He has served in many important posts around the world. Yet, he has been a thoroughly engaging and down-to-earth colleague."

According to Clark, Martinez has stood out at FIU for the years that he has been here. He has aided students win major national scholarships to top universities such as George Washington University.

He has also helped many students win internships in the State Department, either at U.S. embassies abroad or in Washington D.C.

Student Abdel Perera met Martinez through his Diplomacy class and from there was given many networking opportunities through the guest speakers that Martinez brought to class.

"Whether you are a political science major or a business major, this is a must take class at FIU, this is a must take class with Mr. Martinez," Perera said, a senior international relations and political science major.

Perera was eventually awarded an internship in the

Whether it is his consular work ... or his endeavors in South America, Mr. Martinez has never seemed to be afraid of a new challenge.

Abdel Perera, student

International relations and political science major

consular section of the U.S. embassy in Montevideo, Uruguay.

Perera said he was shocked when he learned the location of the internship but Martinez briefed him on the local population, the city, the work and the culture. They continued to stay in contact throughout the internship experience.

"One of the things that has always impressed me about Mr. Martinez is his way of adapting to the younger generation, appealing to college students," Perera said. "Whether it is his consular work abroad or his endeavors in South America, Mr. Martinez has never seemed to be afraid of a new challenge."

"He is very approachable and always ready to talk with students about their career goals and the personnel needs of the State Department," said Thomas Breslin, professor in the Department of Politics and International Relations. "He knows this area and the local population very well."

"I enjoy a good comedy and movies that are histor-

ical epics," he said. "Historical epics allow us to peek into the lives of interesting persons or events."

Martinez is also a fan of Italian pop music singers Giorgia and Laura Pausini and said he learned to speak Italian listening to their voices.

"One of the highlights of my work in Florence was attending a Giorgia sitting in the first row as an American diplomatic guest and understanding every word she sang," Martinez said.

Martinez confessed that what he does has become a pleasure in itself. He enjoys helping students find new and exciting opportunities and often spends his free time working with students.

"I often spend my time out of the office preparing events having to do with my role as the DIR," he said and explained that he is also co-hosted by MDC and covers schools from Orlando to Tampa and Puerto Rico.

"Opportunity is not a lengthy visitor," he said. "And my life reflects how true I have been to this motto."

THE BEACON

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Student delivers message of unity through art exhibitions

MELODY REGALADO
Contributing Writer

New York-inspired paintings created by a student have now found temporary homes in the University, where they will be showcased for the next few years. The artist is graduate student Jason Galbut, who loaned the University seven of his paintings, six of which now hang on the walls of the Wolfe University Center at the Biscayne Bay Campus and one in the Graham Center at Modesto Maidique Campus since May.

Galbut, 31, began painting while he was on a summer away program in high school in Boston. He completed his undergraduate studies in fine arts from Slade School in London in 2002. A Miami native, he is currently in his final year of his graduate studies in fine arts in FIU's School of Art and Art History.

Galbut is also an instructor at the School of Art and Art History at MMC. Last year, he taught 2-D Design, but he now teaches beginning and intermediate painting.

He describes his style as both "free and very precise," and said he has a clear idea of the message he wants to deliver through his paintings.

"I want my paintings to reconcile all the different aspects of our lives to create a rich, meaningful world," Galbut said.

Although completing his creations was a process that demanded a lot of patience, Galbut saw no rush to finish the paintings. He preferred to create them as the inspiration came to him, "to allow the elements

to come together in different moments in time."

From 2000 to 2006, two of the paintings were completed in London, while the other five were started in London and Paris and completed while he lived in New York. The Big Apple's complexity served as an inspiration for the five paintings, due to its "buildup and barrage of images" that make the city so complex and crammed, he said.

The paintings that hang in both WUC and GC depict overlapping, mixed and matched images and shapes, as well as vivid colors, which Galbut believes add to the sense of complexity in elements that ultimately wind up connecting.

Galbut approached the University to have his paintings showcased at both campuses, and according to him, the school offered its full support.

The University paid about \$2,000 for the artwork through the WUC's auxiliary fund, which is the money collected from hosting events and activities not involving the student body, such as test preparation courses and business meetings. The \$2,000 helps cover the insurance and installation of the paintings, according to Jennifer Cooper, associate director of operations and event planning at the WUC.

He chose a college campus as the site for his work because he sees academic institutions as places that foster knowledge and make people think.

"The paintings fit in perfectly at FIU. What could be better than a university?" he said. "My works are meant to function in an

intellectual dialogue and inspire thought."

Galbut feels a connection with these paintings because they reveal how he works with the world, he said. He strives to make sense of the information and images that people are faced with, and sort them out to see how he fits in with them.

Students are already appreciating Galbut's artistic contributions.

"They bring a unique sense of style to the WUC walls, bringing new life to them," said Jackie Schuck, a junior journalism major.

