

9-23-2009

# The Beacon, September 23, 2009

Florida International University

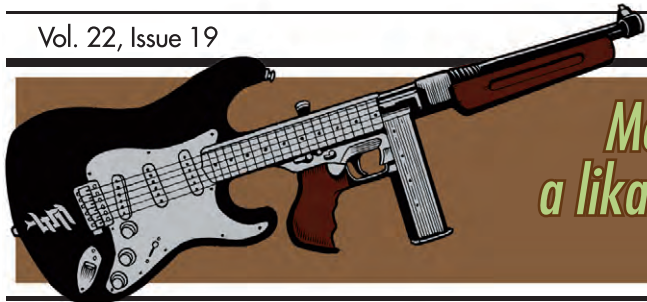
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a likable side project**

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**Australian national  
team helps Jackson develop**

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## SPOTLIGHT

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Dean receives award for outstanding role in journalism and mass communication.

### AT THE BAY PAGE 4



Bianca is back with her Foodgasm, and she shares with you her new cilantro-churri recipe for an Argentinian churrasco.

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SGA's legitimacy depends on its constitution's clarity and representation of its students.

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Police are going too far in replacing roadside breathalyzer tests with roadside blood tests.

### OPINION PAGE 9

Iran's president shouldn't be allowed to speak at the United Nations.

### LIFE! PAGE 5

Fall Arts Preview: What to expect this fall from the FIU Theatre and Music Departments.

### SPORTS PAGE 12



Volleyball dominates UCF tournament without dropping a set.

### SPORTS PAGE 12

Former Golden Panther standout freshman forward decides to play ball at Miami-Dade College.

### UPCOMING EVENTS

The Miami Paintings, Sept. 23, 10 a.m.–5 p.m. The original works of art by Geoffrey Olsen are on display at the Frost Art Museum, admission is free for the public.

Hilary Sample Lecture, Sept. 24, 5 p.m.–6 p.m. See speaker Hilary Sample talk about her work as a designer, writer and teacher, in PCA 135 at no cost for her lecture.

Sonia Flew, Sept. 24, 8:00 p.m. General admission tickets are \$12 and faculty/staff/students/senior tickets are \$10 to this production by Melinda Lopez.

### WEATHER

**WEDNESDAY**  
PM T-Storms  
LOW: 80 HIGH: 88

**THURSDAY**  
Scattered T-Storms  
LOW: 79 HIGH: 86

**FRIDAY**  
Isolated T-Storms  
LOW: 79 HIGH: 87

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## MBA now offered online

**GABRIEL ARRARÁS**  
Contributing Writer

The University will now offer a fully online corporate Master of Business Administration program in order to provide convenience and flexibility for interested students.

The corporate MBA will allow companies to offer employees the opportunity to earn an advanced degree on a partial scholarship, according to the University.

According to Dr. Joyce Elam, the business school's executive dean, FIU received many calls from individuals interested in taking an online MBA

program. This, and "the competition, and what they were doing, and just the general knowledge that getting degrees online is becoming more and more acceptable, and more and more available," led FIU to offer the program.

"Students whose companies partner with FIU will be eligible to a \$20,000 scholarship toward the corporate MBA, which will take advantage of the innovative Web-based Epic Learning Management System, draw upon the expertise of full-time business school faculty members and use academic coaches to ensure that students do not feel isolated from their professors or classmates," stated a press release.

Elam explained that FIU's "graduate business programs have grown tremendously over the last few years and we are at capacity in terms of number of seats that we can offer in the regular programs."

FIU's professional MBA, based in downtown Miami, currently has 180 students in the program, which puts it at maximum capacity, forcing any students seeking entrance to the program to be on a waiting list.

"We have done very well serving our local market," Elam said, adding that FIU "wanted to come up with a

MBA, page 3

SGC-MMC

## Tabled bills not in proper format

**FRANCISCO MARADIAGA**  
Staff Writer

The Student Government Council at Modesto Maidique Campus senate tabled all four council bills that would have defined the functions of four senatorial committees that lack definition in the council's documents.

Three of the four bills were tabled to be considered at the next senate meeting because they were not in proper council bill format.

Those included the Internal Affairs Committee, Student Advocacy Committee and the Rules Legislation and Judiciary.

The Operational Review Committee was the only council bill in proper format, but raised concerns that the ORC would overstep its boundaries. The bill was tabled for further consideration.

The ORC, according to the initial draft that was presented at the Sept. 21 meeting, would audit student organizations and entities that are funded by SGA with Activities and Services fees.

The line: "The ORC shall also invest within it the power to check the Finance Committee when allocating A&S fees improperly," was stricken by the senate as some

SGC-MMC, page 3

## CULTURE SHOCK

### 2009 FALL ARTS PREVIEW

## Music, theater schools bring in festive lineup

In today's issue, *The Beacon* and the Life! section will be presenting its Fall Arts preview, featuring important information on upcoming events being organized by the music and theater departments, as well as the Wolfsonian Museum and other departments at FIU.

Among the events covered are FIU's upcoming production of "Sonia Flew", which opens on Sept. 24, and the CMENC Concert, being presented by the music department.

Also included is Life! staple "Pop and Circumstance," Chris Towers's biweekly column focusing on music and pop culture.

STARTS ON PG. 5 >>



### FIU MUSIC PRESENTS

The music department is planning a wide variety of concerts from both students and faculty members, performing both vocally and on various instruments.

### FIU THEATRE PRESENTS

The theatre department has three shows planned this semester, with plots dealing with subjects as disparate as Operation Pedro Pan and cross-dressing extraterrestrials.

### EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT DEPARTMENT

## Open house to detail emergency procedures

**EMILY BELLO-PARDO**  
Contributing Writer

After the death of the founder of the department, FIU's Emergency Management Department has a new assistant director, Dorothy Miller.

The EMD founder, Jennifer Mwaisela, passed away Aug. 15, 2009 after a year-long battle with cancer.

"She was the first person to create the department. People will mourn her for a long time because

we lost a great asset to the FIU community," Miller said.

She added that Mwaisela "did a tremendous job and I just want to carry it on."

Miller was the Emergency Management coordinator at the University of Texas in Dallas.

She has extensive experience in dealing with natural disasters, like tornadoes and floods, that affected Texas during her more than 10 years there.

The EMD is planning to host

an open house toward the end of October, where they will distribute pamphlets and information about how to deal with emergencies on campus.

"I don't really know how to deal with an emergency here, like a terrorist threat or any natural disasters that may happen. When you first come in, you worry more about learning where everything is, neglecting the safety aspect of this transition," said freshman Daniel Rodriguez.

The open house will communicate accurate information about emergency management procedures to the University community.

"There's a lot of misinformation in the student body because what they hear in the media or around campus is not always the correct information," said Hallae Nix, an intern in the EMD. "We want to keep people accurately informed of what to do in any emergency."

EMERGENCY, page 2

## NEWS FLASH

## LOCAL

## Student arrested for bringing gun to school

A 14-year-old student was arrested in Homestead after bringing a firearm to class.

According to WPLG, the student was arrested on Sept. 21 after an anonymous tip led officials to find the .22 caliber revolver in his gym bag.

Students in the class said that the student in question was announcing to students he had a gun, saying "I got a gun, I got a gun. Who wants to try me now?"

Police officials are still uncertain why the student brought the gun to school.

## NATIONAL

## Farm sales struggle during crisis

Consumers going to the supermarket are seeing lower food prices, yet farmers are struggling.

