

3-9-2011

## The Beacon, March 9, 2011

Florida International University

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## TUNISIA

### Tunisia scraps hated police unit

Tunisia's prime minister named a new government and a police unit was disbanded as the interim leadership of this nation seeks to stabilize a country still finding its way after a popular revolt.



## LIBYA

### Warplanes strike rebels at oil port

Libyan warplanes launched multiple airstrikes on opposition fighters regrouping at a port on the coast, to thwart a rebel advance toward Moammar Gadhafi's stronghold in Tripoli.



## CUBA

### Trial of US contractor ends, no verdict

The trial of a U.S. government contractor facing up to 20 years in jail on charges he sought to undermine Cuba's government wrapped up, but with no indication of when a verdict might come.

# Lecture discusses peace in Middle East

**ANALIA FIESTAS**  
Staff Writer

With topics ranging from energy alternatives, discrimination laws and U.S. affairs with Israel, a lecture sponsored by the University's pro-Israel student group, FIU Shalom, aimed to educate students on the Jewish state's peace efforts as part of Israel Peace Week.

The peace campaign, hosted at nearly 50 universities across the country, and "Peace in the Middle East," the lecture on March 3, aimed to engage students on the concerning the Middle East.

Serving as the lecture's keynote speaker was former US Representative Ron Klein. Having served for 14 years in the legislature and four in Congress, Klein addressed a crowd in GC 305 on current policy regarding U.S. relations with Israel.

"We picked Ron Klein because we knew that he worked on the government committee for foreign affairs so he is very knowledgeable about the subject. Therefore, we united with the organization he is part of, Zionist Organization of America, and together we were able to bring him to FIU," said President of Shalom FIU,

Rebecca Sterling.

Klein began "Peace in the Middle East" by citing Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, emphasizing its prohibition of discrimination based on race, color or national origin. Using this legislation as a reference, Klein noted that despite this law, some schools are consciously misinterpreting freedom of speech with harassment based on discrimination.

"This is one of the problems we need to fix immediately," said Klein.

Apart from the discrimination issue, Klein spoke of what he believed was a more pressing issue—the global energy crisis.

"Probably one of the most significant things we can do in this country to help ourselves and the people of Israel is to have an energy policy to promote energy alternatives and green technology," said Klein.

Claiming that Israelis are devaluing the necessity of oil, Klein praises their reliance on energy alternatives such as the re-birth of the electric cars as an example.

"Currently, a lot of places in the world have the type of technology that Israel created," said Klein.

Presenting it as a great way to take care of our environment, Klein

## LOCKED UP FOR LIFE



ALEX GARCIA/THE BEACON

Relay for Life 2011 took place on March 4 and raised \$86,559.23. Delta Phi Epsilon jailed team members, waiting for donations from people to get them out. For more photos, turn to page four.

also believes that this alternative is the only solution that can really save money. Klein then proceeded to introduce the audience to "Better Place," a program that has already raised 8 billion dollars to support the alternative energy campaign, "Think Blue. Think Green."

Aside from the energy crisis,

Klein spoke about the different types of government in Middle Eastern countries, past and current wars, and foreign affairs between the United States and Israel.

"Peace in the Middle East" drew strong reactions from its attendees.

"I found that it is very interesting to hear a former representative speak

about politics right in front of your face. I also agree with him in a lot of his claims and do understand that there are many options to fix all the issues that Israel is going through," said Ph.D. student, Rebekah Israel.

Several students were unhappy

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## VALUED AESTHETICS



GLORIA BAILON/THE BEACON

Junior Gabriela Mendez, an international business major, and junior Valerisa Picado, a nursing major, work with Cuban artist Fabian Pena and Prof. John Bailly on an installation for the Honors College's Aesthetics and Values exhibition.

# PAVER award given to University law professor

**LAEBONY LIVINGSTON**  
Staff Writer

Judge Jose M. Rodriguez has been an adjunct professor with the Legal Studies Institute since 1994, but this year was his first time winning the Mario P. Goderich "PAVER" Award.

The PAVER award was established in 2005 and is granted by the Cuban American Bar Association (CABA). CABA was founded in the state of Florida in 1974 and includes judges, lawyers and law students of Cuban descent.

The award is named after its first recipient, Mario P. Goderich, the first president of CABA.

Only one CABA member is selected per year for the award, which is given to those who demonstrate professionalism, achievement, values, excellence and respect.

Rodriguez was taken by surprise and had no idea he won until he was called at the event.

"Somebody thought I deserved it and I am very humble," said Rodriguez.

Rodriguez now joins the ranks of other past recipients, including Florida Supreme Court Justice Fred Lewis.

"I know all of the past winners and I am very humble to be a part of this group," said Rodriguez, who insists that he does not solely focus on awards. "I don't think I should be awarded for doing my job, that's my award."

In addition to being an instructor for the Paralegal Program at the University's Legal Studies Institute and currently serving as circuit judge of the 11th Judicial Circuit of Florida, Family Division, Rodriguez serves on several judiciary committees including the Florida

Supreme Court Judicial Ethics Advisory Committee.

Over his career, Rodriguez has received dozens of awards and certificates, so many that he cannot remember them all.