WUC houses most of the paintings because it has better spacing and breathing room with its wide and once-empty walls, according to Galbut. He particularly appreciates the way the various country flags hanging from the ceiling interact with the neighboring paintings.

"The engagement between the paintings and the flags mix with the sense of diversity and multicultural aspects of South Florida," he said.

With the help of the University staff, Galbut was finally able to expose his art.

"They really went out of their way to make it easy and support the project," Galbut said.

Cooper worked with Galbut on filling out the paperwork, choosing the space and getting the pieces installed at WUC.

"Not only do they add some color and life for students and guests who come through the building, but they also offer students the opportunity to appreciate art," Cooper said.



EXHIBITION:
(Top) Jason Galbut's *Miami* has been hanging in Panther Square since Spring semester 2009, one of the first pieces given to the campus.

(Bottom) Galbut's *Castle* (center) and *Road* (top right) can be seen between the second and third floor stairs of the Wolfe University Center.

PHOTOS BY SERGIO MONTEALEGRE/THE BEACON

Clinic offers inexpensive medicine, services to students

DAIANA KUCAWCA
Staff Writer

While the White House looks to pass a bill on universal health care by the end of the year, the majority of Americans have had to cope with the issue at hand: being uninsured or underinsured.

University Health Services at the Biscayne Bay Campus can help in both cases. The clinic offers several basic medical services for free or reduced prices compared to those in other clinics. Services include physical examinations, health screenings, vision screenings, HIV testing, STD testing, vaccinations and a pharmacy.

To access the clinic's services, students simply have to be enrolled for classes.

There is a one-time fee of \$67.20 in students' tuition, which doesn't pay for health insurance but does provide students with access to all of the clinic's services.

According to Sara Baker,

CENTER UPDATE

The BBC Wellness Center

- Beginning next month, the BBC Wellness Center will be located in the third floor of the Wolfe University Center, room 307.
- Center hours are from Monday through Friday from 9 a.m. - 5 p.m.

For more information, call 305.919.5307.

senior registered nurse at the Health Care Center at BBC, only international students need health insurance to take advantage of what University Health Services has to offer.

"We treat colds, strep throats and STDs," said Baker. "Basically what primary care doctors treat."

There are three registered nurses, two nurse practitioners and a part-time doctor currently working at the clinic.

"Insured students say it is very

convenient to come. Some even come for walk-ins," said Baker. "Sometimes, they pay here for the medications because some insurances don't pay for them."

Everything is cheaper or free at the center because it's a nonprofit organization. Baker said she calls medication companies every day to try to get free samples for students, and also calls the nearest hospitals to find the cheapest doctors for students with no insurance.

"To get birth control pills

anywhere else, it's usually \$45 to \$50 a pack; here it's between \$12 to \$20," said Baker. "Even those with insurance get a Pap smear done once a year here and then get pills for the whole year."

The clinic strives to provide services similar to those offered by health insurance for those who can't afford to have coverage. The clinic also helps students with chronic illnesses who are constantly spending money on medication.

"We can give information about pharmaceutical laboratories that provide no-cost or low-cost medications," said Yolanda Santisteban, a nurse practitioner, citing pharmacies in places like Publix or Target. "When they need to be seen by a specialist and cannot afford a private consultation, we refer them to a county ambulatory clinic."

The clinic also educates students about health maintenance through their outreach programs, free fitness assessments, free smoking cessation sessions and

free weight management sessions, which is something most insurances don't cover, according to Elvira Velez, director of university health services at BBC and a nurse practitioner.

"There's a lot of teaching that goes along with it," said Velez. "We have enough time for interaction, instead of five minutes and out of the room. I am a user of the health system, and I can tell the difference."

According to Velez, physicians rely a lot more on technology and laboratories than on examining patients and writing down their histories, because expensive tests generate more profit. But this can cost patients.

"I honestly believe health care is a right, not a privilege. That's my philosophy. Consequently, I believe we should provide services to students," said Velez. "A lot of time, students don't have insurance or are underinsured. They end up without their parents' insurance all of a sudden and have no place else to go."

GETTING SCHOOLED

Google Book database for the greater good

If I had a library of more than 10 million books – many of which were out of print – I would die happy. Such a plethora of knowledge and various insights would make any scholar or bibliophile jealous.

Fortunately for me, there's Google Books, an online database of volumes both in and out of print. Many books are available through Google because they're under public domain, while others can be previewed in clusters of pages.

COLUMNIST



IRIS FEBRES

Unfortunately for other online competitors, there's... Google Books. And Google Inc. has gotten itself into a sticky situation with European publishers. The American Association of Publishers and the Authors Guild filed a suit against Google in October 2006 for copyright infringement.

Back then, Google had employed an "ask questions later" sort of policy as it built its online library of books: Google did not ask permission from those who held copyrights before they scanned pages, and once the AAP and Authors Guild found out, they pressed charges.

