Halting of program results in protest

By C. JOEL MARINO
Senior Staff Writer

Administrative threats of closing the Speech and Language Pathology program resulted in a student protest at the Graham Center on Feb. 2.

Beneath light but steady rain, graduate students from the FIU Speech and Language Pathology program chanted, waved colorful signs and paraded around University Park’s Graham Center. This was done in an attempt to stop what they believe is the closing of their department by university administrators.

“We’re protesting that we need this program in our community, a program that will benefit many people in need, and that despite this, we’re being shut down,” said Shara Segal, a student completing her master’s degree in her first year of the graduate program. “They have money for other areas, but something that’s needed for the community, they can’t seem to find the money for that.”

Speech and language pathologists are educated to assess speech and language development and to treat language and speech disorders in infants and the elderly.

According to the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, more than 26,000 speech pathologists were needed to fill the demand between 2002 and 2012 with 53.1 percent more job openings than job available workers in Florida.

Applicants for the positions are only accepted if they have graduated from an accredited master’s program, a status that’s needed for the community, they can’t seem to find the money for that.”

The 25 students enrolled in the program stated that they had been organizing the protest since Ronald Berkman, dean of the college of Health and Urban Affairs, announced on Jan. 27 that their department could face termination due to financial reasons, but yet they still have money for things like the football team,” said Christine Aguilera, a student in her first year of the graduate program. “They have money for other areas, but something that’s needed for the community, they can’t seem to find the money for that.”

The 500 plus attendants of the event.

Administrative threats of closing the Speech and Language Pathology program resulted in a student protest at the Graham Center on Feb. 2.

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By DAMIAN GRASS
Contributing Writer

Jonathan M. Tisch, Chairman and Chief Executive Officer of Loews Hotels, was surprised when he received a huge “We’re glad you’re here” welcome cheer from students and faculty in FIU’s School of Hospitality and Tourism Management, when he arrived to promote his newest book, “The Power of We: Succeeding Through Partnerships,” on Friday, Jan. 28.

Tisch is a returning guest speaker as part of the Spring 2005 Dean’s Lecture Series.

“I was answering phone calls at the front desk when I was seven,” Tisch said. “Before you can become the president, a senior executive or even a CEO of a major corporation,” he said, “you need to know every aspect of the company.”

To prove his point, Tisch
Low revenues threaten to close graduate program

However, when asked about the protests and the closing of the program, Berkman claimed that the students’ reactions were exaggerated and that the program would not be eliminated.

According to Berkman, the university made a decision to temporarily halt the program due to internal problems that might endanger its new accreditation.

To keep its accreditation, the department must meet certain criteria, including the maintenance of a fixed set of faculty members.

Earlier this year, two of the program’s professors, Lameda Mcaleeny and Jermaine Thomas, left the university, leaving only two tenured professors and one clinical professor within the department.

“My primary responsibility is to make sure the program stays accredited and that there is a faculty to teach the students to get them their degree,” Berkman said.

The dean also stated that the financial reasons behind the actions taken did not come from problems the university may be having but, from a lack of revenue from outside of the program.

Berkman said that they anticipated that they would have revenue approaching $30,000 from the Hearing and Language Clinic for its first year and a total of $130,000 after two years.

The clinic has only yielded $23,000 and the faculty within the department has not brought in any outside sponsored research through grants and contracts.

“I hope we will find a way to enhance the revenue in the program and continue to run it,” Berkman said.

He would not state how the revenue increase will be reached.

According to ASHA’s website at www.asha.org, a program cannot maintain its accreditation if annual fees are not paid.

A school may keep its status if placed under a two year or more probation in which accreditation standards may once again be reached, but there is no word if FIU’s program will go through this phase at all.

The dean also responded to accusations that the university is eliminating a program beneficial to its planned plan.

“I can tell you that this is not the case. We are afraid that they will start to scatter to other colleges that the final decision to fully close the program has not been reached and that they will all be able to graduate with their degree.

No decision has been reached about the future of the incoming class who turned in their admission applications before the Feb. 2 deadline.

“There have been a number of programs at FIU that have, for one year suspended admissions and then restarted the program, and I’m not even sure if we’re doing that,” Berkman said.