"I have achieved other awards and certificates but this is the first time an organization has recognized me," said Rodriguez.

Rodriguez's commitment to the University has been undeniable ever since he graduated with his Bachelor of Arts in 1978.

Not only has he worked with the Legal Studies Institute since 1994, he also has taught courses for the Criminal Justice Department.

"I like to teach what I know," said Rodriguez, who looks to add to his career field by applying to the Third District Court of Appeals right next to the University as a way of staying close to home.



# Speaker’s opinions leave some in attendance unhappy

LECTURE, page 1

with the lecture’s keynote speaker and disagreed with his opinions on U.S. affairs and threats with the Middle East.

“I’m personally not too happy with the speaker. I don’t agree with most of his view-

points. I don’t think Iran is that much of a threat for Israel, for example,” said junior, Sean McMahon.

Along with “Peace in the Middle East,” Peace Week at FIU held other lectures, film screenings and food giveaways.



“Klein covered a lot of issues concerning the

Middle East and the government of the United States. The lecture covered a very broad angle of the Israeli Peace week and I see that as a very successful meeting,” said Sterling.

Israel Peace Week is an initiative that focuses on threats facing the Jewish states along with its accomplishments and values in an oppressive

Middle East. The program’s priority is to inform college students about standing up for the Senate of Israel and its defense for peace.

These weeklong events also counter an anti-Israel initiative known as Israel Apartheid Week and sponsored separately by Students for Justice in Palestine at FIU.



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**ALFRED SOTO**

**CONTACT INFORMATION**

Modesto Maidique Campus:  
GC 210, Mon-Fri 9:00 AM-4:30 PM  
(305) 348-2709  
news@fiusm.com

Biscayne Bay Campus  
WUC 124, Mon-Fri 9:00 AM-4:30 PM  
(305) 919-4722  
bbc@fiusm.com

Fax:  
(305) 348-2712

Editor-in-Chief:  
(305) 348-1580  
jorge.valens@fiusm.com

Advertising:  
(305) 348-6994  
advertising@fiusm.com

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## Select parking spaces closed

ALEXANDRA CAMEJO  
Asst. News Director

As part of a long-standing agreement with the Youth Fair and Expo, several parking lots and garages across campus will be utilized or closed beginning March 7.

The Department of Parking and Transportation released a memorandum to the University Community referring to the upcoming changes that can be expected at Modesto Maidique Campus.

The memorandum noted that the University should “expect significant increase in pedestrian and vehicular traffic,” and stated that FIU Police and Parking and Transportation would be working “to minimize the magnitude of this event.”

Lot 5, east of the Wertheim Performing Arts Center, will be closed as of March 7, and drivers are being encouraged

to utilize the Blue Garage or Lot 4 as an alternate.

While the changes in parking and shared use of FIU MMC property have been active for years, several students still find it to be an annoyance.

“Parking at FIU is already so hectic that topping it off with people looking for parking for the fair is going to be such a pain,” said Nina Pascual, sophomore and Psychology major.

Both the Department of Parking and Transportation and FIU Police, according to the memorandum, will staff key locations around campus.

There will also be key check point posts set up in housing parking lots, where only drivers with housing stickers will be allowed to park.

The Gold and Blue Garages will also be used for Youth Fair parking, but the

memorandum assures that the University’s departments will have staff patrolling vigilantly to address any safety issues.

While many find these changes to be an inconvenience, others understand that they come with the perks and discounts the Fair allots FIU students.

“Even though parking could be crazy, students are able to get major discounts on tickets, and I figure that it’s part of the deal with having a property together,” said Raphael Masp, junior and biology major.

The University has also assured that a staff member will be monitoring the traffic circle. The Youth Fair and Expo will open from March 17 to April 3.

Using the promotion code “FIUFair11,” the University community can purchase discount online tickets at <http://tickets.fairexpo.com/FIU>.

# RALLY IN TALLY

## MARCH 22ND

Rally in Tally is a free trip, including food and transportation, to Tallahassee to meet with State representatives to make them aware of FIU student concerns. This includes the possibility of allowing guns on campus and the upcoming educational budget cuts.

If interested, stop by the SGA office in GC 211 and/or send an email to [sga.lobbying@fiu.edu](mailto:sga.lobbying@fiu.edu)

Students can apply online at <http://www2.fiu.edu/~sga/legislativeAffairs.html>



## SUN BELT TOURNAMENT

# DOUBLE DOWN

## UALR knocks Golden Panthers out in tournament semifinal

**RICO ALBARRACIN**  
Asst. Sports Director

After winning their first tournament match-up on Sunday afternoon, the Golden Panthers saw their season finished the very next day.

FIU was defeated in the semifinals of the Sun Belt Conference Women's Basketball Championship by the University of Arkansas Little-Rock by a score of 47-37 on March 7.

Freshman Jerica Coley led the Golden Panthers with 14 points and five rebounds while redshirt junior Fanni Hutlassa chipped in 11 points on 50 percent shooting from the field. Senior Michelle Gonzalez struggled from the floor in her final game for FIU, scoring just three points on 0-7 shooting from the field to go along with three rebounds and three turnovers.