According to *USA Today*, the U.S. Department of Agriculture expects farm revenues will be \$49.1 billion in 2009, a 39 percent drop from the previous year.

According to those statistics, the Department of Agriculture says that this is the worst decline in farm sales since 1974, adjusted for inflation.

Some farms have been forced to lay off workers and explore fundraising ventures.

– Compiled by Jorge Valens

## Global effort delivers 'wake-up call'

JORGE VALENS  
Asst. News Director

A small group of University students suddenly emerged from the crowd around the Graham Center Pit at Modesto Maidique Campus in a peaceful flash mob to create awareness for climate change.

Jessica Okaty, vice president of FIU Students for Environmental Action and the organizer of the event, said that the goal was to send a wake-up call to local representatives, asking them to support stronger legislation regarding climate change.

According to a press release, the Sept. 21 event was part of a broader effort of more than 1,000 similar events spanning 88 countries. The goal of the global event was "to deliver a resounding wake-up call to world leaders before they meet in New York on Sept. 22 for critical climate talks."

Before the event, Okaty stood in front of the GC Pit handing out pamphlets with instructions on what to do.

At 12:16 p.m., those involved froze in various poses in order to draw attention and get pictures. After

two minutes, at 12:18 p.m., they used their cell phones to call local representatives through a hotline sponsored by Repower America which would forward their voice messages to the local representatives based on their zip code.

"We are encouraging people to speak from the heart and let them know why they want a clean planet," Okaty said.

One of the event's sponsors is Repower America, a non-profit, non-partisan organization formed as a result of a speech given by former U.S. vice president and environmental activist Al Gore.

Representatives from the organization were on hand to give passersby handouts about the organization's efforts to raise awareness on climate change and how they can reach their local representatives.

"Our campaign is in support of transitioning to a clean energy economy so that we can ... break our dependence on foreign oil, reduce pollution, and, in the end, leave a better Earth for later generations," said Malice Dasilva, a Repower America representative.



ALEX GARCIA/THE BEACON

**FREEZE:** Members of the FIU Students for Environmental Action participate on a flash mob calling for awareness of climate control in the Graham Center Pit on Sept. 21.

She said that Repower America's goal was to reach decision-makers through all forms of communication possible.

According to a press release, another backer of the flash mob event is TckTckTck, a campaign that represents the "ticking-clock urgency of climate change."

"The idea of a global climate wake-up call got started just a few weeks ago, and it's evolved into a massive mobilisation of millions around the world who want leaders to do more to stop

climate change," said Cara Cooper, Students for Environmental Action president and TckTckTck campaigner from FIU in a written statement.

President of the FIU Garden Club Ian Wogen, who posed as a skate boarder during the flash mob, noted the event's importance, especially when it comes to bringing awareness to the agriculture industry and its ability to generate energy.

"The event is an important step in creating awareness for climate change," Wogen said.

## Panther Alerts inform students swiftly

## EMERGENCY, page 1

The EMD works in conjunction with University Public Safety. The police work on the security aspect, while the EMD works on transmitting information, coordination and logistics during emergencies.

"It takes a team to have a campus this big to be safe. We train together with the police and we build long-lasting work relationships that will help us keep students safe," Miller said.

According to Miller,

students should have an emergency kit consisting of water, food, first aid kits, blankets, pillows and anything else they might need in case of a disaster.

"We have distributed some emergency kits, but the main way to stay safe is to have your own," she said.

During an emergency, the EMD can communicate with the University community in many ways.

Panther Alerts, a free emergency text messaging system, can send a warning

to the student body whenever there is an imminent threat on campus. The EMD will also post an alert on the University's Web site, as well as utilize the networked phone systems in classrooms to communicate with students and professors during class time.

However, if there happens to be an isolated danger that doesn't affect the entire community, "there is no need to send the text message and put the whole campus on

warning mode because it's not a looming menace to everyone. We don't want to cry wolf if it's not an imminent danger to the student body," Miller said.

"We emphasize preparedness. What we can do is give you the tools to be safe here on campus. You have to be prepared," Miller said.

Students with questions regarding the University's emergency management policies should visit [www.fiuem.com](http://www.fiuem.com).

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## SGC-BBC

## Council votes unanimously on four new members

MAUREEN NINO  
Staff Writer

Four new members were voted into the Biscayne Bay Campus' Student Government Council.

The council unanimously voted for the new members during the Sept. 16 general weekly meeting: a new election commissioner, justice, Honors College senator, and director of environmental affairs.

According to Sholom Neistein, SGC-BBC president, the positions were not filled before because there were no qualified applicants.

"They are going to add to the already cohesive nature to the council," Neistein said.

Whitney Dean, a junior English

major, was appointed as the new SGC-BBC election commissioner. Dean is a transfer student from Florida Agricultural and Mechanical University and is now minoring in anthropology.

"I am impressed by the professional demeanor demonstrated during the meeting," she said. "It is very encouraging to see how professional SGA is. I want to be involved on campus."

Jorge Amador, a graduate student from the University of Florida, is now the fourth and final justice at BBC. Amador has a bachelor's degree in advertising from UF and is currently pursuing a master's degree in global strategic communication at the University. At UF, he was public relations

director for the Hispanic Communicators Association, and community relations liaison for the Pride Student Union. Amador says he will offer SGC-BBC his leadership skills and a much needed graduate perspective, which he believes SGA lacks overall.

"I am definitely excited about coming on board," he said.

As a justice, Amador's main responsibility is to safeguard and interpret the constitution and to decide on the constitutionality of laws.

Andrea Cruz, a sophomore journalism major, was appointed Honors College senator. Cruz believes BBC may have less resources available compared to the Modesto Maidique Campus, so

she wants to work toward spreading the word about the college.

"The Honors College population in BBC is much smaller than that at Modesto Maidique Campus," she said. "And thus may have less resources available in this campus."

Cruz has been involved in the Honors College for the past year. Until recently, she has taken all her courses at BBC, an advantage, according to Cruz, that makes her familiar with the students' needs on campus.

"I find that many students at BBC may not be aware that they are eligible for admission into the Honors College or do not know the benefit they could get from joining," Cruz said.

Cruz plans to increase student awareness of the Honors College and help students get involved, while getting rid of any reservations students may have about the college.

"I hope to be able to serve as a medium of communication between SGA, the Honors College and the rest of the student body to make sure their experience at BBC is as fulfilling as possible," Cruz said.

Tara Jafarmador, a junior civil engineering major, is the new director of environmental affairs. The position was previously filled by David Fonseca, who is currently in China for the Fall semester.

## Program seeks 100 students to start

MBA, page 1

program that would let us come outside of our local market, and one way to do that is with an online program.”

Along with the need to increase its MBA program's capacity is the need to compete. The University of Florida has had an online MBA program for a number of years already. Florida State University also has an online MBA program, which started this year. FIU already offers executive, professional and international MBA programs for which it recruits from all over the world.

“It was a missing piece of our portfolio,” Elam said.

The business school is taking a different approach into how they advertise the program.

“The reason we call it a corporate

MBA is because our recruiting strategy was very different for that program. For all our other programs, we have a retail recruitment strategy,” Elam said. The strategy includes newspaper National Public Radio stations ads.

“We will identify corporations who want to be our partner, and then have students be promoted inside their organization,” Elam said.

FIU has established a target of 100 students for the program, and will not start the program until its goal is met.

“We are busy recruiting for November, we currently have about 50 students,” Elam said.

To further help the University promote the program, one of its corporate partners in the program – American Airlines – is promoting the program worldwide.

