1-31-2005

The Beacon, January 31, 2005

Florida International University

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Fraternal Rush Week 2005 attracts new members

By CRISTELA GUERRA
Staff Writer

While walking around campus this past week, you might have noticed that everywhere you turned there was a Greek letter. This is because it was Fraternity Rush Week 2005. All the fraternities around campus held activities to show pride for their brotherhood and to attract potential new members.

Fraternities participate in many events on campus including those for well-known charities. One such event is “Dance Marathon,” which the Children’s Miracle Fund plans. It raises money for the Miami Children’s Hospital.

Their experience with campus life is vast, from the Student Government Association to the Student Organizations Council. They also have three of their own councils: the Pan Hellenic Council (PHC), the National Pan Hellenic Council (NPHC) and the Interfraternity Council (IFC).

Each fraternity takes the mission to recruit very seriously. “New members are the lifeline of the organization,” said Junior Brian Swensen, who majors in public administration and is a member of Pi Kappa Phi.

This is one of the main reasons it is a “dry rush,” in other words, none of the pledges are allowed to drink alcohol. According to Pi Kappa Phi members, they would never want someone making this lifetime decision while inebriated.

Each fraternity also has its own special events during Rush Week. They invite those pledging and those who are not, to come out and support them. They begin planning these outings four weeks in advance to prepare and allocate funds from their budget, normally $1,000–$4,000 dollars.

This budget also pays for the hundreds of flyers, t-shirts and buttons one sees around campus. For Delta Lambda Phi, this is particularly exciting. “This is the first semester that we have real flyers. Our theme is top secret, and we’re making it our number one priority to be visible. We’ve also been tabling a lot, so people will know who we are,” said Gustavo Bolaños, a sophomore majoring in journalism, who also appears on each of the flyers.

While the Spring semester is slow in terms of the amount of people pledging, each fraternity had a decent show of interest. “The Spring semester might be slower, but sometimes it’s better because you have guys come into FIU who say, ‘Let me wait a semester,’” said Andrew Chin, president of the FIJI fraternity. “They work on their grades and come the second semester knowing what they want. They have direction, which is really good and something we

See PROGRAM, page 2

Research TV to highlight faculty

By ANA SANCHEZ
BBC Editor

While flipping through channels on Mondays and Wednesdays, you may just find one of your professors on television. Working together with graduate students and the Miami-Dade Cable-Tap channel, some FIU professors have begun producing a show entitled “Impact of Research on Society.”

The documentary, which is produced by professor M.O. Thirunaranayanan, is run by Miami Dade College’s School of Entertainment and Design Technology and airs at 2 p.m. and 10 p.m.

The documentary was filmed, produced and edited by the Broadcast Video Services at FIU, which is part of University Technology Services.

Thirunaranayanan, Associate Dean for Graduate Studies, birthed this idea last summer. Dr. Doug Warrick, Dean for Graduate Studies, approved the idea and they submitted a request to Cable-Tap.

So far, there have been eight 28-minute shows, each profiling professors’ research projects.

During the first segment, two professors presented their research, followed by a second segment consisting of graduate students from the lab supporting the research.

“The documentary was aimed at students graduating with bachelor degrees and who are trying to decide whether or not they want a graduate degree,” said Thirunaranayanan.

“This will give them an idea of the kind of research done at FIU by our faculty and what they can expect to do.”

Not only the program geared toward students but the professors hope to the documentary is watched by the public—people interested in technological advances. The research done in the documentary may be useful for public health, diet, and environmental concerns.

“We are highlighting practical applications of research which can be beneficial to the public on a personal level,” Thirunaranayanan said. “This project

See PLEDGES, page 2

Fraternity Recruits: A member of Omega Psi Phi participates in a performance for Rush Week pledges entitled “Work for Omega.” Jessica Montaños/THE BEACON

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**WEATHER**

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*Courtesy of www.weather.com*

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**Professors produce TV program**

From **PROGRAM, page 1**

is [meant] to inform the public that the FIU faculty is doing good research.

Dr. Janvier Gasana from the Department of Public Health, presented research leading to lead poisoning on the show. Gasana, a native of the impoverished Rwanda, says he was inspired to research health hazards, such as lead poisoning in low-income family homes.