Senior Chastity Reed led all scorers with 20 points to lead the Trojans into the championship finals against



KRISTI CAMARA/THE BEACON

Michelle Gonzalez [left] was held to just three points against UALR in tourney loss.

Western Kentucky.

Both teams were conservative with the ball, burning the shot clock down to the last second. With both teams protecting ball possession, neither team was able to establish an offensive presence, scoring a combined 19 points in the first 13

minutes of the first half.

Holding an 11-8 lead, the Trojans would clamp down on defense to force turnovers, giving the Trojans a 12-4 run to finish the first half with a 23-12 halftime lead.

The second half was off to a slow pace with no team

scoring in the first four minutes until Coley hit a layup. The score by Coley sparked a quick outburst of offense for the two teams, allowing for both teams to trade baskets. After cutting the deficit to nine, the

**WOMEN'S, page 6**

## Golden Panthers downed by poor second half play

**JACKSON WOLEK**  
Staff Writer

FIU's season ended Sunday, March 6 in their second round Sun Belt Conference tournament game to the hands of Middle Tennessee in a 73-38 loss, their worst against a conference opponent all year.

After upsetting Denver just a night earlier thanks in part to a tremendous defensive effort that allowed the Pioneers just 12 points at the end of the half and 49 in the game, they brought the same kind of intensity to the first half against MTSU, but looked completely the opposite in the second half.

"We held them to 28 percent shooting in the first half but we couldn't make a basket," Thomas said. "I thought that in the second half we would come out better offensively, it's disappointing

for us but you have to be happy for those kids (Middle Tennessee) for everything they've been going through.

In the first half, both teams got off to a bad start shooting the ball and with 6:34 to go in the half, MTSU held only a slight lead over FIU at 12-8. The Blue Raiders would soon go on a run though, and built their lead up to 19-10 before the Golden panthers battled back to keep the game from getting out of hand. The half ended with Middle Tennessee leading 24-17, and FIU shooting just 19 percent from the field and 14 percent from beyond the arch.

They could not find any one player to deliver them the offense they so greatly needed, and if it wasn't for MTSU's equally poor 28 percent shooting from the field and 14 percent from

**MEN'S, page 6**

## SOFTBALL

# Late error gives FIU a tough loss vs. St. Joseph's



KRISTI CAMARA/THE BEACON

**MALCOLM SHIELDS**  
Staff Writer

The Golden Panthers wrapped up their weekend at the University of South Florida Invitational on March 6, with a high noon matchup against St. Joseph's. FIU (10-10) fell to the Hawks in the bottom of the seventh by a 3-2 score.

The Hawks scored first in the bottom of the first inning. St. Joseph's had two runners on with no outs; courtesy of a lead-off single by Dana Parks and Laura Cardone who was hit by a pitch.

Both runners advanced on a sac bunt to have runners in scoring position with only one out against FIU starting pitcher Ashley McClain. After a walk to load the bases, Shannon Kramer delivered a two out, two RBI single for St. Joseph's staking them to an early 2-0 lead. McClain forced a lineup to end the inning.

The Golden Panthers attempted to score in the top of the third inning. Beth Peller had lead-off the inning with a single off St. Joseph's starting pitcher Erin Gallagher. Erika Arcuri reached

base on a fielders' choice which retired Peller at second. McClain followed with a single. With two runners on and two out, Brie Rojas lined out to end the inning.

In the fifth inning, the Golden Panthers lead-off the inning with a walk by Peller. Peller advanced to second base on a passed ball. Peller reached third base on an illegal pitch by relief pitcher Taryn Ashway, who entered the game in the fourth inning. Ashway surrendered FIU's first run on her second illegal pitch of the inning to trim the lead to 2-1.

Gallagher re-entered the game at pitcher and issue consecutive walks to Arcuri and McClain. A groundball to third base produced a fielders' choice which allowed Brie Rojas to reach base and retire Arcuri at third. With two outs, Kayla Burri, singled to right field, scoring McClain from second to tie the game at two.

After spotting, the Hawks two runs in the first inning, McClain settled in. McClain held the Hawks scoreless for the next five innings allowing no runs and no hits. The seventh inning would spoil her

effort in the circle.

In the bottom of the seventh inning, Rochelle Christman had one out single for the Hawks. A sac bunt advanced Lindsey Williams, who pinch ran for Christman, to second base. Parks reached base for the Hawks on a fielders' choice.

Parks and Williams then advanced to second and third respectively. The Hawks won the game on an error by McClain which allowed Williams to score from third base. FIU completed the weekend tournament with a 3-2 record.