Elam argued that one of the beauties of the program is that “you can be an

American Airlines employee stationed in Lima, Peru and you can still take the program.”

The University had been kicking around the idea of starting the online MBA program for about a year now, it never being a question of whether they would make the program, but a matter of when they would start it.

The University got the faculty on board during March, and during the summer, faculty members spent their time developing courses for the program.

The 18-month program will operate on an eight-week term with multiple start dates. Rather than the GMAT, the corporate MBA will use four years of work experience as a key entrance criterion, and there is no residency requirement.

“Come November, if we have 100 students, we will be ready to launch,” Elam said.

## Committee bills held off a week

SGC-MMC, page 1

saw the ORC overstepping legality.

“It would not be legally binding,” said Cristian “Raven” Morales, the SGC comptroller whose job is to audit SGC-MMC's finances.

“It is binding,” said Altanese Phenelus, ORC chair and sponsor of the bill. “It makes no sense.”

It is Phenelus' contention that any council bill approved into the bylaws

would be binding.

“As elected officials, why shouldn't we have the power to assist appointed officials?” Phenelus said, referring to the comptroller position that is appointed by the SGC president and approved by the senate.

According to co-sponsor Loren Fraute, the bill was a product of three weeks of research.

It will be tweaked for a vote during the next meeting.

## Study shows 34 percent of young workers still live at home

JOSHUA BALLANTINE  
Contributing Writer

As unemployment reaches its highest point in years in the United States, a recent study put out by a progressive group showed bleak numbers concerning young workers around the country.

The AFL-CIO, the largest organization of unions in the U.S. and heavy supporter of President Barack Obama, put

out a study called “Young Workers: A Lost Decade” showing numbers from a survey of 1,156 telephone interviews with voters and non-voters between the ages of 18 and 35.

It found that 34 percent of workers under the age of 35 still live at home with their parents, and that only 31 percent make enough money to cover their bills and put some aside, 22 percent fewer than in 1999.

“It doesn't bother me to

live with my parents,” said senior marketing major Becky Mayo, who will be graduating this May and continuing on to graduate school. “Times are really tough right now. My boyfriend graduated with a degree in finance last December and is still looking for a job.”

Some suggest that the difficulties currently faced by young workers are harder than in former generations because costs

are much higher and there is not enough work security.

“The cost of education and healthcare is so high and young people are struggling to pay those bills with all their responsibilities,” said Dawn Addy, director of the Center for Labor Research and Studies at FIU. “When I was 22, I was already able to buy a house. Nowadays, so many kids are strapped with debt that past generations did not have.”

The AFL-CIO study claimed that seven out of 10 workers do not have enough money saved to pay for two months of living expenses.

President Obama addressed the AFL-CIO last week and explained that he supports the unions and asked for their help to pass the healthcare reform.

However, many young people are more concerned about getting jobs.

“I hope someone will

be retiring so I can get a job,” said Heather Haddon, a senior studying to be a teacher. “I'm only as qualified as everybody else with a bachelor's degree.”

Addy offered her advice.

“They're saying you need to change your career every five years. Young workers must learn to diversify their skills and reinvent themselves.”

### SNAP SNAP



KENNETH JONES/THE BEACON

**RECOGNIZED:** Photography Professors Mirta Gomez (left) and Eduardo de Valle (right) at the new exhibit in the Graham Center Art Gallery that thanks Gomez, Valle and Professor Bill Maguire's contributions to the University's Photography Department.

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## SJMC dean gets prestigious award

### Joins ranks of influential women

**W. EARLE SIMPSON**  
Contributing Writer

Lillian Lodge Kopenhaver, dean of the School of Journalism and Mass Communication, was presented with the Outstanding Woman in Journalism and Mass Communication Education Award.



KOPENHAVER

The Association for Education in Journalism and Mass Communication presented her with the award Aug. 7 in Boston.

The award was given by Commission on the Status of Women in the Association for Education in Journalism and Mass Communication, according to a letter from Dustin Harp, the organization's co-chair and commissioner.

The AEJMC is an association of journalism and mass communica-

tion professionals, and, according to its Web site, is "the oldest and largest alliance of journalism and mass communication educators and administrators at the college level."

AEJMC has about 3,600 members around the world, many of whom are women who play very active roles in journalism and mass communication, Kopenhaver said.

"The organization felt that it wanted to encourage the growth of women in the field, and that is why it awarded this, and I am honored to be recognized by people who are my peers," said Kopenhaver. "It recognizes the increasing role of women in our field, so that women can serve as models to other women who may come along and achieve greatness as well."

Among Kopenhaver's other awards are the Gold Key of Columbia Scholastic Press Association Award, the College Media Advisors Award, The Poynter

Institute for Media Studies Award, and the Torch Award.

She began her career as a high school journalism teacher, where she established her first school newspaper. She later joined the University staff and played a part in establishing the school's newspaper, *The Beacon*.

"As one of my first jobs when I came to FIU in 1973, I started the first FIU newspaper, and I've always been involved with advising student media," Kopenhaver said.

Kopenhaver also wrote "College Media Advising: Ethics and Responsibilities," and held leadership roles with College Media Advisers, the national Community College Journalism Association, and is the current chair of the University's Student Media Board, which oversees *The Beacon*, WRGP-FM, and FIUSM.com.

Prior to becoming dean of SJMC in 2004, Kopen-

haver served as associate dean for 18 years, and then as interim dean from 2003-2004. She is also credited with the successful four perfect-score accreditation of the school.

"When we went through the re-accreditation process last February, you could just see how well she swims in that world. She is very recognized and highly regarded in the academic world, and I do credit her a lot for helping to navigate the school through that process," said Allan Richards, interim associate dean of SJMC.

Carlos Suris, faculty supervisor of the SJMC's student services, said Kopenhaver has created a reputation for herself well beyond academia.

"She brings a kind of academic cornerstone to the school because of the longevity factor, and the amazing contact that she has in the academic world of journalism. In that sense, she put FIU on the map. From that angle, especially, she is very deserving of that award," Suris said.

## Council votes for four new members

SGC-BBC, page 2

With her organization, Jafamador has learned that placing recyclable containers for people to use is not enough.

"You can put a trash bin and recycle container next to each other, and people will still throw trash away in the garbage," she said. "People need to learn how to recycle and make it second nature."

Jafamador hopes to make recycling a lifestyle, not a duty or obligation for students, and plans to give incentives to help encourage the behavior.

"It is really cool to see things moving toward the green trend," Jafamador said.

At the meeting, Neistein also expressed his concern about SGC-BBC's productivity.

"I have never seen such unrelenting energy toward the successful nature of how SGA should be for the student body, but then there are a few who are just taking the lax way out and are not fulfilling certain requirements," he said.

Neistein then said it would be best to return to "punching in when on the clock." Members must now work their required five hours each week, and must dedicate that time only to SGA-related assignments while in the office.

Members must now turn in bi-weekly reports and continue to attend weekly meetings. Members of the senate must hand in reports to Vice President Christin "CiCi" Battle, and all reports from the cabinet must be handed into Bedeau.

"There isn't a feel of people doing their job, and if we can't feel that internally, then how will the student body?" Bedeau said.

Chief of Staff Stacy-Ann Samuels also noted the importance to stay in contact with council members at Modesto Madique Campus and with other organizations in the University.

"We need to stay in contact with equal members in the other campus and have sufficient information on what our other counterparts are working on," Samuels said.