“My ongoing research \[is\] aimed at uplifting children suffering from environmental health hazards,” Gasana said. “My active involve- ing families, health centers, with the goal of improve- ing the environmental conditions of low-income families, speaks to my vision and commitment to improve the standard of the living poor and needy families.”

Another show featured Dr. Helen Cornely, Associate Professor from the Department of Physical Therapy, who dedicated her research to preventing the elderly from falling.

“Falls are a major health problem in older adults,” Cornely said. “We are now working on analyzing [the] falls of older adults in the Broward Lauderdale Airport. This is very exciting because this is a new area of fall prevention and a very important issue, as the baby boomers know no other ways of traveling but by air.”

The ninth show is presently being edited, and is scheduled to air in the second half of February. Cable Tap approved three more FIU shows, however, there is no funding for them at this time.

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**Brotherhood invites new pledges**

Rabbi Sprung, who works with Alpha Epsilon Phi. Though they are all comprised of young men from diverse cultures and different ethnicities each fraternity seems to look for something in thing in its pledges.

“We look for [leaders] who will make excellent network connections and people with vision...not necessarily, but athletic, said workload of 3000 I can look back and know that my fraternity and its brothers are still around,” said Ray Morgan, a senior majoring in psychology and biology, and member of fraternity Sigma Alpha Mu.

As one walks around the stands outside the Graham Center, what Morgan means becomes clear. Fraternities come together but each group is different in their own way.

“I don’t work in the univer- sity graduate school anymore. But I have ideas for other shows, maybe shows that high- light teaching and teach- ing methods.”

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**Corrections**

The story entitled “Tire fad,” should have read as follows “…some residents have even chosen to exercise their second amendment right to bear arms…”

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**Getting Involved**

A recent survey of 844 students conducted by Campus Life is just one of the many steps the group is taking to involve students in campus activities. Campus Life is also get- ting students involved by putting up Campus Life event banners in the Ryder Business Building and resi- dence halls. It is also offering office tours with free pizza and giveaways.

Students surveyed said they loved to get just about anything given for free! The survey also showed that 45.5 percent of students attended only one Campus Life event last semester.

**FIU vs. UM**

A free bus trip and free tickets to the UM v. FIU game are available to the first 200 students who sign up with Panther RAGE, an organization dedicated to promoting school spirit.

This game takes place on Feb. 1st at 7 p.m. To sign up, students can visit the Panther RAGE table in the Graham Center. Panther RAGE will also receive its T-shirt cannon, which will use it to shoot free t-shirts to audience members at games.

**Mr. and Ms. Housing**

The residence halls’ version of “The Dating Game” will conclude on Feb. 4 in the GC Ballroom at 7 p.m., with the crowning of “Mr. And Ms. Housing.”

Finalists chosen from individual housing halls will compete against each other for the title.

Also that night, Malik Wilkes, vice president of the Department of Student Government will compete at the Dance Marathon Duos, a dance marathon and game-like dating event in the GCBallroom.

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**Publishing Policy**

The Beacon is published on Mondays and Thursdays during the Fall and Spring semesters and once a week during Summer B. Advertising inquiries for classified, local and national ads may be addressed to our advertising department in our newsroom. One copy per person. Additional copies are 25 cents. The Beacon is not responsible for the content of ads. Ad content is the sole responsibility of the company or vendor. The Beacon is an editorially independent newspaper partially funded by Student and Services fees that are appropriated by Student Government.
WHAT DO YOU THINK?

How much school spirit do you think you have?
• A lot. You will never find me without my blue and gold.
• Some. I attend some games here and there.
• Not a whole lot. I’m not ashamed or anything. I just have too many things going on.
• We are the FIU Pelicans right?

Cast your vote at www.beaconnewspaper.com

WINNER & LOSER

WINNER

Eskiimo clientele: The 66th Parallel, a restaurant made completely out of ice, has opened its doors in Salekhard, Russia. The restaurant includes tables, chairs and even bars made out of ice. All food items are ice oriented, which makes for a surprisingly large “how cold?” menu.

LOSER

Closed-Nose Detroites: Citizens of Detroit, Michigan are experiencing a food odor around the whole city. The tush-to-energy incinerator seems to be the root of the problem. The sale of clothes pins has dramatically risen since the incident.