## FIU SOFTBALL DOUBLE HEADER

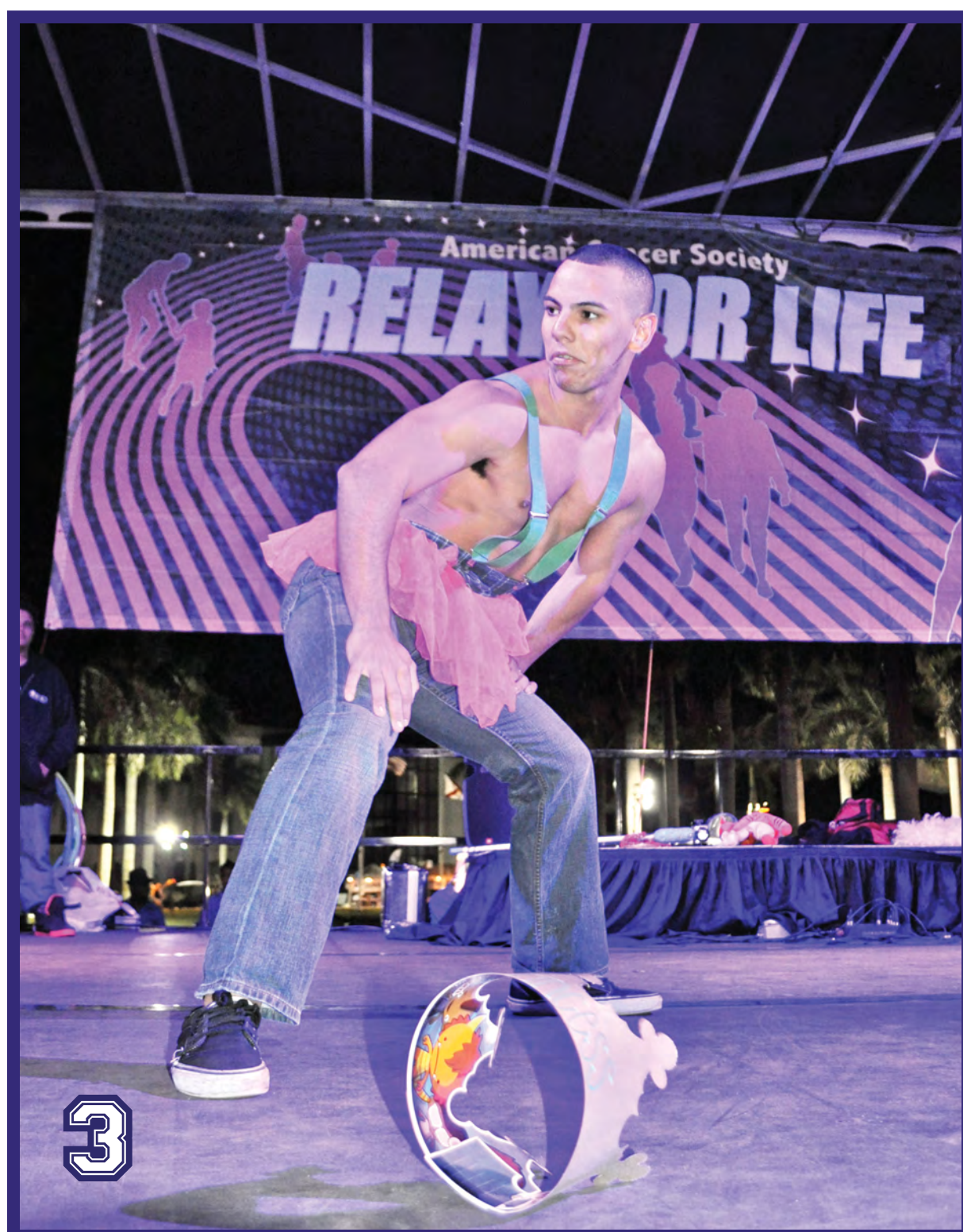
### FIU vs. MTSU

- Time: 4 p.m. and 6 p.m.
- When: 03/15/11
- Where: FIU SB Stadium

Rachel Slowik and the FIU offense was unable to lift FIU over St. Joseph's.



# RELAY FOR LIFE



Relay for Life raised \$86,559 this year. The money raised at the event goes to the American Cancer Society.

1. Tom Pupo from Alpha Rho Chi builds a house of cards. 2. Tiffany Walker, senior psychology major, works the cotton candy machine at the Psi Chi Honor Society table. 3. Arturo Abereu dances on stage as part of the Ms. Really Relay competition. 4. Benjamin Rosa dresses as Captain America representing Phi Delta Epsilon, the international medical fraternity. He's joined by fellow student Efren Diaz. 5. Marling Garcia, a junior psychology major, Christina Doura and Gabriella Silva, senior psychology majors, play a super-sized game of Jenga. 6. Hali Charron, senior psychology major, lights a candle during the Luminaria ceremony with her father. Participants light candles in dedication to those who have succumbed to cancer during the ceremony. 7. A student takes a photo with his cell phone during the Luminaria ceremony.

ALL PHOTOS BY LINDA LEE/THE BEACON





## BASEBALL

# DeSimone flirts with no-hitter in victory

**ANDRES LEON**  
Staff writer

After a close win the previous night the Golden Panthers look to complete a three-game sweep against Seton Hall on Mar. 7.

FIU had the runs they needed, and the defense to close the game against the Pirates. With no-hits going into the eighth inning the Golden Panthers came close to repeating history once again for the second time in less than a week.

Righty Daniel Desimone, who prior to this game had pitched eleven innings with eight strikeouts, had his best outing of the season.

Desimone was four outs away from the record books when Sean Gusrang connected a double down right field in the eighth inning to wipe off his no-hit bid.

Desimone tossed a complete game, allowing one run on three hits as he struck out seven, one shy of his season total. His pitching helped the Golden Panthers (11-2) win a close 3-1 decision to complete the three-game sweep over Seton Hall (2-7).