## FOODGASM

# An Argentinian summertime dish that's also great for fall

Yesterday marked two things – the first day of fall and the end of my summer hiatus from "Foodgasm." In reality, my column should reflect the seasons, but I just couldn't let my summer experimentation go to waste. Who cares that it is fall? We live in Miami. I've lived here my entire life, and fall just means one thing to me: summer. Just like two weeks of February mean one thing to me: winter.

COLUMNIST



BIANCA ROJAS

Over the past four months, I have spent some of my time making up recipes in the kitchen. I wanted to share with you what I discovered to be the perfect summertime dish.

I developed this dish for a birthday dinner for one of my best friends. I had invited him over for an impromptu meal and had about two hours to put it together.

Two hours is not a long time when you factor in picking your recipes, shopping, prepping and cooking. At first, I thought I should just make a pasta dish with ingredients I had on hand, but what type of summer birthday celebration is that? Happy birthday! Here are some heavy, piping hot carbs to hold you over? The chef in me died a little just thinking about that scenario, so I kept brain storming.

Finally, it came to me. My friend Dave is Argentinian and he loves *churrasco*, a popular dish in his country. *Churrasco* is a South American dish that means grilled meat but is commonly used to describe grilled skirt steak. Traditionally, *churrasco* is served with a tangy garlic herb sauce known as *chimichurri*.



NATHAN VALENTINE/COURTESY PHOTO

**JUICY MORSEL:** Bianca shows her *churrasco* dish, served with a *chimichurri* sauce, french fries and guacamole with tomatoes. She suggests to pair the dish with a dark beer.

I knew this would be a quick dish because all I needed was a steak and some herbs; the rest of the *chimichurri* ingredients were in my pantry.

Now, shopping for skirt steak can be intimidating. There are typically two types of skirt steaks next to each other – flap and flank. Always go for flap if the price difference isn't huge. Flap is a tenderer cut of meat, whereas flank is chewy and tougher.

I have had both of these cuts of steak, and I can tell you they are both delicious, but the eating experience is more refined with flap because you don't get strings of meat flossing your teeth at the dinner table.

Grilling steak is actually very easy. Simply season your steak with salt and pepper. That is all you need because grilling will add a smoky element to the meat.

Turn your grill on medium to high heat and place your steaks onto it. If your family and friends like steak like I do – medium rare, still kind of "moo-ing" – grill for approximately two and a half minutes on each side, five minutes total. Add 30 seconds to each side for each grade of "doneness."

In other words, if you like your steak medium well, you would cook each side for an extra minute, a total cooking time of seven minutes.

The *chimichurri* is a deliciously acidic pairing for the huge slab of meat that you serve your guests, and it adds a vibrant green color to the plate.

Being a professional "Foodgasm"-ist, I couldn't just do regular old grandma's-style-*churri*. Instead, I played with it and made a *cilantro-churri*. It was a big hit with my family, so if you are not one of the few people who is offended by cilantro, try this recipe. The best part of it is how easy it is: It literally takes five minutes, and what takes the most time is peeling the garlic.

My *cilantro-churri* is made as follows :

- Blend 1 cup cilantro, 1/4 cup flat leaf parsley, 1/2 cup olive oil, 1/3 cup red wine vinegar, and 4 garlic cloves peeled until the mixture is a pourable sauce.

- Then add seasonings. Really, everyone has their own finishing touches, but for a little spice and surprise ingredient: add 1 teaspoon of crushed red pepper for heat, 3/4 teaspoon of salt and a large pinch of cumin. Cumin is the star of this sauce.

I hate cumin, but it brings all those spicy, sour, smooth and earthy components out of the sauce and livens it up.

For time-saving side dishes, a quick tomato avocado salad, tossed with some lime juice and olive oil and some freezer-to-oven french fries never killed anybody or spoiled a fancy – almost gourmet – birthday dinner. Even though summer is technically over, fire up your grills anyway and try this at home.

Need help with a recipe or finding a place to eat? Bianca is here to help! Send any questions, comments or "Foodgasm" ideas to [bianca.rojas@fiusm.com](mailto:bianca.rojas@fiusm.com)

2009

FALL

ARTS

PREVIEW

Wednesday, September 23, 2009

MUSIC DEPARTMENT

## Fall lineup includes array of styles — from jazz to electronic

**ISABEL MAZA**  
Staff Writer

Students looking for something new and original to do this semester should check out our very own School of Music. The school hosts countless concerts and performances, which are open to all students and faculty.

Most of the performances take place on campus and tickets are usually

between \$5 and \$10 for students.

This fall in particular, the school has many new performances scheduled.

All of the performances will be held in the concert hall of the Herbert and Nicole Wertheim Performing Arts Center.

The events are open to the public and students receive reduced admission, as

**MUSIC, page 6**

THEATER DEPARTMENT

## Fall productions guaranteed to trick and treat audiences

**NATALIE LEVY**  
Staff Writer

In the spirit of Halloween and good times, FIU's theater department will be putting on two shows dealing with supernatural phenomena — and at least one promises eccentric costumes.

The first of the two will be a student production of "The Rocky Horror Picture

Show." A well-known cult classic, Rocky Horror is the story of an extraterrestrial who poses as a "sweet transvestite from transexual Transylvania." The show is being revived after it opened here at the University last year and sold out every night it played.

"It's definitely rated 'R,'" said

**THEATER, page 7**





POP &  
CIRCUMSTANCE

## Folk super group debuts with self-titled album

The moniker's just got to be a joke, right? It's so oxymoronic that there is no way to mention it without placing your tongue firmly in cheek.

The Monsters of Folk? Monolithic, skyscraper-sized images of depression-era troubadour Woody Guthrie spring to mind.

I suppose if you are going to start a "super group," this is one way to go about it.

The Travelling Wilburys were made up of some of the biggest names in rock history, so it made sense for them to pretend to be a family band nobody had ever heard of.

The Monsters, comprised of Conor Oberst and Mike Mogis (of Bright Eyes), Jim James (My Morning Jacket) and M Ward (most famously of the duo She & Him featuring Zooey Deschanel) decided to go the opposite way, dialing up the irony by giving their outside-of-the-mainstream super group the most ridiculous name they could think of.

Thankfully, the album is more reined in than the title. Nobody is allowed to dominate and they all keep each other in check, creating an air of informality that is really necessary when so many songwriters get together (as with the Wilburys).

Dubbing it straight "folk" is somewhat of a misnomer, as there is more electricity than one might expect, such as on "Whole Lotta Losin'" and especially "Losin Yo Head", which sounds like a pretty perfect blend of James' My Morning Jacket work and Oberst's most recent two albums.

The Monsters share vocal and songwriting duties fairly equally across the album, trading off verses and providing backing harmonies throughout the duration.

This is good news if you are a fan of all three, as I am, but at least two of the singers, Oberst and Jim James, have been known to incite widely differing opinions on their respective vocal talents, so if you aren't a fan of James' reverb drenched falsetto or Conor's overly affected singing at least part of every song is going to bother you.

However, I've felt with his last few albums with the Mystic River Valley Band, where he shared some singing and songwriting duties, Oberst has really matured as a singer.

Here, he works best as a complement, providing a middle ground between James' crystal clear falsetto and Ward's slightly gruffer tone.

Sadly, if you aren't a fan of James, this album isn't likely to change your opinion, as he rarely strays from his vocal comfort zone.

COLUMNIST



CHRIS TOWERS

The best songs are the ones which feature all of the vocalists trading and bouncing lines off of each other, as their voices complement each other well.

"Baby Boomer's" communal sound lends itself especially well to the format of the album.