Now a settlement has been reached, which would cost Google \$125 million, granting the AAP and the Authors Guild 67 percent of Google's earnings whenever an out-of-print book is sold.

"Our goal remains bringing millions of the world's difficult-to-find, out-of-print books back to life," said a statement Google provided.

Google's aims are laudable. There's no better way to promote literacy than by making it readily accessible to students, scholars and everyday readers.

But many Europeans still feel out of the loop in regard to the settlement. The German government has lashed out at the settlement, saying that it would "irrevocably alter the landscape of international copyright law."

Others charge that the settlement ignores European works, giving Google the opportunity to electronically republish out-of-print (yet still in copyright) books for free. In addition to this, competitors such as Microsoft and Yahoo argue the settlement would grant Google an unbelievable monopoly.

Google already has a monopoly over the Internet: it's our primary search engine, and we usually go to Google before anywhere else. Now we have to consider whether Google should have a monopoly over out-of-print volumes as well.

Regardless, Google Books wouldn't eliminate competition anyway – in fact, Google would provide it; Google Books displays, along with a preview of a given book, a listing of vendors. Everyone's prices are fair game for consumers.

According to Google's statement, the settlement wouldn't make it any more difficult for others to license out-of-print works. In turn, it would sell retailers access that they could market themselves.

I believe Google's settlement aligns with their statement of bringing books "back to life," and I suppose Google Books' expansion would merit achieving something for what's known as "the greater good." The desperate optimist inside me hopes that something as powerful as Google Books could – dare I say it? – somehow make the world a better place.

The vicious cycle of teenage unemployment

Give student workers a chance

DENISE RODRIGUEZ
Contributing Writer

Teenagers are constantly persuaded to join the armed forces to sacrifice their lives for the freedom of others, but when it comes to our employment needs, we aren't persuaded to be hired.

This year's teenage unemployment rate has been the highest it's ever been at 25.5 percent, a significant increase since 1948 (10.5 percent).

Even the number of teenagers working this year reached a new low: according to *The New York Times*, an estimated 1.64 million people between the ages of 16-19 were unemployed.

Not only is this number worrisome, it's disheartening. From personal experience, I have faced this competitive job market, and was luckily hired at the FIU bookstore – after applying at other places and not receiving any callbacks – and laid off after only one week of working.

Nevertheless, it was made known to us that we were temporary – and even expendable.

One week of employment wasn't enough to see if we were qualified employees – it's as if we weren't even given a chance.

With our energy and willingness to work, employers should be eager to hire

us. With all that we have to offer, we are shunned rather than given the opportunity because we do not have "enough experience," as many students would believe.

Well, in order to gain experience, *someone* has to give us a shot. Young adults like us need to acquire necessary skills in order to become productive individuals.

As if job hunting within our age group wasn't competitive already – since we're the last to be hired and first to be fired – we have to make it through numerous obstacles during this recession.

The New York Times said, "Congress set aside \$1.2 billion for jobs and training for teenagers in February's stimulus bill."

If the resources are supported by the stimulus, we should be aware of where that money is going and take ownership of those funds.

Experts speculate different reasons for which teens aren't hired. One of the reasons includes the increase in minimum wage from \$6.55 in July 2008 to \$7.25 in July 2009, according to the U.S. Department of Labor. This may influence the high

percentage of unemployed teenagers.

As a result of this unemployment, students have returned to the classroom in order to become more competitive in the job market. *The New York Times* also stated that teens "are choosing to attend college, which could help them increase their earning potential later in life."

There may be evidence of students turning back to academics at our University; enrollment increased to 39,146 students as of fall 2008, according to FIU's Office of Planning and Institutional Effectiveness.

This problem becomes an endless cycle because in choosing to go to college, we are back at square one: in order to attend college, we must be able to afford it. In order to afford it, we must have income, bringing us back to the problem of unemployment.

We should be given the chance to break this endless cycle of wasted résumés. We should not be left behind simply because of our age. The future of our country is in the minds of these young people being turned away. We are the building blocks of this country, forming the foundation which will hold up subsequent generations. For this we need one thing – experience.

In order to attend college, we must be able to afford it, and in order to afford it, we must have a financial source, bringing us back to unemployment.

Students too dependent on loans for tuition

MARGARET CHEBAT
Contributing Writer

As the Fall semester commences, it carries with it a myriad of new activities, familiar faces and new beginnings. Along with all these new and exciting experiences, the most difficult burden to bear at the inception of each semester is tuition.

Each year, many students scramble to find new ways to pay for their college education. Some students turn to scholarships, grants or funds from a job; however, many students look to loans for aid.

Although this may not be the best form of payment, student loans are the most common form of payment for tuition. Each year, the number of students seeking aid increases; this year, the amount of money students borrowed increased to \$75.1 billion, according to *The Wall Street Journal*. The number

of students searching for aid within the past year has increased dramatically as well.