“My hope is that we won’t do that, but we kind of have to solve one problem at a time.”
Fatal accident takes life of charming faculty member

By ANA SANCHEZ
BBC Editor

Student’s who walked past Biscayne Bay Campus’ Center On Aging would often find 86-year-old Pearl Ferber sitting at her computer typing away. She still wore matching jewelry and with a coquettish smile she would boast, “I still have all my teeth.”

On the morning of Jan. 31, Ferber’s husband was driving her to work when an SUV drove into the passenger’s side of the vehicle on the corner of Northeast 151 St., at the entrance to BCC. Ferber was airlifted to Jackson Memorial Hospital where she passed away. Her husband was injured in the accident but survived.

As of press time and despite several phone calls, The Beacon was unable to reach the North Miami Police department in regards to the accident.

Ferber's coworkers were shocked when they heard the news. “This morning I had to go by her desk and I walked all the way around. I couldn’t bare it. Every day I would pass by and I’d say ‘Hey young lady’ and she would laugh. I’m going to miss that,” said close friend and pool attendant, Evelyn Cavley, program assistant for GEARUP Programs in the College of Education.

Ferber worked at FIU for 21 years as a secretary. Born in Middletown, Ga., Ferber was raised in Atlanta and then moved to New York where she worked as a secretary for an insurance company.

She married and had two children. She also has one grandson.

“Your always could depend on Pearl. She had such a good sense of humor and was fun to talk to,” said Ann Gorezko, associate director for the Institute for Public Opinion Research/Journalism and Mass Communications.

A loyal member of the Democratic Party and an admirer of President Bill Clinton, Ferber was active in a community organization in Concerned Citizens, a community service organization in Sunny Isles Beach.

“At one of the Concerned Citizens meetings the commissioner walked in and said, ‘Mrs. Ferber when are you going to retire?’ and her response was, ‘When you retire, then I will retire,’” Cavley said.

Ferber’s coworker’s described her as a consummate professional who was always willing to learn new things.

“She never came in late. She never called in sick. Last week she worked an hour more so she could attend a luncheon this week,” Cavley said. “It was difficult for her to learn Panthenost but she did it, in order to always work with a smile.”

Ferber was very sociable. She still kept in touch with her grade school friends and dined at the Sweet Tomato on weekends. She was fond of traveling and planned trips every year. On Fridays, she attended Tai Chi class.

For her 86th birthday, her coworkers organized a birthday party where Vice Provost Raul Moncarz gave Ferber an award for her demonstration of excellence in the workplace.

“She was always thinking of other people. She represented what the university is service, understanding and always having a good disposition toward the present and the future,” Moncarz said.

Services were held at Levin Weinstein Funeral home in Miami Beach on Feb. 2.

“She was one of those rare people who enriched all of our lives by just knowing her,” said Betty Ryan, an administrative assistant.
Free offers on the Internet con student’s money

By LEONOR GUERRERA Contributing Writer

You know that old cliché that if it is too good to be true, it probably is? Well, the cliché is true and it happened to me. Those of you who surf the Internet regularly have probably seen those banner ads for a free computer; usually they want to give you a free laptop, sometimes it’s a desktop. I went for the free laptop.

This is what happened: I saw a banner at a web page, either at Yahoo or at Bell-south.net, advertising a free laptop. I clicked on the banner and was transported to a web page that wanted me to buy a subscription to BMG Music Service; they sent me five DVDs and charged me $9.95 shipping charges. I went for the free laptop. Having learned this, I didn’t fall for that.

I clicked on the banner again and was transported to a web page that wanted me to buy a subscription to their product, without my authorization. I had to complain to the credit card company, which in turn changed my credit card number and issued me a new credit card. That issue has not been resolved, and I may have to file a complaint with the police, in order to get that charge of $49.95 credited back to my credit card. I have since found out that there are several companies on the Internet claiming that they will give you a free computer.

I went to ebay.com, an auction website, where I tried to find a cheap laptop. Instead, I found some people are auctioning the Internet address of those companies that alleged to give you a free laptop. Having learned from my previous experience, I didn’t fall for that.

The products that I ended up buying were the following:
1. A subscription to BMG Music Service, they sent me seven CDs and charged me about $20 for shipping.
2. A subscription to Columbia House DVD Club, they sent me five DVDs and charged me about $13 for shipping.
3. A face cream called Nexi-derm from a company called Boehm Ritter. The cream was “free,” but I had to pay for the $9.95 shipping charges.
4. A subscription to Direct TV, which I later cancelled with no penalty.
5. The above, the face cream company turned out to be the most obnoxious. They charged an additional $49.95 to my credit card, for an alleged subscription to their product, with no penalty.