QUOTEABLES

“They would get me to do naughty things and I miss them.” – Emilia “Baby Spice” Bunton, on her ex-days as a Spice Girl, in an interview with New York Daily News.

“A lot of people have told me my whole life I should just be a pretty girl and have a boob job, and I was like, ‘No, I’m going to keep on writing and not get a boob job!’” – Billie Joe Armstrong, Green Day frontman, whose sister, who previously worked at the bookstore, acknowledged the matter.

“I liquefied a donut once. I pureed it ... and then sucked it through a straw.” – Julie Delpy, co-writer of “Before the Sunset”, on her first Oscar nomination.

“I wanted to play guitar, but my hands weren’t big enough. So my parents said, ‘Start on pianos,’ which sucked. I appreciate it now, but back then, ugh.” – Alejandra Diaz, Opinion Editor

SEND US YOUR LETTERS

Letters to the Editor must be dropped off in GC 210 at the University Park campus, WUC 124 at the Biscayne Bay Campus or sent to beacon@fiu.edu. Letters must adhere to a maximum of 400 words. The Beacon reserves the right to edit letters for clarity and/or spacing constraints. Letters must include the writer’s full name, year in school, major/department and a valid phone number for verification purposes. If brought in an office, a legitimate ID may be accepted instead of a phone number. The Beacon reserves the right to edit letters for clarity and/or spacing constraints. Letters must adhere to a maximum of 400 words.

Student suspects bookstore deception

By JAMES VALLE

Staff Writer

Cover-ups and denials are something you’d expect to find on “Law and Order” right? Try the FIU Bookstore.

In my four years at FIU there have been consistent rumors among students that the bookstore not only charges astronomically high prices and gives back little money for used books, but they also package used books as new and resell them to unsuspecting students at new book prices.

I thought the new Spanish book I bought, back in 2003, with highlighting from a previous owner was a rare occasion, and I let it slide. But Stephanie Guzman’s Letter to the Editor last week in The Beacon not only startled me, it enraged me.

In the letter, Guzman said her sister, who previously worked at the bookstore, acknowledged that the company is run by thieves who pay peanuts for used books in good condition. They repackage them and sell them labeled as new books.

Guzman’s book wasn’t displayed on them. There’s not a better opportunity for the university to demonstrate its concern for its students and look into why some sort of stand against the bookstore management encourages its entire staff to follow this practice with every passable book. I’m no lawyer, but I’m sure that if that’s the situation there is definitely an attorney out there salivating at the chance to take such a case.

I have no evidence to accuse the bookstore of anything. It’s hard to imagine that used books are mistakenly wrapped nice and tight with no “used” stamps are displayed on them.

This university should seriously consider the experience Guzman had and, if necessary, launch its own investigation into the matter.

With university tuition increases proposed by Governor Jeb Bush, FIU should assert its unity for the university to stand on our behalf, we’re on our own.

I guarantee if they watch their profits dwindle, prices will come down, and they’ll start making their own.

There’s not a better opportunity for the university to demonstrate its concern for its students and look into why some used books are being sold as new and why the bookstore won’t at least refund a deceived student’s money. If the bookstore is guilty of knowingly conning the students, then it should drop Barnes & Noble and go in another direction.

I’m sure plenty of book companies would jump at the chance to manage FIU’s bookstore. Maybe they’ll charge reasonable prices. The ball is in FIU’s court now.

Personally, I stopped using the bookstore long ago. I have purchased my textbooks on Amazon.com for three straight semesters without a flaw and have saved hundreds of dollars in the process.

If you don’t like buying online, go across the street to Booksmart, where they sell books for less and buy back for more. Need a Bluebook? Get one for free at the Student Government Association office on the third floor of the Graham Center at University Park.

It’s time for students to make some sort of stand against the bookstore. They have shown a complete lack of respect toward the university’s students and until the administration takes a stand on our behalf, we’re on our own.

I guarantee if they watch their profits dwindle, prices will come down, and they’ll start making the extra effort to make sure those annoying little “used” stamps are not removed off those darn used books.

Phew! [FIU] THICK SKINNED

BY LUIS NIN

I DARE YOU!!! I’M WEARING THERMALs OVER MY THERMALs!

I CAN’T FEEL MY FACE.

I KNOW YOU’RE FROM MIAMI, BUT IT’S ONLY 51º!!
If you haven’t heard of the Facebook, you’ve been living under a rock. And if you’re not addicted to it, then you’re a far more normal person than most people will ever be.