"I had to stay ahead of the hitters, change up was working



BEACON FILE PHOTO

Daniel DeSimone was two innings away from a no-hitter vs. Seton Hall.

for me," Desimone said.

According to the senior pitcher, he envisioned an outing like this in his sleep.

"I had a dream the night before

that I got it, but in the sixth inning today I noticed I was close...I threw a bad pitch and he did what he had to do," Desimone said.

After giving up a hit in the

eighth, Desimone allowed two more hits in the ninth inning, including a run to break his complete game shutout. Sullivan would single off a bunt and Genovese would double a deep ball to right center to give the Pirates a consolidation run.

"About the sixth inning I glanced up [at the score] and noticed a bunch of zeros and it started to hit me," Desimone said.

Desimone's no-hit bid was not a surprise to Coach Turtle Thomas. Who expected a solid outing from the senior.

"He's an outstanding pitcher. He was throwing well all game and he picked off their lead off guy. He really deserved the no-hitter, but our bullpen is showing up," said Thomas, after the game. "It's important to have good pitching against good teams."

As the bottom of the fifth inning, Joel Capote singled out down the left field line. Catcher Jose Behar would complement Capote by doubling a deep ball to left center field bringing Capote in to score the first run of the game.

Pablo Bermudez would lay a sacrifice bunt, advancing Behar

to third. T.J. Shantz would hit a bunt single, bringing Behar home to expand the lead to 2-0 in the fifth.

The score was still 2-0 in the bottom of the seventh when the Pirate made their first pitching change. Pirates reliever Frank Morris would replace Greg Terhune to keep the Golden Panthers at bay.

Joel Capote would have none of that, hitting his first homerun of the season. Capote hit a solo shot deep over the right field wall.

"We play small ball, and normally I don't go for a homerun but he gave me a good pitch and I swung hard," Capote said.

With the victory, FIU sit on a ten-game winning streak as they travel through Texas to face Rice University on March 9 followed by a three-game set against Texas A&M in College Station through the weekend.

The Golden Panther pitching staff will be tested as the Rice Owls have the top projected hitter in the nation, Anthony Rendon. The Aggies of Texas A&M are also a familiar foe as they eliminated FIU in the NCAA Regional last season.

## With key players returning, FIU looks towards future

### MEN'S, page 3

the three, the game would have gotten out of hand for the Golden panthers before the second half even began.

In the second half, everything that could have gone wrong for FIU did go wrong. The defense that they played with up until the second half was some of the best defense they played with all season, but they could not carry that on when they needed to the most. Their defensive collapsed due to the fact that they couldn't buy a basket in the first or second half. With the poor offensive production, it caused their defensive to fold.

"We couldn't make a shoot and consequently because we couldn't make a shot we started pressing and the more we pressed the more out a sync we got," said Thomas. "We ended up turning the ball over trying to force things instead of letting the game come to us before you know it the game had ballooned to 20 points."

The Blue Raiders went off to start the second half on a 21-2 run which completely destroyed the confidence of the Golden panthers, and made it tough for any kind of comeback to occur. Their 21 turnovers in the game not only affected their offense, but their defense as well, as Middle Tennessee scored 23 of their points off the turnovers.

FIU would not be able to make any sort of comeback in the second half to have a chance of perhaps staying in the game, and as the



KRISTI CAMARA/THE BEACON

Dominique Ferguson [above] is one of many players returning next year.

game ended in a 73-38 loss it was already time to look on to next year's team, that will be returning a majority of their top players including Phil Taylor, Eric Frederick, DeJuan Wright, Jeremy Allen, Dominique Ferguson, a highly touted recruiting class and for the time being, coach Isiah Thomas.

"I'm looking forward to next year, we got some experience and we won more than we did last year and got a little further than we did last year in terms of games," said Thomas on the future of FIU basketball. "Just keep building, I like the recruits coming in and I like the guys we have coming back."

## Golden Panthes fall just short of championship

### WOMEN'S, page 3

Golden Panthers were not able to stop the Trojans from going on a 10-0 run to make it 35-16 with 11:14 left in the game.

UALR began to burn out clock to finish any hopes of a Golden Panther comeback, holding FIU to six points in five minutes. FIU would push up the pace to cut the lead to as small as 11 with 1:13 left in the game to make the score 45-34.

Time would not be on the Golden Panthers side, allowing the Trojans to finish off FIU 47-37, to advance in the SBC tournament.

The Golden Panthers finished the season with a 16-16 mark on the season, 10-6 in the SBC. Coley led FIU in scoring and rebounding for the season with 15.7 points and 6.3 rebounds per game. Gonzalez finished the season with 11 points and 4.1 assists per game, and finished her career at number eight on FIU's all-time leading assists leader with 359 career assists.

### FIU 52, ULM 51

Fanni Hutlassa saved the day for FIU against ULM in the Sun Belt quarterfinals, as the women's basketball team overcame a Warhawk comeback with a 52-51 win in on March 6. With the win, FIU advanced to the semifinal round for the first

time since the 2005-06 season.

Hutlassa stepped up to the free throw line with the score tied at 51-51 and 17 seconds remaining. Hutlassa made the first of two free-throws, allowing the Warhawks to secure the rebound and take one last stab at the basket. Hutlassa came up with the defensive rebound as time expired for the win.