Of the above, the face cream company turned out to be the most obnoxious. They charged an additional $49.95 to my credit card, for an alleged subscription to their product, without my authorization. I had to complain to the credit card company, which in turn changed my credit card number and issued me a new credit card. That issue has not been resolved, and I may have to file a complaint with the police, in order to get that charge of $49.95 credited back to my credit card.

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I went to ebay.com, an auction website, where I tried to find a cheap laptop. Instead, I found some people are auctioning the Internet address of those companies that alleged to give you a free laptop. Having learned from my previous experience, I didn’t fall for that.

I didn’t get a free computer and now I have close to $100 in charges on my credit card. The moral of the story is that if you have to spend money to get something for free, then it is not free.

If any one has managed to get the “free” computer, the laptop or desktop, please send an e-mail at: lguer004@fiu.edu.

Former FIU student relates to motorcycle accident obituary, sends prayers

He’s just not the same person anymore. He’s over six feet tall and now he can’t even stand up. I wanted to send my condolences to the Gomez family. I am utterly sorry for their loss. My brother also purchased his motorcycle against my parents’ wishes and wrecked it only a few weeks after getting it.

My family and I are thankful he survived, but it’s quite an adjustment coping with this.

Mostonity anger faculty member, junkheap not art

FIU has gained a certain level of fame with its University Art Park campus, and deservedly so. Unfortunately, this achievement has been cheapened lately due to a poor decision to erect the monstrous "beautiful Haitian paintings have been hung from time to time. So, let’s remove this rusty erector set in the very near future.

And please, don’t justify this junkheap with the cliché “beauty is in the eye of the beholder.”

Tony Shershin, FIU Faculty Member
For those of us studying politics or for the casual nightly news-viewer, whenever the 2004 presidential election comes up in conversation we undoubtedly hear those two, now infamous words: moral values.

President Bush won re-election because moral values were a more important deciding factor in the votes of Americans than any other issue, including terrorism, healthcare and the war in Iraq. These voters favored Bush 80-18% according to CNN’s exit polling data.

Politically, voters that thought what Steve and Bob do behind closed doors is more important than our homeland security, provided Bush with the margin of victory.

Republicans have done a superb job of making faith, God, Jesus and morality conservative terms. Pro-life and anti-gay marriage positions supposedly make one “moral.” However, is that the true composition of morality?

Ask a conservative the meaning of morality and they’ll likely tell you to turn to the Bible and study the teaching of Jesus. I am a product of 12 years of Catholic school. This is something I have done, and my conclusion is way off base from that of your traditional Republican.

The four Gospels in the New Testament provide the most direct, detailed accounts in the life of Jesus. Reading the Gospels allows one to appreciate Jesus’s most basic teachings: clothe the naked, feed the hungry, cure the sick and treat others as you would want to be treated.

These are what I call “Gospel values.” Unlike conservatives’ flawed understanding of morality, Democrats have historically supported policies that promote equality for all Americans – regardless of race, gender or sexual orientation. Ironically, Republicans have consistently used such positions as political ammo to attack Democratic policies.

Christ says that we are all equal in the eyes of God, so when conservatives support policies that state otherwise, I cannot judge that to be moral.

With a vast majority of Americans possessing a source of morality, they believe in the proper funding of the public education system. They also believe in the right for all Americans to have access to affordable healthcare, a living wage and equality for all, regardless of age, race or gender. However, with these such issues facing America today, the Bush Administration has immorally turned its back on these problems and now closes its eyes and prays that they’ll go away.

Some leading educators have found Bush’s heralded No Child Left Behind (NCLB) act underfunded to the tune of $27 billion. Forty-five million Americans lack any type of health coverage while the average American’s income steadily decreases, which plays a role in the fact that the poverty rate in America continues to rise at an astounding rate.

Additionally, in today’s society women still earn only 75 cents for every dollar men earn. You may say to yourself, “this isn’t moral, what has our compassionate conservative president done to address these things?”
The president has continually failed any problems in the funding of NCLB, though at least 11 state legislators have passed bills denouncing the law.