Since February 4, 2004, www.thefacebook.com, has quickly become popular in over 200 universities which is about one million students nationwide. It started out as a personal project for Mark Zuckerberg of Harvard University.

In a Current Magazine interview in November 2004, Zuckerberg said Harvard was “a fairly unfriendly place.” So, he wanted to create an online community where you can look up people with whom you went to high school, or people you just met at last night’s party.

After you find the person you are looking for there are also full, in-depth profiles to browse that Facebook users post, giving every bit of detail, from whether or not they are in relationships, to their hobbies and favorite movies. Of course, you can keep your profile skimpy if you wish to remain “mysterious,” but the juicy ones are always fun to read. Additionally, you can click on a certain interested and it will list all other users with that same interest in the university community.

The wall section is another favorite. On each user’s profile exists a digital wall that people can edit by adding comments or deleting someone else’s (but don’t worry, the user has priority access and can undo someone’s edit). Perhaps the most random aspect of the Facebook is the “poking” option. It has no specific purpose but can be interpreted in many ways. For example, poking someone could mean “Hi!,” “Just thinking of you” or it could simply mean “I obviously, have nothing better to do, so I’m randomly poking and you’re IT!”

Users on the Facebook can also choose to join groups within the main university community. These groups can become incredibly specific ranging from a group for WRGP, the campus radio station, to people whose name starts with the letter L. For fans of “Zoolander,” there’s a Derek Zoolander’s Center for Kids Who Can’t Read Good and Wanna Learn to Do Other Stuff Good Too group.

“I love Facebook because I was able to create my own group for the Orange County fans. I’ve met different kinds of people through it,” said sophomore Christine Guzman. “It is also funny because I have a few friends that failed finite math, and there’s even a group [for] that.”

A new feature on the Facebook is the ability to send messages to friends’ mobile phones. By inputting your mobile phone number, messages can be sent to and from other users as text messages via their mobile phone.

All you need is a university e-mail to be part of your university’s Facebook community. Create a profile, post a hot photo of yourself and start adding friends. It’s really that simple. It’s difficult to describe why joining the Facebook is fun and addicting: it just is. Once you start, it’ll be hard to pull away and you’ll soon find yourself checking your wall and messages board a few times a day.

SOME POPULAR GROUPS IN THE FIU COMMUNITY

- CONAN O’BRIEN WILL HAVE MY CHILDREN, EVEN IF I AM A MAN
- I LOVE CHEESY POOPS ... AND CARTMAN
- SLURPEES ARE MY BEST FRIEND
- I FAILED FINITE MATH AT FIU
- PROCRASTINATORS R US
- PANTHERSOFT SUCKS
- MY NAME BEGINS WITH THE LETTER J
- THE BEACON STUDENT NEWSPAPER
- FACEBOOK WILL BE THE REASON I FLUNK OUT OF FIU
- I GO TO FIU FOR MONEY
- I’M SICK OF EATING IN FIU
- THE FIU, THE PROUD, THE DRUNK
Legacy left behind in Rap star’s Mixtape

By JARROD MILLER-DEAN
Staff Writer

“I’ve never run so many people tonight. Y’all got it all crowded up in here, and that’s good. I’m glad y’all giving it up. Y’all people tonight. Y’all got the band The Explosion seems to show—released on Jan. 4.

O’ Dirty Bastard on “Return to the Legacy left behind in Rap star’s legacy.

DIRTY, DIRTY: The album, Osiris: The Official Mixtape depicts O’ Dirty Bastard as the Pharaoh Osirus and proves to be a successful comeback even after his death. Picture courtesy.

O’ Dirty Bastard as the Pharaoh Osirus and proves to be a failed attempt at an old school MC. Dirty, without losing his classic appeal.

The opening track, “Top Shots (Wu-Tang),” has a classic early, mid-’90s DJ Premier (Gang Starr) trademark beat. Dirty rhymes about growing up in Brooklyn, falling in love with hip-hop and all those who suffered from the wrath of his fiery lyrics.

This track itself could easily be considered one of the most brilliant comeback tracks released to date. It lets all of the naysayers know that even though he was out of the game for a while, he never lost his skills. A re-mix of the track also appears as one of three bonus tracks.