Coley led the Golden Panthers with 15 points and sophomore Finda Mansare had her first career double-double with 13 points and 10 rebounds.

With the score tied at 22 with three minutes remaining in the first half, FIU went on a 7-0 run to send the Golden Panthers into the locker room with a 29-22 lead.

FIU began to pull away after halftime, giving them their largest lead of the game, 44-28, with 11:17 remaining in the game.

The Panthers held an 11-point lead with six minutes remaining when ULM rallied for a potential upset. Larrie Williams' layup started a 12-0 run for the Warhawks to take a 51-50 lead with just under three minutes to play.

Gonzalez hit her first of two free throws to tie the score at 51. One minute later, Hutlassa came up with the go-ahead point from the charity stripe to seal FIU's first postseason win since 2008.

## Jobless college grads in need of aid

GIOVANNI GONZALEZ  
Staff Writer

Young people, especially college graduates, are being hit hard by the economy's lack of improvement. This does not bode well for the future of virtually every area of the workforce, producing a generation of jobless, professionally inexperienced and hopeless young people.

A college education is not cheap or easy to obtain and many graduates expect a return on their investment. Unfortunately, recent and upcoming graduates may have a harder time than they think getting into their preferred professional career.

At 12 percent, Florida's unemployment rate is among the highest in the country, according to bls.gov. The website also states that the age group of 20 to 24 years of age has a whopping unemployment rate of 18.2 percent and the age group of 25 to 34 has an unemployment rate of 11.3 percent, revealing that those who should be the heart of the workforce have a combined unemployment rate of almost 30 percent.

This is an enormous number for what should be the most eager, available and prepared group looking to start careers. Keep in mind, these statistics reflect those who are actively looking for work. Those who have given up the job search are not even counted in these statistics.

The federal government has attempted a few things to kick start the economy, including bank and corporation bailouts, tax agreements and the infamous stimulus package. Although President Barack Obama

*“It is unfair that young and eager workers should get fewer opportunities... Young people deserve help in these tough times too. After all, we are the future of this country.”*

has stated that things would be worse without those actions, things still are not looking good for soon-to-be college graduates. More legislation should be passed to help young people get educated and into professional careers.

It is unfair that young and eager workers should get fewer opportunities just because most of the jobs are already taken, and few new ones are coming up. Young people deserve help in these tough times too. After all, we are the future of this country.

Politicians could help students and graduates who are trying to enter the work force by lowering the retirement age instead of raising it, freeing up more jobs across the board. Companies should also include people under a certain age in their equal opportunity employment considerations to provide more jobs for young workers, as a group.

Every student has a goal in mind when working towards a college degree, and no graduate wants to return to a low paying job and living with their parents after spending a considerable amount of time and money obtaining a degree. However, a college degree is not the easy ticket to a high-paying

job that it used to be. Rising unemployment is proof that it is taking a much higher and specialized education to land a secure job than it used to.

Many employees of the older generations are delaying retirement and holding on to their jobs in light of the state of the economy. These professionals are taking the money and running, so to speak, leaving a failing system behind for the younger generation.

Depending on how you look at it, this could be an opportunity to really change how many aspects of our society operate when our generation finally does inherit the work force, as the current systems of banking, oil use, food production and entertainment are outdated and unsustainable.

We still have a while to go before things start improving. It is surely discouraging to graduate with a hard-earned degree and be unable to start a professional career for several more years in some extreme circumstances. The current situation for job seeking graduates promotes a bleak outlook in many cases and it is difficult to swallow such a lack of opportunity after finally getting that college degree.

## Alert system needs upgrade, back up plan

SANAH FAROKE  
Contributing Writer

“The safety of our students and the entire university community is my number one concern. We must continually ensure that the best planning, processes and technology are in place to keep our community safe,” said University President Mark B. Rosenberg in a letter on June 1, 2010.

In 2008, the University implemented Panther Alerts, a text messaging system that warns everyone in the University community if there is danger on campus. Since 2008, Panther Alerts has advanced exceptionally, but an alert system that revolves solely around technology always has glitches. Panther Alerts should expand its range from only communicating through technology and resume to alternative means when technology fails.

Panther Alerts notifies students, faculty and staff that are all hooked up to the network if there is a dire situation on campus, making the community aware of either a man-made danger, or a natural disaster. This includes text messages, “informacast” where messages will be on the phones in classrooms and offices, speakers, electronic signs outside of the Modesto Maidique and Biscayne Bay campuses, email, the University's web page, the University's Facebook page, Twitter and the University's help line.

As intense and thorough as this plan is, I do not think that the system has fully been thought-out. Yes, it is a process, but when horrific situations arise, there is no time to recall last minute improvements. It is too late.

As of last year, Panther Alerts waited 1 hour and 20 minutes to notify the University community about the stabbing of Kendall Berry, or even to say that the offender was still “at large” according to the *Miami Herald*. 4,600 students, faculty and staff who signed up did not receive a text about the updated situation. Despite President Rosenberg's changes since, people have still been getting lagged texts from the Panther Alerts.