It sounds loose and improvised, with the vocalists trading one liners back and forth until they come back together at the end of each verse. It has the feel of an old time sing along and really evokes the feeling of folk music the best.

**If you aren't a fan of James, this album isn't likely to change your opinion, as he rarely strays from his vocal comfort zone.**

The album suffers somewhat from the fact that each of the artists has been busy in recent years, releasing 5 albums between them since the beginning of 2008 with Ward and James working on albums for their other projects concurrently.

They might not all bring their best to the project; no song is as good as, say, Oberst's "Danny Callahan", James' "Smoking From Shooting", or Ward's "Why Do You Let Me Stay Here", etc., but the relaxed atmosphere allows each one to play to their strengths and the end result is an eminently listenable and likable side project.

*Pop & Circumstance is a biweekly column discussing all things pop music.*

## Wolfsonian offers students free fun on South Beach

MARCOS ALONSO  
Staff Writer

Finding entertainment on South Beach can often be very expensive. However, there is at least one source of culture amusement that is absolutely free for FIU students.

The Wolfsonian Museum, located at 1001 Washington Avenue, is filled with large galleries of artwork and historical artifacts. The purpose of its collection, according to its Web site, is to show how "decorative arts, material culture and design" shape humanity's view of the world.

"This is a great place to go. Students have the opportunity to visit a collection that teaches them about the human experience," said Cathy Leff, director of the Wolfsonian at FIU.

In order to encourage all members of the University community to take advantage of what is being offered, Leff and the rest of the

staff at the Wolfsonian are currently implementing a quick and easy way to become a student member of the Wolfsonian. Student membership will be hassle-free since it only requires students to input their name, e-mail and Panther ID.

Through membership, students can be notified of upcoming events and activities, and they can receive discounts to be used at the café and store.

One big event coming up is a select automobile design collection with private car showings on Oct. 16. On Nov. 7, the museum will be open an additional hour because of the start of daylight savings time.

All cultural institutions will be opened late and there will be music and special events occurring all throughout Miami Beach.

For more information, visit [wolfsonian.org](http://wolfsonian.org) or call the museum at (305) 531-1001.

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## BEACON | Editorial Student Government Constitution unclear, leads to misrepresented students

When it comes to filling senate vacancies, the SGA constitution's methodology is muddled at best. If the constitution is open to interpretation on a such a matter, students become vulnerable to misrepresentation.

The ambiguous language of the Student Government Association constitution raised concerns for

The Beacon, as it states that in the case of a "vacancy of a senator, the Senate may appoint a substitute to serve until the next special election is called or a special session."

As of this semester, the 26-member senate at SGC-MMC is filling the senator vacancies through special sessions, which means they are appointed by the current senators.

Though a special election in which students are actually allowed to vote may seem tedious, 26 students should not be electing a senator representing a whole school or college. Students elect senators with the understanding that they will act in their best interest, not select other members at will.

Because it does not clearly define what a "special election" is, the constitution leaves too much up to the imagination for a governing body. Senators and other officials are left confused, leaving the rest of the student body in the dark.

Although holding special elections this fall would have cost approximately \$800 to set up, SGA should provide these types of elections to students. Having nominees make a speech to the senate and voting the same day is a quick procedure to fill positions, but it does not guarantee that the issues facing students of a particular school will be heard.

While it is admirable to see the current Student Government Council at both campuses striving to remedy their constitution's murkiness, it is unfortunate that it will take more than an entire semester to correct the document. The Beacon understands, however, that the current constitution is the product of previous governing councils, and that the current council is merely working with what it has.

Even so, the constitution's legitimacy is eroded because it needs to be amended constantly.

Buying votes with pizza slices is no way to establish a legitimate election either.

At Biscayne Bay Campus, for example, SGC-BBC rewards students with food in exchange for their vote in a election. Though seemingly harmless, such methods do not result in the most qualified or prepared candidate being elected. College students are liable to do anything for some free food.

SGA allocates funds from student fees in order to pay for the pizza provided at these elections. While a particular candidate is not endorsed during these giveaways, students should bear in mind that this food is paid for with their fees.

Perhaps it is too much to ask that students vote on their own accord – without needing to be persuaded with food. Students should vote on the merit of the candidates, of their own free will, after researching platforms.

The Beacon understands that a student body composed of commuters and working adults is hard to attract to participate in SGA elections.

This is clearly evident in last year's elections, in which voter turnout decreased significantly from the year prior, to a mere 1,482 ballots cast.

The SGA constitution should explicitly outline the best method for officials to represent students – even if it's not the most convenient.

This editorial is the second in a three-part series. The last will be published Sept. 28.

## Blood testing an extra step not needed

ERICK VELANDIA  
Contributing Writer

Police are looking to get a bigger piece of us, specifically our blood, according to a recent issue of *The New York Times*.

In Boise, Idaho, a select cadre of officers are undergoing a federal program testing whether on-site blood tests are a more effective alternative to an already efficient Breathalyzer test.

This desire to use a suspect's blood to test for blood-alcohol content is both disturbing and worrisome. Police already have the responsibility to subject us to Breathalyzer and sobriety tests, both of which have proven to be successful.

The Breathalyzer test is accurate enough to reliably tell the blood-alcohol content of someone suspected of driving under the influence. The results of the blood test and Breathalyzer do not differ by a large margin.

So in reality, the concept of testing suspects' blood seems unnecessary when an easier test is already available. Having the police extract my blood and then try to incriminate me is too intrusive.

These risks police officers take are underestimated and go largely unnoticed, but I wholeheartedly respect them for their sacrifices. Yet when it comes to mucking about with my blood I think they are crossing the line.

The reason this situation is at our doorstep

is because citizens have the right to refuse a Breathalyzer test, which made sense to the lawmakers who approved the test that would stop drunk driving.

In the *Times* article, it states that a study by the National Highway Transportation Safety Administration showed that 22 percent of the national population refused to take the Breathalyzer in the year 2002. This really isn't that big of a concern considering the drunk drivers were probably still apprehended, but not properly punished.

Since then, there have been higher penalties for refusing the Breathalyzer ranging from fines to jail time, furthering the test's effectiveness. This is because people are actually obliged to take it now.

With the mandatory Breathalyzer test in place, there shouldn't be a need for blood. The Breathalyzer is effective and very seldom fails, so why is an alternative being looked at? It only serves to complicated things.

Blood can also be tampered with, ending up with many authenticity issues, and is a hassle to handle due to sterility and storage.

The additional expenses for proper training, reliable blood test equipment, blood storage in squad cars and a select lab for DUI

blood analysis seem avoidable.

It will probably end up being the taxpayers who will be funding the whole process.

The extra effort just doesn't seem to be worth it for a test that is only slightly more accurate than the Breathalyzer test.

One breathes into the hose, a number shows the blood alcohol content of the individual being tested, and based on that number the individual is either charged with a DUI or let go. Simple as that.

And last time I heard, a phobia for breathing into little hoses attached to little boxes isn't very common, but many

people do have a fear of needles. This will add further difficulty to the extraction process.

Plus, if I have to deal with a nurse, who is certified to draw blood, not being able to find a vein and making me miserable, I can only imagine how a person who deals with criminals would fair.

I find the Breathalyzer test works fine by itself. I suggest that the federal government use the money for more important issues; say financial aid for college students.

I think that would be a safer alternative than funding a textbook definition of superfluous spending.