The track, “Dirty, Dirty” has more of a classic sound. A funky piano line, along with a helium filled voice on the chorus, are reminiscent of the Parliament’s “Aqua Boogie.”

Some of the more memorable lines on the album are when Dirty says, “Two steps from the boarder line, anything closer will kiss the nine./ Think I’m out of the game, you’re out of your mind./ Cause I keep it on track like Transit Line.”

The album contains guest appearances by RZA, Capadonna, Black Rob, Baby Sham, Drag-on and the human beat-box himself, Rahzel, just to name a few. The production is creative, crisp and clear and missed as one of the most innovative minds in all of hiphop.

DIRTY DIRTY
BASTARD
COURTESY PHOTO

The album, Black Tape by the band The Explosion seems to show—failed a case found at an old school Green Day style of music. The band starts off the album with a song titled “Deliver Us,” which, in my opinion, is the best song on the entire album.

The only positive thing about putting this song as the first track is that it gives listeners something to which they can look forward. After hearing the first song, I thought, “Wow, this isn’t half bad.” My thoughts drastically changed around track five.

If I were to pick one word to describe the whole album it would have to be repetitive. Most songs linger around the same lyrics, deliver the same kind of message throughout each song and never show any signs of change.

The overall quality of the Black Tape is less than moderate. The only positive thing I could find about it would have to be its art. Dark and gloomy images that have absolutely nothing common with the lyrics fill the pages of the cover art.

The Explosion fizzes on first release

By LEONICO ALVAREZ
Opinion Editor

The album Black Tape by the band The Explosion seems to show—a failed attempt at an old school Green Day style of music. The band starts off the album with a song titled “Deliver Us,” which, in my opinion, is the best song on the entire album.

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DIRTY DIRTY
BASTARD
COURTESY PHOTO

The tune for the “A-B-C” song is the same as “Twinkle, Twinkle Little Star.”

– www.kellys.com/know.html

The Beacon – January 31, 2005
Earn $25.00 for an hour of your time just for being you!

Research is being conducted at Florida International University to develop a dining service master plan for the campus. An essential part of the process is direct research conducted through focus groups. Your input is needed.

If you meet any of the following classifications and are available for 1 1/2 hours at the time and date indicated below and are willing to participate in the study, please contact Ximena Cordero via voicemail at 305.348.2538 or via email at corderom@fiu.edu

University Park Commuter Students
12:00pm Monday Feb.7, 2005 - Fresh Food Co.
2:00pm Monday Feb.7, 2005 - Fresh Food Co.

University Park Resident Students
4:00pm Monday Feb.7, 2005 - Fresh Food Co.
6:00pm Monday Feb.7, 2005 - Fresh Food Co.

University Park Apartment Residents
7:30pm Monday Feb.7, 2005 - Fresh Food Co.

University Park Faculty & Staff
12:00pm Tuesday Feb.8, 2005 - Fresh Food Co.

Biscayne Bay Campus - Residents
6:00pm Tuesday Feb.8, 2005 - Wolfe Center 245

Biscayne Bay Faculty & Staff
12:00pm Wednesday Feb.9, 2005 - Wolfe Center 245

* When responding please indicate your Name, ID number, Email Address, Phone number, and which session you are interested in participating. Data will be aggregate in nature to ensure privacy is not compromised. All focus groups participants will receive $25.00 Panther Bucks for their time. Group size limited to 12 people.
Better players to boost season records

Freshman Corey Lozano should see some time coming off the bench. Last spring, the switch hitter was regarded as the 69th best prep middle infielder in the nation by Baseball America. Lozano brings a good combination of offense, defense and speed. Last year, he batted .442 with 25 RBIs, 16 stolen bases, 36 runs scored, and committed only three errors in 108 chances.

Freshman Michael Jordan should also contribute off the bench. As a senior at Braddock Senior High, he batted .410 with 36 RBIs, 36 stolen bases, 36 runs scored, and committed only three errors in 108 chances.

Pitchers

Having struggled a bit last year, the pitching staff showed vast improvement during the fall league.

"The pitching staff is not as deep as last year, but we’re stronger individually," said senior David Asher. Asher leads the starting rotation. His numbers last season were not too impressive but should improve this season.