Even though there is an abundance of techniques to get the word out, they are all done electronically. I question this technique and its reliability considering that if there is a tropical storm and the electrical power would cease to work, there is no mention of an electrical back up to communicate all the vital information and safe grounds.

Aside from that, not every single person on campus is registered to receive Panther Alerts via text message. This should actually be mandatory for everyone's safety, especially if the student lives on campus. As soon as a student, faculty or staff member is enrolled in the University system, their number should automatically be added to the Panther Alerts system.

Overall, the Panther Alerts system has improved significantly, yet there are still aspects of the system that still needs to be addressed and not ignored.

### LETTER TO THE EDITOR

## Editorial written with faulty logic

The editorial published on March 7, 2011 was riddled with troubling assumptions, vague platitudes and errors in reasoning.

The author(s) confuse revenue cuts with spending cuts and shift the blame for our state's sub-standard education system to teacher pay with little to no justification. The education cuts are embraced by *The Beacon* because they would supposedly promote efficiency and even “improve the system.”

As to how \$709 million in education cuts would make our schools more efficient?

“It is time to think of innovative ways” to do this, the author concludes.

What these innovative ways are, aside from putting “more of an emphasis on... excellent teaching” is not mentioned. The editorial seems to suggest that, some way, somehow,

students and their underpaid educators will come up with something to make up for the cuts. Unfortunately, “somehow” is not a solution, and the assurance that “we'll think of something” does not, sadly, ensure that we will.

In fact, such faulty logic, that government programs will somehow run better with less money, could be used to justify cuts to anything, from federally funded programs like Medicare, to student funded programs like SPC, CSO, and *The Beacon* itself. If they faced similarly draconian ten percent reductions in funding, I doubt “somehow” would cut it.

The only solution offered by the editorial board, with no supporting details whatsoever, is putting “more emphasis on rewarding excellent teaching...and less emphasis on paying teachers based on seniority.” Presum-

ably, this means tying teacher pay to test scores, as has been suggested by Governor Scott and fellow Republicans. Yet a study performed by the University of Florida released last year found that the best predictor of student success on standardized tests was where they lived: children from poor neighborhoods usually do far worse on standardized tests.

Consequently, tying pay to test scores would discourage teachers from working in schools that serve poor students. Sadly, the editorial completely ignores this fact.

Perhaps the biggest mistake made in the editorial was in confusing spending cuts with tax cuts. When attempting to point to the shared sacrifice supposedly evident in the budget, the editorial mentions “tax cuts worth \$4 billion.”

Tax cuts, and it's sad that I even have to point this out,

are not the same as cuts to spending. They lead to a decrease in state revenue, you know, the money needed to fund education. “Taxes” are not a program, so lumping tax cuts together with education cuts makes absolutely no sense.

If anything, these tax cuts undermine the point of the editorial, since they create an even greater need for either program cuts or tax increases. They are not, to borrow a phrase from the editorial, “fiscally responsible.”

*The Beacon* has a long tradition of excellent reporting and editorial writing. I hope that in the future they live up to that standard, and be more careful before endorsing proposals that would cost thousands of jobs amid “tough economic times.”

-Chris Cabral  
senior, political science

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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 (550 words maximum) regarding or in response to its editorials, send them to [opinion@fiusm.com](mailto:opinion@fiusm.com)





## MEXICO

### Military confiscates 1,000 doses of heroin

The Mexican military says it has arrested a man who was carrying 1,000 doses of heroin along with cocaine, methamphetamines and a weapon on a federal highway.



## BRAZIL

### Carnival group hit by fire cheered in Rio

Strutting in a rainbow of glittering colors, Rio's samba groups opened two days of Carnival parades with a dazzling show that included a rousing welcome for one of the elite bands that lost most of their

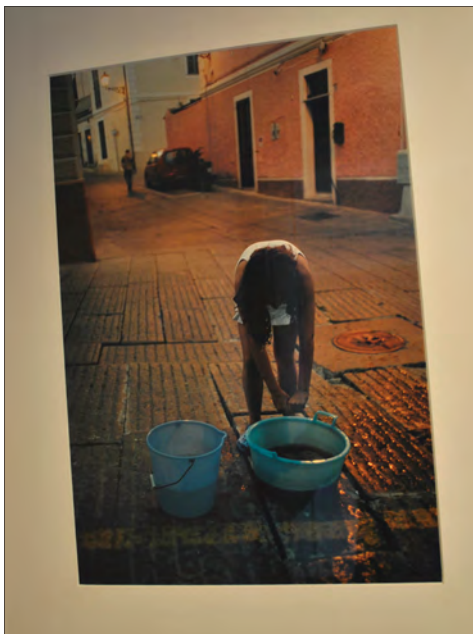


## CHILE

### 6.2 earthquake shakes northern Chile

A magnitude-6.2 earthquake has shaken a northern region of Chile, but no injuries or major damages have been reported.

# Photo exhibit highlighted world locations, life of author



PHOTOS BY LUIS ROCA/THE BEACON

Rolando Dal Pazzo, photography professor at the University (above left), with photos from his exhibit, titled "Green Card #0123456." The exhibit ran for a month in February and were shot on three different continents.

## LUIS ROCA Contributing Writer

If pictures are worth a thousand words, then Rolando Dal Pezzo's photos speak in several different languages.