He still opposes the importation of cheaper prescription drugs from Canada because he claims they may not be safe. News flash: There is not a shred of evidence they are unsafe. However, allowing Americans access to these drugs will put a dent in the profits made by drug companies here in America – the same corporations that donated millions to the president’s campaign efforts.

Finally, the president has supported cutting overtime pay to millions of hardworking Americans such as nurses and firefighters. This has resulted in many of the brave men that ran into the towers on 9/11 losing their jobs. I insist this is not moral.

As Republicans continue to insist ownership of morality, their actions do not support their claims. I encourage the Democratic Party and all its members to stake a claim in the Gospel values. These are values that transcend all religions and can be accepted by Americans of all faiths.

Unlike the conservative agenda, Democratic policies, speeches and votes back up our words. This is not straying from the traditional Democratic platform, it is simply an adjustment in how the message is portrayed.

If Democrats stand true to their principles and refuse to allow conservatives the inaccurate and unfair claim to morality, the destructive rule of the Republican party will soon start to unravel in the face of the truth.
A FEW TIPS ON HOW TO MAKE THE MOST OF YOUR EXPERIENCE AT THE CAREER FAIR

Life after college is uncertain. When it’s time to graduate, you walk down the aisle, throw your cap and then it hits you. What are you going to do for the rest of your life? Career Services will try to ease that stress when the 2005 Spring Career Fair is held at the University Park campus on Feb. 15.

Senior Director of Career Services, Olga Magnusen, said that the employment market has improved significantly. “The job market is the best it has been over the last three years,” said Magnusen.

The fair also offers an excellent networking opportunity for students.

Students will be able to speak with representatives from Anheuser-Busch, the Broward Sheriff’s Office, Burdines-Macy’s, Carnival Cruise Lines, FPL, General Electric, IBM and many other prospective employers.

One hundred and thirty-two companies, the maximum number possible, have registered and confirmed that they will attend. Unfortunately, Career Services cannot guarantee that all the companies will show up. Absent representatives was an issue at last semester’s fair.

Amanda Ramirez, majoring in print journalism, did not attend last semester’s fair and has no plans to attend.

“I do not think there are enough employers in the journalism field and that is the reason why I never attend,” said Ramirez.

Despite some students disin- terest in the fair, Career Services recommends that everyone come out, because there will be a company representative present for every major.

The night before the fair FIU President, Modesto A. Maimique, will host a reception at his home for employers attending the fair.

In order for students to get the most from the career fair, Magnusen offers these tips:

• Come in business attire.
• Bring 25-30 copies of your resume.
• Review the list of the employers attending the fair by looking at the Career Services website: www.fiu.edu/career.
• Identify prospective employers which interest you and do research on them.
• Follow up with the employers that you meet at the fair and indicate your interest in working with them or having an internship with them.

The Spring Career Fair will take place from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. in the Golden Panther Arena. The fair is open to all FIU students and alumni. Students will not be admitted if they are not in business attire. For more information on the Spring Career Fair and Career Services go to www.fiu.edu/career.

[By SHANE HOWARD  
Staff Writer]

South Florida is more than just beaches, award shows and a haven for movie shoots. The Florida Grand Opera has offices in Miami-Dade and Broward Counties. The FGO performs main stage productions at the Miami-Dade County Auditorium and the Broward Center for the Performing Arts.

“Opera is one of the world’s greatest art forms, one who considers themselves really educated. You need to give it a try,” said Justin Moss, managing director for their marketing and communications department.

The FGO’s season runs from November to May and each opera does five performances in Miami and two in Fort Lauderdale.

According to Moss, opera singers cannot sing on consecutive nights because it puts a strain on their vocal cords, show is done three times a week.

Most students have the wrong idea about opera.


According to Moss, the FGO audience looks just like the demographics here in South Florida; young, largely Hispanic people who are a big part of the audience. Then there are those like Yvette Gutierrez who go to the opera twice a year. After watching “Madame Butterfly” at the Broward location Gutierrez said, “It was very good, excellent.”

Each opera is sung in the language in which it was written, but English translations are projected onto a screen above the stage while the performance takes place. An hour before performances, free opera previews explain the plot and the entertaining stories surrounding the opera.

The FGO also helps young singers with its young artists studio. It consists of about 10 singers each year. The studio helps the college or conservatory graduates make the transition from an academic environment to a professional career. The FGO provides them with vocal coaching and training along with acting, movement and dance studies.