"He’s our number one starter. He needs to be a solid force in order for us to be good," coach Pryce said.

He was second on the team 81.1 innings pitched and his 4.43 earned run average was the lowest amongst FIU starting pitchers. He made 13 consecutive starts and posted a 3-5 record.

"I’ve never had a good year in my college career [regarding team performance], so hopefully we can win the [Sun Belt Conference] and move on [to the College World Series]," Asher said.

Freshman Elih Villanueva is set to contribute immediately with the number two spot on the starting rotation. As a senior at Westminster Academy, he posted a 10-3 record with 109 strikeouts to go with a 1.15 ERA.

Senior Danny Hernandez led the team with 27 appearances out of the bullpen and seven saves last season. He posted a 2.80 ERA and tied the team-lead with six wins, earning him First Team All-Sun Belt Conference recognition. Hernandez should see time in the closer role again.

Senior Leo Calderon led the staff with a 2.12 ERA and had the second-most appearances on the team with 20. He should see more time coming out of the bullpen after allowing only seven earned runs last season.

Junior Frank Gonzalez allowed just 20 hits (with two extra-base hits) in 19.2 innings of work. Gonzalez’s 2.75 ERA was second on the team. He showed vast improvement last season after finishing 2003 with an atrocious 11.75 ERA. Gonzalez will probably come out of the bullpen again.

Junior Ammer Cabrera is in his third year on the team after red-shirting in 2002. The pitching staff also has four lefties varying in experience. Senior Denny Hernandez and junior Jon Banke have a good possibility of making the starting rotation. Transfer student Chris Siebenaler, from Polk Community College, and freshman Lea Rodriguez could see playing time out of the bullpen or in a situational role.

The staff is rounded out by senior and two-sport (football) athlete James Knapp, junior transfer Matt Rainy and freshman Ricardo Humaran.

Player expectations high for next season

Softball

Sophomores Deomni Murray and Brittany Witherow return at center field and right field, respectively, after injury-riddled freshman campaigns. Junior college transfer student, Cassie Parker, from Polk Community College will round up the outfield by starting in left field.

Newcomers Kerri Houck, a Western High School graduate, and Sarah Belanger, a Team Canada veteran, expect to see action on the mound for the Golden Panthers. Houck comes with high expectations after she became the first Class 6A pitcher to accumulate 1,000 career strikeouts in Florida high school history.

“She has high school records for itself, and she will be awesome for us,” Gwydir said.

Belanger is already one of the hardest throwers in FIU history and should see plenty of action on the mound.

“Sarah is the hardest thrower we have ever had here at FIU,” Gwydir said. “She has worked very hard on her variety of pitches this fall, adding a change-up and a curve ball to her repertoire, and this is only going to make her that much more difficult for opposing hitters to deal with.”

This spring training practice routines have also been different for the team. The team has spent more time facing live pitching rather than hitting off the tee ball or Gwydir.

“We’re doing a lot more hitting and live pitching. That’s important because hitting off live pitching is realistic,” Nealer said. “I also think that we are 10 times better last year.”

NEW ATTITUDE:
The softball team has changed its philosophy this season. Team leader and ace pitcher Amanda Nealer wants the team to have fun to be successful on the diamond. Head coach Kim Gwydir expects the team to be fast, so it can hit and run the entire game.

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www.springbreakbrazil.com

Seeking Latin female singer for girl group. Must sing R&B, Pop, Reggeaton, Rap and write. Auditions held February 5th. Serious inquiries only! Contact grouponze@aol.com with resume & pictures. Be Bilingual.

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Earn $6.50 + /hr
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Lifeguards wanted in the North Myrtle Beach, “Will train”, no experience. Apply www.nbslifeguards.com

FEMALES

NEW ATTITUDE:
The softball team has changed its philosophy this season. Team leader and ace pitcher Amanda Nealer wants the team to have fun to be successful on the diamond. Head coach Kim Gwydir expects the team to be fast, so it can hit and run the entire game.

Athletic Auditions/Special To The Beacon

After missing out on post-season action last season, head coach Kim Gwydir knew she had to change the team’s philosophy.

With the departure of key players who graduated, Gwydir has put together a team with solid pitching and speed.

With Jennifer Owens graduating, the team lost its most powerful bat of last season. By losing power, Gwydir changed the makeup of our team,” said the team’s offense to be built on speed.