Undoubtedly, the suffering economy has played a significant role in the increase of the amount of students requesting loans. Since many students cannot

will be in debt after graduation. According to *The Wall Street Journal*, "Two-thirds of college students borrowing to pay for college will have an average debt load of \$23,186 by the time they graduate."

Because student loans are easy for students to acquire,

“Undoubtedly, the suffering economy has played a significant role in the increase of student loans.”

afford to pay for college out of pocket, a loan is the next best option.

Loans have become something of a detrimental quick fix for tuition costs. Students are becoming more accepting of the idea of taking out a student loan in order to fund their education.

Most students understand and accept that they

some students think taking out several loans is acceptable as long as they graduate and pay back what they owe.

However, this is not such a simple concept. Many individuals searching for jobs directly out of college find themselves in difficult situations. Many companies are looking to hire experienced

workers who will be able to expand the particular business, if they are hiring at all.

Unfortunately, students who are graduating into the current state of the economy are finding it nearly impossible to attain the job they had hoped for after graduation.

The problem lies in the ease in which these loans are available as well as in the absurd costs of a good education. Many students are so focused on getting a degree that they do not consider the financial consequences when pulling loans in order to fund their studies.

Although loans can be the only source of payment for some students, there are other ways to acquire money for college.

Applying for scholarships and grants can help take the burden off of having to rely on loans. It is important to act wisely when taking the steps to deciding your future, because if not, you may end up having to pay for it later.

DISCLAIMER

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OPINIONPIECE

75.1

In billions, the amount of money borrowed by students in the 2008 to 2009 academic year.

QUOTATIONATION

"It's just so puzzling how this could have happened. How, whoever did this, could have done it in the middle of the day in a busy building."

Yale Daily News Editor in Chief Thomas Kaplan, on the disappearance of Annie Le, a Yale student

WINNERLOSER



Beyoncé stayed classy at the MTV Video Music Awards ceremony by allowing Taylor Swift to regive her acceptance speech. Swift had been disrupted by egomaniac Kanye West, leaving her – and viewers – in shock.



Despite his apology on his blog, Kanye West got a lot of flack for his stunt on the VMA stage. Katy Perry, Pink and other artists flocked to Twitter and called out Kanye – often times using colorful language.

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.

AMONG LEAVES

Conservatory is campus' hidden gem

JANET CAREAGA
Staff Writer

Unless you park in the Red Garage or have driven by and seen the sign, you may never have seen the Wertheim Conservatory. Even some students who have passed by it admit they do not know exactly what it is.

The Wertheim Conservatory Complex consists of a greenhouse, a glasshouse, a case-study auditorium and the bioclimatron. The conservatory displays rain forest plant species from all over the world and contains tropical plant species that cannot be grown in the Miami climate.

Dr. Herbert and Nicole Wertheim donated money to build the conservatory in 1990 and construction began in 1991. The project was almost complete in August 1992 but Hurricane Andrew destroyed it. A year later it was rebuilt but it wasn't until 1996 that plants and other interior designs were put inside.

Located between the Engineering and Computer Sciences and Owa Ehan buildings, the conservatory is run by the Biological Sciences Department.

The conservatory's curator is Dr. Scott Zona. He was a palm biologist at Fairchild Tropical Botanic Garden, one of the conservatory's major plant donors, before taking over about a year and a half ago.

Dr. Zona is not always in the conservatory but anyone can go in and take a look as long as it is open. There is a self-guide map of the plants inside but if you want a guided tour, it could be arranged with Zona in advance.

Among many other interesting plants in the conservatory, there are vanilla orchids and cacao trees, from which chocolate is made. Dr. Zona has student volunteers who help him take care of all the plants.

"As a biology major, I thought it was a good idea to get involved with the University and give back. Apart from it being educational because I learn about the different plants and what moss to use for each plant from Dr. Zona, it's also a workout because being out there planting is hard work," said Javier Corea, a junior who just recently began volunteering with Zona.

That hard work pays off though because some of those plants are then sold to benefit the conservatory. Zona is currently planning a sale for sometime later this semester.

"It's there so anyone can go and see what the University has to offer. Everything is labeled so if you don't know about plants you can see their names and you're not just looking at unknown plants. It's a good start for anyone who wants to do more research on their own," Corea said.

Zona wants students to know as much as they can about the conservatory.

"Other than the fact that it's there," he joked, "there are some really wonderful plants in there and it's a great quiet little respite from the frenetic campus life."

The conservatory is free to visit and is open to all visitors, not just FIU students. The conservatory hours are Tuesday through Friday from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. For questions about the conservatory or for a guided tour, Dr. Zona's office is in OE 241 or he can be reached at (305) 348-1247.



PHOTOS BY CHRIS GREEN/THE BEACON

'QUIET RESPITE': The Wertheim Conservatory, located between the Red Garage and Owa Ehan, features an array of plant species from all over the world. It is free and open to all visitors and visitors can use the self-guide map or arrange for a guided tour.