For one month, Dal Pezzo's photographs captured the attention of students walking by the photo gallery in Academic II, room 101, at the Biscayne Bay Campus.

The exhibition, "Green Card #0123456," is a series of portraits pictures, showed every day situations in the faces of men, women and

children with something in common: not being from any particular place.

The images were shot in Europe, South America and the US somehow reflecting the life of the author.

Dal Pezzo, an Italian, born in Venezuela but American since 1984 is a photographer, jeweler and instructor at the University, Miami Dade College and South Miami Elementary.

On his latest exhibit Dal Pezzo used slower shutter speeds on every single image, producing clear photographs with a vivid light.

"The colors look almost surreal,"

said George Vargas, psychology student at the University. "They are not colors you see on a daily basis."

For Loretta Butler, fine arts major, the images at the exhibit work as a music scale with different tones but a clear sense of harmony.

"The image capture the individuals in a very natural environment," said Butler. "They seem to go together in a familiar way."

For Dal Pezzo, the exhibit dealt with the idea of belonging and not belonging at the same time.

"It has to do with not being from any particular place," Dal Pezzo said.

"I am one of those."

Dal Pezzo completed a bachelor's degree at the University, then received a master's degree in photography at California College for Arts and Crafts and a master of sociology back at the University.

From the dark room in the photo lab at Modesto Mandique Campus, Dal Pezzo sees clearly what motivated him to be a photographer.

"I bought a camera when I was 20 years old to look at the world," Dal Pezzo said, "but buying a camera doesn't necessarily make you pay attention to the world."

Now at 56, Dal Pezzo teaches photography, but also learns from his students.

"My elementary school students are much better photographers than I am," Dal Pezzo said, "just the way they see world is so unique."

Dal Pezzo exhibition finished its cycle the week of Feb. 28 but his work can be seen at his website [www.rolandodalpezzo.com](http://www.rolandodalpezzo.com).

The new photo exhibit at Biscayne Bay Campus Gallery, by Lissette Schaeffler, "Familiar Intimacy," started on March 1 and will go on for the next three weeks.

## SCHOOL OF JOURNALISM AND MASS COMMUNICATION

# Documentary filmmaker now professor at SJMC

## MELODY REGALADO Staff Writer

After over a decade of experience in the broadcast and documentary-making business, Professor Moses Shumow is sharing his knowledge and skills with students at the School of Journalism and Mass Communication.

"I'm very pleased to be at FIU," he said. "There are a lot of interesting things going on here and they are really looking into the future of the industry."

He joined the FIU community in Fall 2010 as an assistant professor at SJMC. Last fall, he taught Writing Strategies and Global Media and Society. This semester, he teaches Multimedia Production, Global Media and Society, and the Global Learning course "How We Know What We Know."

"It's important not to memorize, but to create critical thinkers and help shape students' careers," said Shumow. "Teachers have an impor-

tant role to play in that."

He wants students to re-think their roles as story-tellers and put news into context, clearly and concisely.

"We live in a media environment where we get snippets of news every day, but it's about telling the story and piecing it together."

Shumow was originally born in New Mexico to a Ukrainian father and Texan mother. He grew up in a small town of about 300 people and attended an alternative elementary school, which together with the large Hispanic population of the state, helped influence his career.

Pursuit for his passion took Shumow to Boston, where he attended Emerson College and earned a master's degree in Broadcast Journalism in 2001. He says his career really took off during this time.

When the tragedies of Sept. 11 hit the United States, Shumow became a research production assistant on "Frontline" for PBS. He did research, tracked new information and helped piece together the timeline of the

*"We live in a media environment where we get snippet of news everyday, but it's about telling the story and piecing it together."*

events that day to help produce a series titled "Inside the Terror Network."

He got to travel with reporters from the British Broadcasting Corporation and The New York Times, and he said this experience was one of the highlights of his career.

For nearly a decade after that, he freelanced on teams producing nationally-broadcast programs for PBS, Discovery Networks, History Channel, National Geographic, Fox Deportes en Español and others.

Shumow said his time at those media outlets was exciting and the work he did was very challenging but rewarding.

"I worked with a lot of really

talented people with tons of experience and I learned something from all of them," Shumow said.

"Getting to see your name in the credits - even if it flies by! - is a good feeling and you feel like all of your hard work paid off," Shumow said of his work being shown nationally.

He eventually decided to bring his talents to South Florida in 2006 for more stability, earning a doctorate in communication from the University of Miami in 2010.

Prior to teaching at FIU, he had experience as an instructor in broadcast studio operation at New Mexico University. He was also a teaching assistant in Internet News Reporting

at Emerson College, as well as several media and communication courses at the University of Miami. This is his first full-time teaching position.

"I have always enjoyed teaching and found it very rewarding," said Shumow. "I want to share knowledge, whether through film or classroom."

Being a professor also allows him to pursue his own interests. He continues to conduct research on South Florida's immigrant journalists and how they produce and consume media, with a focus on Venezuelans.

"I realized the Venezuelan community in South Florida was exploding and there were a number of immigrant media outlets serving this group and that it could be an interesting topic for a doctoral dissertation. And it was!"

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