By season’s end, Gwydir knows that the team with solid pitching and speed.

The Golden Panthers return six starters from the 2004 campaign. Among those, pitcher Amanda Nealer. The selection, pitcher Amanda Nealer. The main goal for the team is to win the conference.

Here is a position-by-position review of the 2005 FIU Golden Panther baseball team.

OUTFIELD

The outfield is probably the position with the most depth and should provide the most offensive production. Junior Yemaya Cadena led the team in batting average last year with a .342 average, tied for the team lead in homeruns with nine and had 30 runs batted in.

Junior Randy Yost had an exceptional year last season, with 24 RBIs and just one error for 22 errors last season, the team lead in homeruns. In the five games he played last year, he hit .353 with two HR in 17 at bats.

INFIELD

The infield, defensively, is the weakest link on the team. Junior Nick Cadena, another transfer, should see some playing time at third base. Last year, at Arizona State, Cadena hit .307 and led the team with a .444 on base percentage – meaning he did not produce an out 44.4 percent of the time he went up to bat.

Rivera, the shortstop, batted .266 last year with just three wins to become the winningest pitcher in FIU history. By season’s end, Gwydir knows that Nealer will go down as an FIU legend. She will go down in the record books as the best pitcher in FIU history.

“Will she go down in the record books as the best pitcher in FIU history,” Gwydir said. “She will have every pitching record by the time she graduates.”

The main goal for the team is to win the conference.

“The goal is to win the conference and get the ring,” said Nealer. “We need to win while having fun. If we don’t enjoy each other, then we won’t be successful.”

Power hitters for this year’s team include senior Marleah Stapf and junior Jennifer Powell. Both will alternate at the catcher and designated player positions. Lindsey Tippings and Tabitha Embry will return to second base and shortstop, respectively. The sophomore and senior started all 64 games last season for the Golden Panthers.

Freshman Ashley Falk will handle the first base duties, and she expects to contribute right away. Another freshman who will see playing time is Brook Ruiz who will most likely start at third and serve as almost identical numbers (.342 AVG, 9 HR, 30 RBI).

Freshman James McCrane, a highly-touted high school player, batted .493 his senior year at St. Thomas Aquinas. His high batting average potential should compliment well with Yema and Skel- lenger.

Junior college transfer Randy Yost should also see some playing time. Having led his team in triples and stolen bases last year means he has the speed to go along with a credible hitting ability – posting a .390 average a year ago.

Red-shirt sophomore Chris Dunn, who was a teammate of Yost at Central Arizona Community College, should also provide some speed off the bench with his 6.3/60 speed (from home plate to first base). Dunn was second to Yostey on that Central Arizona team in steals and triples.

Junior Bryan Pullin played five games last season before getting injured and eventually redshirted. Pullin is slated as the designated hitter for the season. In the five games he played last year, he hit .353 with two HR in 17 at bats. Lopez, the first baseman, led the team with 42 RBIs last season and was second in homeruns with eight. The lefty also batted .307 and led the team with a .444 on base percentage – meaning he did not produce an out 44.4 percent of the time he went up to bat.

Rivera, the shortstop, batted .266 last year with 24 RBIs and just one homerun. Despite having seemingly average numbers, his importance to the team is unprecedented because of the experience he brings on the defensive side.

“[Rivera is] the middle of our defense, and if we could get him going, that could jump-start the other guys in our lineup,” Pryce said.

Junior Nick Cadena, another transfer, should see some playing time at third base. Last year, at Arizona State, Cadena hit .260 with three HR and four doubles.

Junior Dennis Diaz is an exceptional base runner. Last season, his 49 stolen bases led the Sun Belt Conference and were second in the country. He also batted .266 with eight HR, 33 RBI and led the team with 54 runs scored.

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OUTFIELD

The outfield is probably the position with the most depth and should provide the most offensive production. Junior Yemaya Cadena led the team in batting average last year with a .343 average, tied for the team lead in homeruns with nine and had 30 runs batted in.

Senior Jeff Skellenger ranked right behind the left-handed Yema with almost identical numbers (.342 AVG, 9 HR, 30 RBI).

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Miami-Dade transfer Yosvel Barroso brings experience to both second and third base. The switch-hitting Barroso should also contribute offensively after hitting .355 last year.

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