Sigma Tau Delta gets members outside the classroom

MARCOS ALONSO
Contributing Writer

The English department has a club that enables students to hit the ground running both socially and academically.

Sigma Tau Delta is an English honors society with the purpose to provide English majors and minors the opportunity to engage with fellow students in a more social environment.

Make no mistake, it is still an honors society, and consequently, it requires members to meet a minimum of a 3.3 GPA within the department, and a minimum of a 3.0 cumulative GPA.

"My goal as president is to extend our passion for literature from inside the classroom to outside the classroom," said Gabriella Rosell, the club's president and a senior double majoring in English and political science.

Rosell also expressed a desire for the club to include more activities inclined toward creative writing, which would include monthly readings, competitions and writing

workshops.

Senior Fabian Peraza, the club's Council for Student Organizations representative, refers to the organization as a place where he has made life-long friends.

"I got to know people who are like-minded and we got out on a fairly regular basis," he said. "We are very diverse in our aspirations since some of us want to go on to graduate school, teaching or the military, but we are all highly ambitious people who have come to know each other closely."

Socially, the club aspires to bring students together, in a place where they can feel comfortable with each other with sharing their work.

The organization strives to take active part in the community by holding morning beach clean-ups followed by a fun day at the beach.

In addition, Sigma Tau Delta offers its members an invaluable opportunity to get to know their professors by hosting special readings and visits by various faculty members.

Students get to interact with professors in a more personal setting that does not take

"When you're involved in a community that brings together the best your college has, it gives you the opportunity to learn from each other."

Davalyn Suarez
First-year grad student

place inside a classroom. Unlike a lecture, the professor comes in and gives a brief introduction and then takes part in a reading of his/her own work or just a simple reading of a piece of literature the professor might find amusing.

Davalyn Suarez, a first-year graduate student really cherishes her time spent as a member of Sigma Tau Delta.

"When you're involved in a community that brings together the best your college has, it gives you the opportunity to learn from each other," she said.

As Fall semester continues to take off, Sigma Tau Delta provides students a creative and social outlet at FIU.

For those thinking about joining, the organization is currently accepting applications. More information is available in the English department located in DM 453.

Their first event, a bake sale, was held Sept. 9 and raised funds for the organization. Upcoming events include a bowling night, meet your professors breakfast and beach cleanups.

MOMENT OF CLARITY

Cudi's uniqueness makes him a valid player in hip-hop game

Kid Cudi burst onto the scene with a record that grew into a radio-friendly track in "Day N Nite." The track is different and its video scores with simplicity.

We were introduced to him as an odd character.

Kanye West's endorsement will always turn heads, but now I am beginning to see why Mr. West believes in Kid Cudi's style, which had me guessing if he was going to sing, rap or be some type of experimental artist.

He doesn't even have tremendous rap skills, or a melodic voice that shakes your speakers in debut album *Man on the Moon: The End of Day*. But Cudi shares emotional verses with his audience and goes deeper into thought than most artists have done recently.

The result is an album that covers his feelings over well constructed beats that incorporate space rock and electro into a nice alternative project.

It's growing on me.

Projects that are not only different, but execute in their distinctiveness are a rarity in the commercial-driven market listeners have created for hip-hop.

I will not mention this record with any classic right now, but a hip-hop fan can feel like they took their first bath in months when they are refreshed with a project like this.

"Make Her Say" with Common and West is a song I had to listen to more than once while writing this column.

The highlight track is not alone on the unique record.

The album features 15 songs split into five acts, which according to Cudi, detail the phases of his life and journey so far. The approach is fresh.

Cudi was even featured on Jay-Z's latest album in one of the best tracks on "The Blueprint 3" in "Already Home."

Rap is supposed to be a forum to express yourself, and touch on any subject matter you like.

The struggle of many artists leads to a demonstration involving violence in their upbringing, or braggadocio about themselves.

That is common and there is nothing wrong with it. Kid Cudi is one of those artists who brings a change of pace though.

His struggles can relate

more to the average person.

Being broke, losing a family member and searching for companionship are all tackled by Cudi as he doesn't hold back a line.