“Paul Bunyan” is currently in production. The remaining shows this season are: “The Magic Flute,” “Lucia di Lammermoor” and “A Masked Ball.” Ticket prices range from $19 to $150 and can be ordered online at www.fgo.org or by calling 1-800-741-1010. Student rates are available.

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Calvin "The Game" Broadus Jr. released his debut album 'The Documentary' in 2005, generating anticipation and hype for the West Coast rapper. The album, produced by Dr. Dre and Eminem, featured collaborations with other prominent artists such as Timbaland, Just Blaze, and Hi-Tek. The Game's verse in Dr. Dre's hit song "Still D.R.E." propelled his popularity, and his album debut was met with mixed reviews.

Music critics praised the album for its honesty and rawness, particularly in tracks like "Do What U Want," where The Game's lyrics reflect his struggle and the challenges he faced in the music industry. However, some criticized the album for not providing a cohesive story or theme, and for being overly hyped during its release.

The Game's ascent to fame was paralleled with his personal life, as seen in his hairstyle. By the Super Bowl, Eagles' running back Freddie Mitchell had added cornrows to his look, inspired by the iconic Mr. T from the movie "Rocky III." The copied hairstyle became a fashion statement, demonstrating the evolving nature of hip-hop culture and its influence on everyday fashion.

This period marked a significant moment in hip-hop history, with The Game's album highlighting the rapid rise and fall of West Coast artists in the early 2000s, and the lasting impact of Dr. Dre's influence on the genre.
Super Bowl ought to be super clean

By GAIL PENNINGTON
St. Louis Post-Dispatch

Unless Paul McCartney moons the crowd, the halftime show at this year’s Super Bowl will be as squeaky clean as the NFL can make it.

No tape delay will be in place during the halftime, which also includes singer Alicia Keys. But the NFL says it is reviewing “all facets” of the halftime performance in advance.

After last year’s outcry about Janet Jackson’s infamous wardrobe malfunction, commercials for Super Bowl XXIX, airing Feb. 6 on Fox, came under scrutiny as well. So audiences won’t see Mickey Rooney’s bare, 84-year-old backside (the Airborne Road Show Period) or a Bud Light ad parody showing a stagehand ripping Jackson’s top with a beer bottle. (Anheuser-Busch agreed with Fox and the NFL not to air the parody during the game but its getting even more publicity on the budweiser.com website.)

For fear of offending mass audiences, Fox has gone so far as to rename its “Best Damn Super Bowl Road Show Period.” Viewers certainly shouldn’t expect to see anything like the “Desperate Housewives” promo-parody that stirred up controversy during a “Monday Night Football” broadcast in November.

The spot was scripted by “Housewives” creator Marc Cherry at the request of ABC and wasn’t intended to be controversial. “We were just that stupid,” said Cherry. After Madden couldn’t appear at the end, and there wasn’t a jump into the arms, Cherry said, “We were just that stupid,” said Cherry. The spot was supposed to feature “Housewives” co-star Nicollette Sheridan with “MNF” announcer John Madden. “A woman as glorious as Nicollette Sheridan throwing herself at John Madden is just funny,” Cherry said.

“I didn’t really realize it was such the family viewing experience. I wouldn’t let my 5-year-old watch beer commercials and big-breasted cheerleaders every Monday, but that’s me.”

Thirsty for knowledge? Say when.

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The Beacon is available for you to read twice a week, on Mondays and Thursdays. Pick up a copy of your student newspaper for the latest in news, sports and entertainment.

The Beacon is also available for you to read at www.beaconnewspaper.com. There, you can sign in and comment on stories, submit letters to the editor and participate in our Opinion polls.

Comments may also be e-mailed to Managing Editor, John Lovell at john lovell@fiu.edu.

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To participate in our Opinion polls. Comments may also be e-mailed to Managing Editor, John Lovell at john lovell@fiu.edu.
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.
Almonte follows coach Rouco’s philosophies

DRIVEN, from page 12

players in the Dominican. We have really good players there. I came from a baseball family, but I decided to play basketball. My family was a little mad at me because I have two brothers that play professional baseball, and I could be making a lot of money.

My family was a little mad at me because I have two brothers that play professional baseball, and I could be making a lot of money.

I didn’t like to play baseball and I loved to play basketball.