**The extra effort just doesn't seem to be worth it for a test that is only slightly more accurate than the Breathalyzer test.**

## Iran disgraced if Ahmadinejad allowed to speak

MATTHEW RUCKMAN  
Asst. Opinion Editor

The protests taking place in Iran have largely been forgotten in light of Michael Jackson's death and other similarly important topics.

It may be a surprise to some that at this very moment the streets of Tehran are red with revolution and blood as a result of the suspected fraudulent election of Iranian President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad last June.

This collision of ideals is coming to a critical juncture on Sept. 22 when Ahmadinejad plans to speak before the United Nations General Assembly. This disgraceful act by the U.N. implicitly gives international legitimacy to Ahmadinejad's regime and ignores the many human rights abuses that have taken place in Iran since the election.

Since June, 2,500 have been detained in Iran so far for things as minor as wearing the color green, the color of the protest movement. A top Iranian judicial official also acknowledged

that detainees had been tortured and killed following the election, according to *The New York Times*.

The police chief even admitted that 20 protestors have been killed so far by government forces. These figures are probably much, much higher than the government releases.

These abuses and others,

The U.N. exists largely to prevent un-democratic events like these from taking place through non-violent measures, not endorse them by having lunch with the dictator. If the U.N. doesn't fulfill its charter, of denouncing totalitarian regimes, then there are few reasons for it to exist at all.

The hotel that plans to house

*In giving Ahmadinejad an audience the U.N. is tacitly recognizing his regime and the practice of torture and murder he employs.*

like the pronouncement that Israel will soon "disappear off the map," are one of the many reasons the U.N. should have refused to hear the dictator speak. In giving Ahmadinejad an audience, the U.N. is tacitly recognizing his regime and the practice of torture and murder he employs within Iran.

Ahmadinejad also carries the same burden as the U.N. in its complicity. The InterContinental The Barclay New York, which has hosted the dictator when he stayed in New York City before, ignores their very human responsibility to refuse Ahmadinejad's blood money.

If every hotel in New York

had refused doing business with Ahmadinejad, the brave protestors back in Iran would have seen that Americans backed their struggle for liberty when American support was most needed.

Iranian-Americans aren't taking this sitting down. One of the largest gatherings since the 1979 Islamic Revolution is planned to take place outside of the United Nations by supporters of the Iranian protest movement.

Right now, around the country, thousands of green-wearing street-stoppers, banner-wavers and chanters are converging upon the Big Apple in preparation for Ahmadinejad's arrival where they intend to make the U.N. and the world know exactly what they think of Ahmadinejad.

So while bureaucratic organizations like the U.N., and corporate interests like The Barclay might be indifferent, if not condone Ahmadinejad, most Americans do not. The streets of Tehran might be running red with blood, but the streets of New York City will be overgrown with green condemnation.

### EDITORIAL POLICY

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

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### QUOTATIONATION

*"People have to realize that the budget crisis in the city of Miami is much deeper than in the county, which is getting all the attention."*

Dario Moreno  
Director of FIU's Metropolitan Center

### OPINIONPIECE

# 68K

The estimated number of U.S. troops in Afghanistan by the end of the year.



MEN'S SOCCER

# No. 8 Indiana downs FIU in double overtime

**ANA DIAZ**  
Staff Writer

FIU's men's soccer team (3-4) was in Akron, Ohio this past weekend to play in the University of Akron Tournament.

**ST. LOUIS 1, FIU 0**

The Golden Panthers fell short with a 1-0 loss against the Saint Louis Billikens (2-2-0) when they allowed a goal 21

minutes into regulation. "This was a game we should have not lost; we did not show up from the start. We made a mistake in the back and the game stayed at 1-0 in the second half," said junior forward Steven Jair Cabas.

Billikens' forward Mike Roach made an unassisted goal off a deflected shot six yards out. Both teams played a highly competitive defense,

totaling only six shots on goal. Each had three shots on goal.

Cabas, Sebastian Frings and Diego Tamburus each contributed a shot on goal.

FIU's defense was challenged as there were 15 corner shots between both teams – 14 coming from Saint Louis.

"We did our best, but at the same time we did not do the best that we could in the back," Golden Panthers coach

Munga Eketebi said. "The way we came out in the second half should have been that way from the start. We could have tied the game."

**INDIANA 2, FIU 1 (2 OT)**

With five minutes left in the second half, Tamburus found Jair Cabas for his third goal of the season, to tie up the game against the No. 8 Indiana Hoosiers. After the tie, the

Hoosiers' offense attacked the Golden Panthers' defense with three shots on goal, in which one made the back of the net, giving Indiana a 2-1 win on Sept. 20.

The team managed to push Indiana to a second overtime. Tamburus contributed three shots on goal, Cabas had two shots, one of which was a goal.

FIU kept the board 0-0 during the first half, but in the

68th minute, Indiana forward Will Bruin made his second goal of the year.

"Indiana played a tough defense, they have three strong players in the back, yet our offense gave the team five to six opportunities on goal," Tamburus said.

Goalie Shane Lopez was chosen to the all-tournament team along with freshman defender Anthony Hobbs.

# Senior hopes to represent Australia in World Cup

**JACKSON, page 12**

Jackson's FIU career started off with a goal in her first career game, playing against in-state rival Florida Gulf Coast University. Since then, she has tallied two more, but hopes to raise that number this season.

"That was awesome and I was ecstatic. Unfortunately I haven't scored too many after that, but hopefully this

season, I can capitalize on my opportunities."

Since her arrival, Jackson has quickly established herself as a team favorite.

"I've done a bit of traveling with a few of the girls," said Jackson. "Co-captain Marina [Pappas], Linn [Thune], and I went to Jamaica for spring break which was incredible. I consider some of the girls on the team to be my best friends now, which is pretty

amazing."

Teammate Victoria Miliucci sees a complete turnaround in Jackson's play and feels that the team is better because of it.

"There's a total difference from last year," Miliucci said. "It's good to see. She always works hard, is kind of quiet, but you can see her work ethic and intensity all the time when she is on the field. You can tell she loves it."

# Team undefeated in Orlando

**VOLLEYBALL, page 12**

row," Tomic said. "We actually had a nice break ... we were able to go have a nice lunch, go back to the hotel, and the girls could actually take a nap so it wasn't really that bad. It helped that the first match didn't last that long."

It was all Golden Panthers in the second set, with the Golden Eagles unable to grab the lead.

Southern Mississippi came out firing in the third set, trying to avoid the sweep, but a service error and two kills from Vergun and Jovana Bjelica put FIU on top for good.

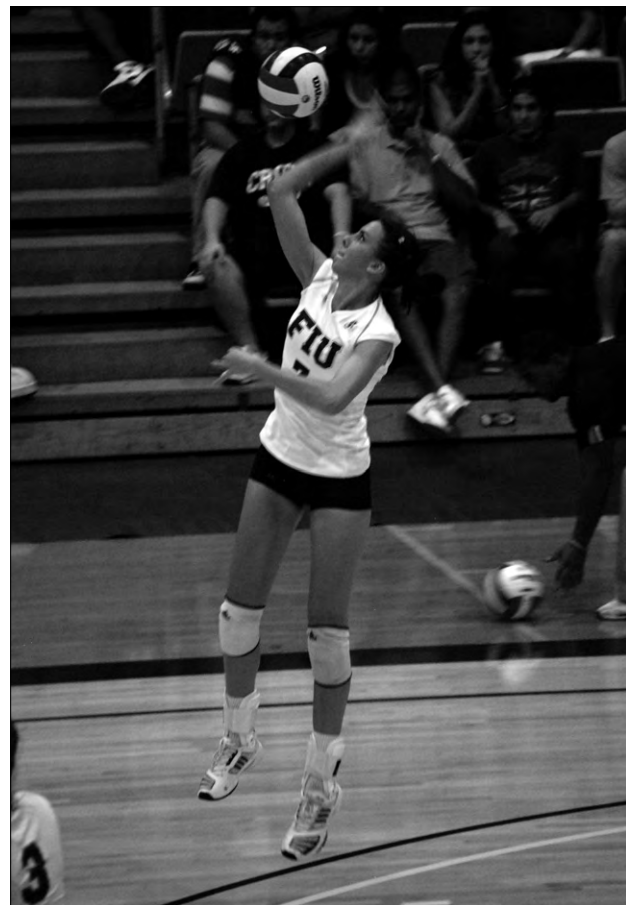
**FIU 3, UCF 0 (25-9, 25-21, 25-20)**

Vergun's memorable comeback season continued on Sept. 19 as she was named tournament MVP and helped FIU sweep the third and final match of the weekend against UCF (8-5) to win the tournament.