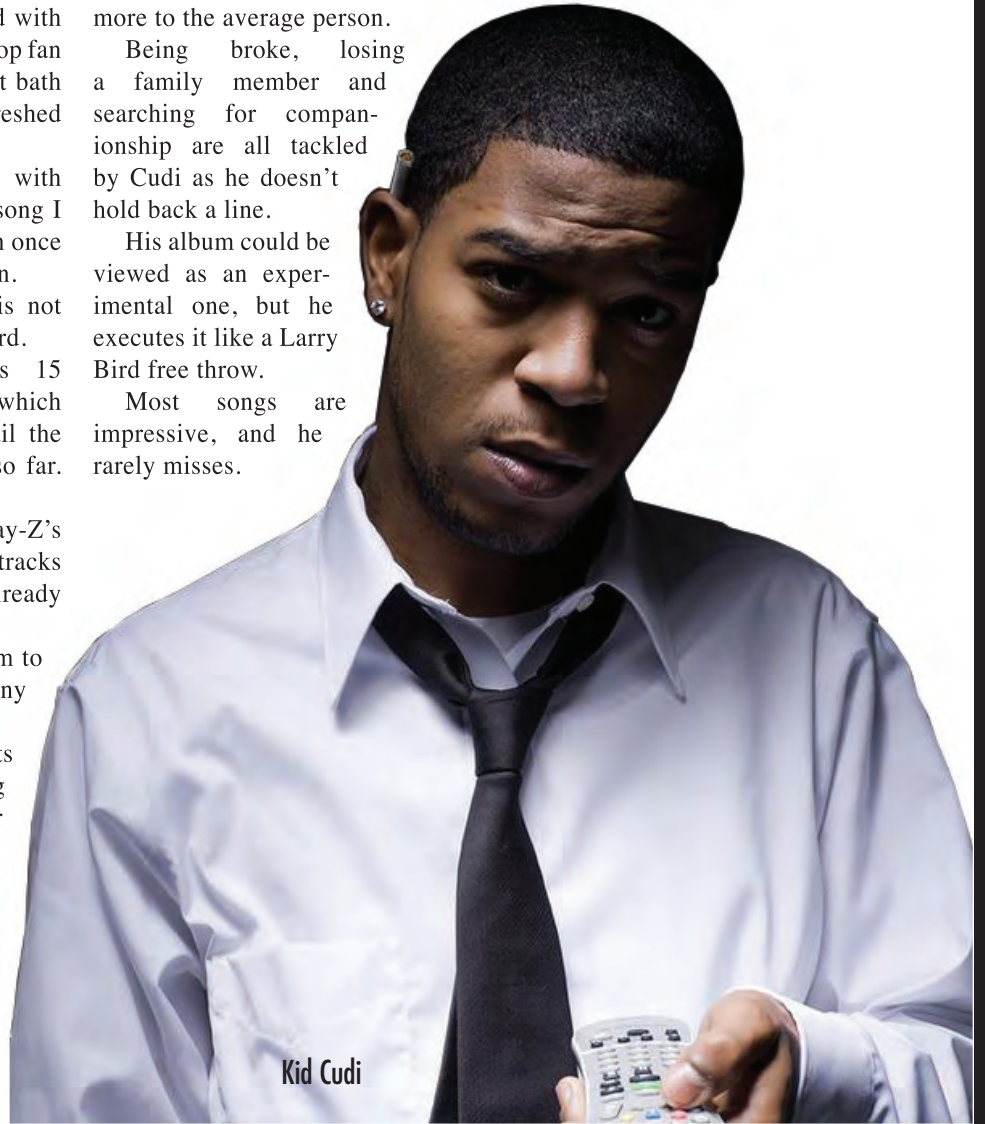
His album could be viewed as an experimental one, but he executes it like a Larry Bird free throw.

Most songs are impressive, and he rarely misses.

COLUMNIST



JONATHAN RAMOS



Kid Cudi

F.R.E.E.: FOR RIDICULOUSLY EXCITING ENTERTAINMENT

Online physics game gets the red ball rolling

My high school physics professor had it all figured out when he announced on the first day of class the key to

understanding the universe and our humble place within it: "Physics is life, life is physics." Andrew Guillen, the man behind Magic Pen, clearly understands.



ASHLYN TOLEDO

Magic Pen is a puzzle game that challenges you to use the rules of physics to propel a little red ball through one or more

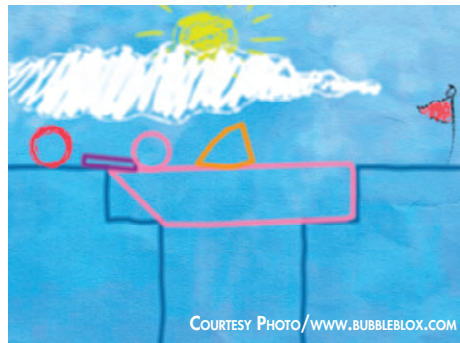
puzzles. To do this, you use your mouse as a drawing tool to create shapes. Triangles become ramps, rectangles become bridges, circles launched from above will help push your little ball forward. You can draw virtually any shape and there is more than one way to solve each of the puzzles.

You can also attach shapes to each other with pins and hinges, all of which makes for some pretty intricate puzzles in later levels. If you make a mistake or get stuck, you can use the eraser tool to try and patch it up or, if you've made a mess of things, you can reset the level and try again.

There are 26 levels and it will probably take you around 20 minutes to get through them all but, once you're done, you can relive the fun by watching all your friends struggle with the same seemingly obvious puzzles.