Q. What brought you to FIU?

Coach Rouco knew me and he had seen me playing basketball. He brought me here; [first] he fed me to a junior college with one of his friends and now I am here helping him.

Q. How different is it to play in Miami compared to Iowa?

Well, the weather, and the competition is a little harder because there are more athletic players and every team has a better player. My coach last year was the same type of coach as Rouco is. So, it’s a little different because life in Miami is different, but I like to play because it’s like the same type of city as back home.

For me, it’s better here.

Q. What was your most memorable play at South- eastern Community College in Iowa?

I don’t know which one, we won two national championships there, so either one of those games. [The first year], I think the first round was really nice, we had a nice team and we only lost one game during the whole thing. We knew we could do it the second year with so many players coming back. It was really nice to play there and win two championships and have the support of all the fans. They have a really nice school over there.

Q. You still have one season left after this one. What do you hope to accomplish? [I want to] just come back next year, and I know Segars will bring in some more players that will want to play for him—players he has recruited himself. Some of the players that are coming back [are] me, Ish [Ismael N’Diaye] and some more players.

I know we are going to have a good team. We are going to play very hard from the beginning and start putting everything together so we can have a really nice run throughout the season.

Q. Where do you see yourself after your career is finished as a Golden Panther?

Well, I want to keep working hard and get the best of what I can. Hopefully, I can play baseball because it’s what I like. If I can go play professional baseball somewhere I would do it. But if I can’t, then that’s why I am here in school studying and trying to get the best I can from the school.

That way when I finish my career playing basketball I know I will be able to do something; I will be able to get a job somewhere outside basketball.

Q. What do you think this team’s biggest necessity is for next season?

We need big guys and we need more shooting. That’s been our biggest problem this season. Ish [N’Diaye] has been shooting well the last couple of games, but Junior [Matias], who is our pure shooter on the team, has been hurt for much of the time. We need to put together guys that want to work hard and play hard.

Q. How is coach Rouco different from coaches you have had in the past?

Coming from the Dominican, coaches play a little differently because of the situation there. They know that players have to go and work outside of basketball so there isn’t really enough time to practice. Here [at FIU] and in junior college in Iowa it was not really much different.

Coach O’Brien [Southeastern CC], he was just like coach Rouco in terms of basketball and playing hard and giving your best effort to win. Coach Rouco is really energetic and, like what happened against Arkansas-Little Rock in the first-half, he tried to challenge me, because I didn’t have a good first-half. He just challenges you every time he can and tries to get the best out of you.

Florida International University College of Arts and Sciences Center for the Study of Spirituality spirituality@fiu.edu

WORKSHOP ON CHRISTIAN SPIRITUALITY

Dr. Hal W. French

Monday, February 7, 2005
7:30 p.m.
Graham Student Center University Park Campus Room 150

The event is free and open to the public

Dr. Hal W. French, professor emeritus of religious studies at the University of South Carolina, will conduct the workshop, which is presented in the Year of Spirituality Lecture Series. This year’s series has featured such spiritual luminaries as the Dalai Lama, Rabbi Adin Steinsaltz, psychiatrist Jerryampolsky, and Hindu guru Sri Sri Ravi Shankar.

“This will be an experiential workshop,” French said, “with persons invited to enter into a reflective, meditative time using a variety of hymns as vehicles, with the accompaniment of professional pianist Ruth Ann Galatas. Themes of Christian spirituality – adoring, opening, receiving, and sharing – will be explored.”

French is the author of eight books. His most recent title, Zen and the Art of Anything, was selected as “one of the 50 best spiritual books of 2001” by the magazine, Spirituality and Health. He is a multiple award winning teacher and has been extremely active in interfaith work. He earned his Ph.D. at Macmaster University in Canada, and is on the editorial board of the Encyclopedia of Hinduism.

For more information, contact spirituality@fiu.edu
Three Northeast players sign with FIU

The 6-3, 270 pound player was a first-team all-district and a second-team all-county Large School Football team selection of the South Florida Sun-Sentinel.
The team captain of the Dade/Broward all-star game selected FIU over Auburn, Wisconsin, Kansas State and South Carolina among others.

Going into the program’s second year of transition in Division I-A, Strock knew that players were beginning to take notice.

“Each year there is more interest in our program. Our move to I-A certainly helps,” Strock said. “The young men who are part of our 2005 Golden Panther football team will have the opportunity to play a major college schedule the whole time they are here.”