"She's been great ... I was just so happy for her to finish the preseason getting the MVP because she definitely deserves it," Tomic said. "She's stepped up as a senior with the way she plays, the way she leads the team. It's very satisfying as a coach to see someone develop like Olga has done."

Vergun, who missed all of last season due to injury, had a total of 10 kills against the Knights, and has stepped up in a tremendous way for her team in Yarimar Rosa's absence.

"She's a true volleyball player," Tomic said. "She stepped up and had a big



VICTORIA LYNCH/BEACON FILE PHOTO

**CROWN ME:** Olga Vergun, above, registered 10 kills in FIU's win over UCF at the UCF-Radisson Invitational and also won the tournament MVP.

weekend."

But it wasn't only Vergun who stepped up for the Golden Panthers. Freshman Bjelica continued her stellar play by compiling a career-high 17 kills against UCF, seven of them coming in the last set to help the Golden Panthers preserve the sweep.

The Golden Panthers took charge in the first set, the Knights never coming close to threatening. FIU managed to keep the Knights at bay during the second and third sets to

preserve the victory.

"This weekend was the first time that I felt that our team was on a mission," Tomic said. "They came and they wanted to win."

In addition to Vergun's tournament MVP, Bjelica and Valentin, who had 35 assists for the match, earned all-tournament honors.

The Golden Panthers begin conference play this weekend with matches on the road against Troy and South Alabama.

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**IN THEATERS SEPTEMBER 25**

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## PERFORMERS OF THE WEEK



T.Y. HILTON

The sophomore receiver led the team with nine catches for 80 yards and snagged two touchdown passes from quarterback Paul McCall.



SHANE LOPEZ

The sophomore goalie was named to the all-tournament team at the Akron University Tournament this past weekend. He leads the team with 14 saves.



STEVEN CABAS

The junior forward scored the Golden Panthers lone goal in their 2-1 double overtime loss to No. 8 Indiana at the Akron University Tournament this past weekend. The goal came with 5:09 left in regulation to tie the game at 1-1.



OLGA VERGUN

The senior outside hitter has stepped up her production since All-American Yarimar Rosa went down with an injury. She led the Golden Panthers to sweeping victory at the UFC-Radisson Invitational and was named the tournament MVP.



ANDREA LAKOVIC

The sophomore middle blocker helped the Golden Panthers dominate throughout the UFC-Radisson Invitational. In the first game she led the team with six blocks. The 6-foot defender makes it difficult for opponents to get easy shots on the Golden Panthers.



KAITLYN SAVAGE

The freshman goalie had seven saves against Arkansas. She leads the team with 27 saves and has a save percentage of .711. She's recorded one shutout this season so far.

## WOMEN'S SOCCER

# Razorbacks serve Golden Panthers first home loss

CHRIS GREEN  
Staff Writer

The Golden Panthers women's soccer team entered the game against Arkansas on Sept. 20 hoping to serve the visiting team its first loss of the season.

Instead, FIU found an unbeaten team that was too much to handle.

"Overall, it was a pretty good performance from our team," said Golden Panthers coach Thomas Chestnutt. "But you're talking about an unbeaten team and a pretty good performance doesn't get it against an undefeated team."

For the Golden Panthers, Arkansas proved too much as they lost 2-0 at home.

FIU opened the first half with plenty of opportunities at the goal, but none of the shots by April Perry, Kassandra Sorzano, or Marina Pappas were able to find the back of the net.

Arkansas' first of seven corner kicks ended with a highlight-reel quality save by freshman goalkeeper Kaitlyn Savage after a header by Arkansas' Kelly O'Connor.

The Golden Panthers had one of their opportunities for a goal foiled after Razorback Kate Singleton cleared a shot by Deana Rossi that had trickled past Arkansas goalie Britini Williams.

With less than 10 minutes remaining in the first half, Arkansas' Ally Atkins got the first goal of the match as she was able to capitalize on a deflection from a save by Savage.

Heading into the half, the Golden Panthers trailed by one.

"Nothing bad really happened, but we weren't totally in control



CHRIS GREEN/THE BEACON

**OUT OF POSITION:** Junior forward Thaisa Moreno, left, battles with Arkansas player for position in the Golden Panthers' 2-0 loss at home.

all of the time," midfielder Victoria Miliucci said. "We started to get a little worried once we were down, and we kind of got unorganized."

In the second half, the Razorbacks began to dominate the game. Kat Moffett put the ball into the FIU net around the 63-minute mark, increasing the lead for Arkansas to two goals.

By the time the final whistle had blown, FIU had been outshot 14-9, and had only garnered one corner kick to Arkansas' nine.

"This one was a perfect kind

of match that I felt could show us where our deficiencies are going into conference," Chestnutt said. "However, saying that, I would say our deficiencies aren't by far as great as they were earlier in the season."

With the loss, FIU now falls to 2-4-2 on the season heading into Sun Belt Conference competition.

FIU begins its two-game opening conference road trip this weekend with games at Middle Tennessee and Western Kentucky on Sept. 25 and 27, respectively.

## Alvarez: Asprilla could have signed with big-time program

ASPRILLA, page 12

team either.

Alvarez said all the changes made Asprilla uncomfortable.

"Freddy is the type of kid who likes his own comfort zone, and he just didn't feel comfortable there anymore," Alvarez said. "We have no problem with Isiah Thomas. He left because his coach, that he felt comfortable with, is no longer there."

But at one point, the Colombian native was almost ready to give FIU another shot for a year, according to Garcia.

"And then somebody else spoke to him and changed his mind again," he said. "I even volunteered to go down to Colombia and speak to him and his parents, and we were going to do that, and he was going to come back for a year. Then all of a sudden we read in a Kansas paper that he was going to go to

Kansas State."

Garcia, who ultimately is the decision-maker when it comes to scholarship release requests, said he did not grant Asprilla his release because Athletics believes there has been some "tampering" with Asprilla, and FIU had to be protected.

"We have indications that there's been tampering with Freddy," Garcia said. "Once student-athletes sign a letter of intent to go to your school, other schools aren't supposed to come after them. How do they do it, in reality? They go through other intermediaries, maybe not necessarily the student-athletes themselves, or the parents, but through other people that know the students."

Garcia said Athletics is "confident" this is what has happened.

"How about if they come after one of our other star athletes in another sport? Are we supposed

### 08-09 STATS

Points Per Game: 13.7

Rebounds: 9.2

Field Goal Percentage: .532

Minutes: 25.7

Blocks: 16

Steals: 11

Assist: 0.9

to release them right away also?" he said.