Or, if you're not the type to openly ridicule your friends, try solving the puzzles together. You'll be surprised by how unexpectedly smart some of your friends are.

The puzzles are hard enough to give you



COURTESY PHOTO/WWW.BUBBLEBLOX.COM

a really great sense of satisfaction each time you solve one, but the concepts are simple enough to make the game accessible to everyone.

The crayon-inspired look adds a heavy dose of charm and the song really never gets annoying – in fact, it's pretty catchy.

Also, the actual physics is implemented really well. The shapes behave exactly the way you expect them to.

The only minor gripe is that if your mouse is unruly at times, like mine is, it can get frustrating trying to draw these shapes, especially when certain puzzles require swift action.

But, the game does a good job of guessing more or less what shape you were going for and smoothing out the edges.

If you don't have 20 minutes set aside to see the whole game through, no worries. Assuming you can pull yourself away, you can always pick up right where you left off. Reaching a level unlocks it in the level select at the main menu, so you don't have to replay all the puzzles you already did.

You can find Magic Pen at www.bubbleblox.com. Search for it under the puzzle tab.

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PERFORMERS OF THE WEEK



ELLINGSON

Greg Ellingson was catching nearly everything Paul McCall was throwing at him vs. Alabama. His five receptions for 92 yards and one touchdown put him near the top of this week's performers.



HILTON

As soon as he touched the ball, he took a 96-yard return for a touchdown. T.Y. Hilton made Nick Saban's press conference look like a prophecy instead of a rant. T.Y. said goodbye on that return.



FRINGS

The men's soccer team lost its leading scorer entering the season, yet Sebastian Frings has filled the void by scoring five goals in five games, including three this week vs. Stetson and Howard.



ROSE

The women's soccer team had some trouble finding offense the last couple of weeks. Katrina Rose provided two goals this week to give the Golden Panthers their second win of the season.



VERGUN

She missed all of last season, but Olga Vergun stepped it up during the FIU/UM Invitational, especially with the absence of Yarimar Rosa. Vergun led the team with 44 kills in three games.



VALENTIN

She's part of the Puerto Rican tandem that's helped propel the volleyball program the last three years. Natalia Valentin racked up a staggering 145 assists over the span of three games.



VICTORIA LYNCH/THE BEACON

SCORING MACHINE: Sebastian Frings scored two goals vs. Howard en route to a 4-2 win. Frings has five goals in five games this season.

Eketebi believes team can produce more points

MEN'S SOCCER, page 8

by Nicholas Chase.

"I did a lot better because I wanted it more today and I want to be part of a winning team," Frings said. "That is why I try my hardest and I also have passion for the game."

Howard ended the Golden Panthers' shutout with a goal inside the box.

Seven minutes later,

Frings scored his second goal of the game.

With five minutes left, Howard's Matt Marshall headed a shot, marking a goal on the scoreboard against the Golden Panthers to make the score 3-2.

Diego Tamburus ended Howard's chances of a comeback with an unassisted goal in the 88th minute of play.

Despite the highest

scoring display of the young season, Eketebi thought his offense could've had more opportunities.

"Like any game, basketball or baseball, we got a few points against us," Eketebi said. "We should have had more shots on goal."

The Golden Panthers will travel to Ohio to play Saint Louis on Sept. 18.

Team learns to compete without All-American

VOLLEYBALL, page 8

canes and have been able to perform well, which has been huge for a team on the hunt for a Sun Belt Conference title and post-season ambitions. So far this season, the Golden Panthers are 6-2 with Rosa out of the line-up.

"Even without Yari, I think our team has

performed great so far," Tomic said. "I think this is good for the rest of the team to learn how to play without her. Everyone needs to play better."

Even so, Tomic stressed the importance of having her back in the line-up as soon as possible. While the team has managed to play well, Rosa's absence during games against ranked oppo-

nents Kentucky and Florida State was felt. The team's two losses this season were against two top-25 teams.

"It's huge," Tomic said. "She's a player that you go to. When you need a point, when you need something, she makes those points. She's the leader of this team."

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CLASSIFIEDS

JOBS

South Beach based father seeks part-time nanny/helper for 13 yr old son. Light cooking, errands, help son with homework. Non-smoker, English speaking, hours are late afternoon and early evenings. Must be able to live in when father is away on occasion. Send CV and recent photo to : DSL, APT 3001, Miami Beach, FL 33139

VOLLEYBALL

LEADER DOWN



VICTORIA LYNCH/THE BEACON

SPEEDY RECOVERY?: Senior Yarimar Rosa will see a hand specialist to evaluate her dislocated pinky finger she sustained while making a block against the University of Miami in the FIU/UM Invitational.

Rosa out 1-2 weeks with dislocated pinky

JOEL DELGADO
Staff Writer

Everything seemed to be going according to plan.