With only one Miami-Dade commitment, Strock said he hopes Miami-Dade coaches and players show interest in FIU next season.

All the signees attend high school in Florida, with 10 from Broward, three from Palm Beach and one from Miami-Dade. Strock tried finding players in Miami-Dade but didn’t succeed.

“It’s not that we didn’t recruit Dade County,” Strock said on the lack of local signings. “We recruit this county very heavily. A lot of players made decisions last night and this morning to go other places. Godspeed to them. We gave them the opportunity to play here, but they decided to go elsewhere. We’ll continue to recruit Dade County and hopefully, we’ll have a better year next year.”

Nevertheless, high school coaches in Broward are already taking notice.

“I think FIU provides an excellent opportunity for a young man to stay in South Florida and play Division I football,” Ratkevich said.

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PR Nest Talk: Don Strock was happy with his recruiting class for this season. Among the holes the former Miami Dolphin focused on filling were running back, wide receiver and offensive lineman. All signed players are from Florida. Jessica Marshall/The Beacon

Press Talk:

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CAMPUS INTERVIEWS–THE BEACON – February 7, 2005

www.beaconnewspaper.com
Don Strock adds 20 with recruiting class

By HARRY COLEMAN
Sports Editor

Twenty high school seniors have pledged to become Golden Panthers this fall by signing Letters-of-Intent to play for FIU on Feb. 2.

Looking ahead at having his second senior class graduate after the 2005 season, Head coach Don Strock's biggest priority in this year's recruiting class was filling in certain positions where the team was lacking depth.

"After this season we'll lose six offensive linemen, possibly seven. We'll also be losing five wide receivers," said Strock on National Signing Day.

Apart from thinking ahead, Strock is also focused on finding players to replace key seniors that will graduate this spring, like running back Rashod Smith, FIU's first 1,000-yard rusher and wide receiver Harold Leaith, a two-time second team All-Independent selection.

Two recruits that are expected to contribute immediately include Northeast's running back A'mod Ned and Miami Central's wide receiver Demetrius Byrd. Ned is a two-time All-Broward performer and was the county's leading rusher last season with 1,635 yards on 202 carries. The four-year prep performer rushed last season with 1,635 yards on 202 carries.

Our move to I-A certainly helps. The young men who are part of our 2005 Golden Panther football team will have the opportunity to play a major college schedule the whole time they are here.

Ned's high school coach, Adam Ratkevich, knows that the schools that overlooked Ned because of his size will regret it in the future. "People don't realize A'mod was both the leading rusher and scorer in Broward County," said Ratkevich. "People underestimated him and I think it will come back to kick them in the butt."

Demetrius Byrd highlights the lone Miami-Dade selection for FIU. The 6-3 receiver caught 37 catches for 860 yards and nine touchdowns for Anthony Saunders' team.

FIU signed a total of five offensive linemen. At the top of the list is another Northeast player, Michael Ahl.

After choosing basketball over baseball, which his brothers play professionally, Ivan Almonte came to FIU from the Dominican Republic and is making a significant impact on the basketball court.

Recruited by coach Rouco, Almonte proves day in and day out what working hard in the sports arena can get you. The Beacon spoke with Almonte about his past, the present, and what he would like to do in the future.

Q. After such a promising start to the season, what went wrong?

Well, we had a couple of injuries and a lot of new people on the team. Everybody was trying to get to know each other and get together. Then [there were] injuries and some of the issues that took place with some of the players on the team having to leave.

That messed with the chemistry of the team, but we know that we can do better. So now we are down to nine players, and it's hard to practice when you only have eight or nine players in practice. We have to now do all we can, and I know we can get everything together and put all the pieces together. Everybody has to accept their role and play. After that, we are going to get better and win some games.

Q. What has the team morale been like in the locker room before and after games lately?

Coach Rouco won't let us put our heads down, even though we are down to eight players, we have been practising hard, even with injured players. We have been trying to do the best we can, but some games we just didn't play well and others we made some mistakes when we could have won during the seven-game losing streak. There were some games we knew we could have won if we had not made too many mental mistakes. But that is what we are trying to do now: fix those mistakes and get better and play hard because that is how Rouco is. He is energetic, and we are going to try and play like that.

Q. Having come from the Dominican Republic, how and when did you start playing basketball?

Well, there are a lot of basketball