Rouco, who recruited Asprilla, declined to comment.

Attempts at getting in touch with Asprilla were unsuccessful.

He'll play one season for Miami-Dade at the junior college level to regain his recruitment eligibility and sign with a Division I program this November during the early signing period, according to Alvarez.



VICTORIA LYNCH/BEACON FILE PHOTO

**LEAVING ON HIS OWN TERMS:** Former center Freddy Asprilla is the fourth player to leave the team since Isiah Thomas took over as coach.

## Asprilla to attend Miami-Dade College

**JONATHAN DAVILA**  
Staff Writer

After the Athletics Department did not grant men's basketball center Freddy Asprilla his scholarship release, he had two choices: pay his way through another Division I school, or play at the junior college level for one season to regain recruitment eligibility.



ASPRILLA

Asprilla decided to attend Miami-Dade College because no other school could offer him a scholarship while he's still signed at FIU, and he couldn't afford paying his way through a more expensive school, according to Asprilla's former Amateur Athletic Union coach Art Alvarez. "If he would've been granted the release, he would've been at North Carolina, or Duke or somewhere

else," said Alvarez. "Everybody in the country wants him - from Duke, to North Carolina, to Kentucky, to UConn, to Florida, to Miami. Every school wants his services."

Asprilla requested the scholarship release after former Golden Panthers coach Sergio Rouco was reassigned within the Athletics Department in April to make way for the hiring of current coach Isiah Thomas.

At around the same time, Mike Dominguez, a shooting guard from last season's squad, and Harley Fuller, a point guard, were granted releases from their scholarships so they could play closer to home.

Starting point guard Josue Soto signed a contract to play professionally in Puerto Rico, according to Athletic Director Pete Garcia, and would not be returning to the

**ASPRILLA, page 11**

## Midfielder Jackson among best talents from Down Under

**CHRIS GREEN**  
Staff Writer

Before starting her senior year, Amy Jackson had the opportunity to measure her skills against some of the best players from her native Australia.

Playing among 26 of the best soccer players from one's home country may have been intimidating, but for the Australian-born Jackson, it served as a stepping stone to a greater goal of one day representing her nation in international play.

The three-day camp was designed to help prepare the Australian national team for the Asian Football Confederation Women's Asian Cup 2010, which serves as a qualifying tournament for the 2011 FIFA Women's World Cup in Germany. Jackson got the invite to become one of 26 players to participate.

"Some of the players were Olympians, some have played at a really high level, and that experience was really good, and I'm hoping to just transfer what I've learned to FIU and have a big season," said Jackson. "You've got to react faster, and keep thinking that one step ahead."

Having already competed for the Australian under-20 national team in 2007, Jackson believes that this experience will be something that she can use for a long time as she continues her life's dream of playing with the elite.

"My aspirations are to be a national team player, and hopefully if things continue the way that they are then one day I'll achieve

that."

When Coach Tom Sermanni called Jackson to join the practices, she jumped at the opportunity to play with the Australian national women's soccer team, nicknamed the Matildas.

"I arrived home over the summer and I got contacted by the national coach [Tom Sermanni]," she said. "I went to two of their national camps. I played up against some of the best players in my country."

FIU coach Thomas Chestnutt feels that Jackson's time in Australia has changed her mental views on the game for the better.

"It's given her a bit more confidence in her play," Chestnutt said. "She has a bit more of a sharper edge in her game on game day, and that has been a big help to the team. Confidence is everything in the world of sports."

### STARTING OFF RIGHT

Many of the national players are currently in the United States. So there were some open spots for Jackson to practice with the team. She's been living in the U.S. since she started playing for FIU in 2007.

For Jackson, moving to America was a brand new experience that brought with it many opportunities for the future.

"When I first came to America, I didn't know what to expect," said Jackson. "Thankfully, all the girls were really welcoming and I found a home away from home straight away."

**JACKSON, page 10**



CHRIS GREEN/THE BEACON

**NATIONAL EXPERIENCE:** Senior midfielder Amy Jackson is hoping that what she learned while practicing with the Australian national team this summer will carry over to this season.

### VOLLEYBALL

## Vergun wins tournament MVP award

**JOEL DELGADO**  
Staff Writer

The Golden Panthers (10-2) traveled to Orlando and dominated, winning all three of their matches without losing a set to win the UCF-Radisson Invitational as they prepare to begin conference play Sept. 25.

**FIU 3, FAMU 0 (25-20, 25-19, 25-6)**

Coach Danijela Tomic was looking for the Golden Panthers to improve their play on defense, and the team responded with a great defensive performance as they dominated the Florida A&M Rattlers (1-5) to kick off the weekend tournament in Orlando on Sept. 18.

"We blocked better, that's what happened," Tomic said. "We focused a little bit more on blocking last week before we went to Orlando and we immediately got results. It was easier for

our back row to get more digs. We knew it was something we had to work on and we showed this weekend that we can be a good blocking team."

The team combined for 10 blocks on the match, a season-high for the Golden Panthers, with Andrea Lakovic responsible for six of those stops, matching her career-high. Natalia Valentin led the team with nine digs while Chanel Araujo contributed with eight digs of her own.

The Rattlers threatened in the early parts of the first two sets, but were unable to keep up with the FIU attack and defense as the sets wore on.

In the third and final set, FIU jumped out to an 11-1 lead on their way to sealing the sweep.

"Last year we could not beat teams the way we beat FAMU in that set," Tomic said. "I want the team to be very aggressive and competitive on the court and we couldn't do that in the

past."

Olga Vergun and Isadora Rangel led the offensive attack with nine kills each.

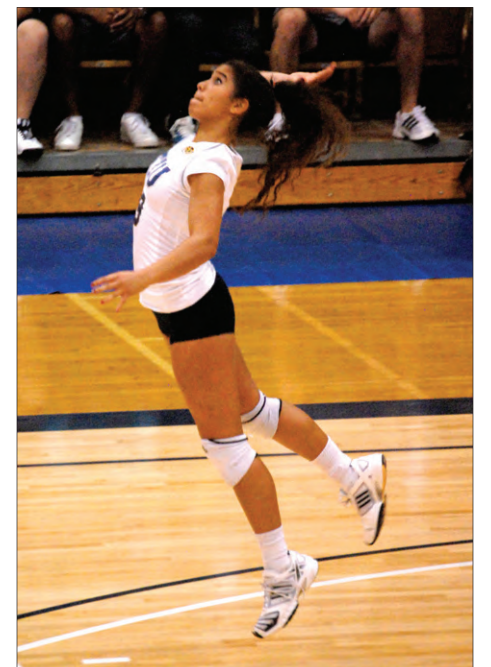
**FIU 3, S. MISS 0 (25-15, 25-16, 25-21)**

A tough Southern Mississippi team (11-2) was unable to stop the Golden Panthers attack as FIU marched to another three-set sweep just hours after taking on Florida A&M in the tournament opener.

Playing two matches in one day on the road didn't seem to slow the Golden Panthers down, as they went back and forth with Southern Mississippi in the first set before a kill by Vergun, who had 13 kills for the match along with her team-high five blocks, put the squad ahead for good in the first set.

"That's something we do in volleyball in preseason, you have to play two matches in a

**VOLLEYBALL, page 10**



VICTORIA LYNCH/BEACON FILE PHOTO

**SLAM!** Natalia Valentin led the Golden Panthers in digs in their 3-0 (25-20, 25-19, 25-6) win over Florida A&M.