The Golden Panthers volleyball team was up 2-1 over crosstown rival Miami and got off to a fast start in the third set, poised to send the Hurricanes home quickly on Sept. 10.

But an attempted block on a Hurricane attack midway through the set changed all of that.

The expression on Yarimar Rosa's face when she clutched her hand after the play said it all. The festive and spirited crowd at the U.S. Century Bank Arena held their collective breath and became silent as she was helped to the locker room by a

We think she might be ready to play next weekend. It depends how her stitches heal, but it's her non-hitting hand, which is good.

Danijela Tomic, coach
Volleyball

trainer.

Initially, there were fears of a possible fracture but Coach Danijela Tomic confirmed that Rosa's injury was a dislocated pinky.

She will see a hand specialist, but Tomic is optimistic that her return may be sooner than originally anticipated, possibly within the next week or two.

"We think that she might be ready to play next weekend," Tomic said. "It depends how her stitches heal but it's her non-hitting hand, which is good. It's just a matter of how her body heals."

Despite Rosa's departure, the Golden Panthers were able to finish off the Hurri-

VOLLEYBALL, page 7

MEN'S SOCCER: FIU 4, HOWARD 2

Golden Panthers pound Howard at home

ANA DIAZ
Contributing Writer

FIU's men's soccer team produced more than a winning scoreboard against Howard on Sept. 13.

In its previous game, the team had rapid last-minute changes in its lineup. Multiple players were injured, such as defender Anthony Hobbs, who sustained an injury against Stetson.

With just 12 healthy players on the roster, Coach Munga Eketebi has been developing the team's tactics at practices to help players feel more confident and prepared for matches.

"Everything has been getting more organized from what I've seen at practice," said defender Jahbari Willis, who's had to play a bigger role on defense. "We have a couple of things to work on, but overall we have a nice solid group and when everyone is back and at 100 percent you are going to see we are going to have good results for FIU and be ready for those big games."

The team's improved communication led to a 4-2 victory over Howard at FIU Stadium.

"We are getting used to each other, more and more," Willis said. "At the end of the game, we gave each other

constructive criticism in the locker room and everyone is trying to get to learn each other's habits so down the road, in those big games, we are gelling."

Willis played a vital role in center back, blocking multiple shots on goal.

"I stayed in the back more because they kept counter attacking us," Willis said. "That's all they lived for."

The Golden Panthers set the pace for the match when Steven Jair Cabas assisted Sebastian Frings for the first goal of the game.

Cabas then scored a goal on an assist

MEN'S SOCCER, page 7

WOMEN'S SOCCER

Weekend games end with two late goals

CHRIS GREEN
Staff Writer

The women's soccer team began a three-game home stand after tying South Florida and losing to Central Florida.

Having scored only once since their first game of the year, the Golden Panthers (2-3-2) were hoping to gain some momentum before Sun Belt conference play begins on Sept. 25. Eleven of the next 12 games will be against conference opponents.

CAL POLY 3, FIU 1

The scoring for Cal Poly started right from the beginning as Morgan Miller beat Golden Panthers goalkeeper Melanie Raimo for a wide open goal side six minutes into the game.

Fourteen minutes later, the visiting Mustangs added to their total with another goal by Julie McKee to take a 2-0 lead.

"We made a lot of mistakes," said FIU midfielder Amy Jackson. "And they were able to capitalize on them."

After halftime, freshman Kaitlyn Savage replaced Raimo as goalkeeper, but was not able to stop Cici Kobinski as Cal Poly notched their final goal of the game.

The Golden Panthers came out shooting, though, as Katrina Rose, Madeleine Hjorth-Stalgren and April Perry all took shots at the net, only to come up empty.

"We just seemed to be playing like we were panicked," Perry said.

However, it was Cortney Bergin who put FIU on the board with her first career goal in the 67th minute. That would be FIU's only goal for the rest of the game as Cal Poly notched the win, 3-1 on Sept. 11.

FIU 2, UNF 1

Play began with Jackson missing her first goal of the season a few minutes into the game.

The Golden Panthers entered the game on Sept. 13 needing to win, and did so in dramatic fashion as they topped the North Florida Ospreys 2-1.

In the first half, FIU controlled the ball for the majority of the time, tallying seven shots on goal, and held North Florida to one.

However, Ospreys' Katelin Swift made that one shot count as she beat Savage with a header into the upper left corner of the net.

"I felt we played well in the first half," said Coach Thomas Chestnutt. "They had one shot and it went in."

Entering the second half, FIU came out shooting, with Rose scoring the equalizer less than five minutes after play resumed. Rose sealed the deal with yet another goal 30 minutes later, giving FIU a 2-1 victory.

"We went with a different system in the second half," said Jackson. "It's good to get some momentum going into conference play."

For Rose, scoring the game-tying and game-winning goals gave her and her team some confidence.

"I was really excited," said Rose. "During halftime, we had a discussion and we realized that we all needed to step it up. Now we know we can win."