Controversy arose when many found out that Rafael Balart had been the former father-in-law of Fidel Castro. However, ties between the two families had been broken long ago.

The ceremony concluded with a speech from keynote speaker Ruth Bader Ginsburg, a U.S. Supreme Court associate justice.

"Lawyers require interdisciplinary legal skills and values, and to have a school where so many can learn these skills is great," Ginsburg said during the lecture.

Ginsburg’s speech silenced the room and for the fifteen minutes she spoke, everybody seemed in awe. "Even with all the legal homework I had during this period, I said yes to coming," Ginsburg said. "It’s a great law school."

Quoting writers such as Shakespeare and Charles Dickens in the dislike for lawyers, Ginsburg rebutted their arguments saying, “in my opinion, it takes a successful lawyer to speak plainly and write clearly and accurately.”

The College of Law’s dedication ceremony was the final step towards the school’s completion after it received full accreditation last December.

The ceremony began with an introductory speech by the school’s dean, Leonard Strickman, and continued smoothly to include various speeches, of which commemorated the building and the hard work it took to make it a reality.

One of the speakers was U.S. House Representative, Lincoln Diaz-Balart, grandson of the late Rafael Diaz-Balart, for whom the building is named after.

"This whole thing has just been such a labor of love for so many," Balart told The Beacon. "Those horrible days, months and years we had as legislators felt it was only right to name the college’s building after their grandfather."

Despite many arguments saying, “in my opinion, it takes a successful lawyer to speak plainly and write clearly and accurately.”

Center cares for students’ kids

She may only be four years old but Alexis Talton, like her mother, Tiffany Talton, is already a full-time student. The difference is, while her mother works towards earning her business degree, Alexis works on her verbal and cognitive skills at the Children’s Creative Learning Center at University Park.

Since 1975, the CCLC has been dedicated to providing early childhood education to FIU students who have children of their own. Although the center is also open to children of FIU staff and alumni, as well as to community members, the programs are designed “primarily for students,” according to Silvia Valdes, coordinator and Administrative Services representative for the center.

Currently, the center offers a full-time program for toilet-trained children from two and a half to six years of age. Drop-off begins at 7:45 a.m., and pick-up begins at noon.

Throughout the day, children are encouraged to think critically and express themselves by means of developmental tasks and exposure to a variety of different content areas.

According to Valdes, to help work around students’ busy schedules, the center also launched a new program this Spring semester. The Educare/Flex-Time program allows more options for parents who may not have classes at FIU everyday, or whose children are not ready to begin school full-time.

Under the new program, parents are able to enroll their children for daycare in two-four-blocks. The earliest block is from 9 a.m. to 11 a.m. and the latest block is from 6 p.m. to 8 p.m.

Next Fall semester, the center will relocate to the Graham Center and will offer hands-on indoor and outdoor activities.

The center’s tuition varies but the average cost for students is $175 monthly, plus a one time $125 registration fee, and an $85 supply fee. For faculty, staff and community members, there is a $650 monthly tuition fee, as well as a one-time registration and supply fee of $125.

The Educare/Flex-Time program for enrolled students is $6 per hour.

Apart from convenience and flexibility, the CCLC also offers over $200,000 in scholarships to Pell Grant eligible students. This financial aid allows students to pay a subsidized fee of $169 a month for full-time care.

Out of the 17 FIU students whose children are enrolled in the center, 14 receive financial aid. The center is also qualified to offer Voluntary Pre-kindergarten, a program in which the state of Florida offers three hours of free schooling to children of parents who complete an application process.

But for Talton, the financial assistance and convenience offered by the center is pale in comparison to what the center has offered her child Alexis. "I know she is getting the attention she deserves when she comes home and says ‘Mommy, they love me’,” Talton said.

For senior Zoraida Villanueva, it was the education provided by the CCLC that convinced her to enroll her three year old daughter, Janellyzi Telles.

“The schooling here is incomparable. I’ve also learned a lot about early childhood education through the workshops and social events [that the CCLC hosts],” Villanueva said.

According to Janice Lopez, assistant director of the center, the program works to foster the communicational and cognitive skills through activities such as outdoor and indoor play, cooking, art and science.

“We offer a lot of things outside of childcare. We work a lot with the child as a whole,” Lopez said.

The program currently has a waiting list, but vacancies open as students graduate or children move from one age group to the next. Because of its popularity, students must be enrolled at FIU to use the center’s services.

For more information, call 305-348-2143, or go to www.fi u.edu/~children.
New College of Law holds forum on ethics

The College of Law will have a symposium on moral conscience in business and law Feb. 15.

The event is titled “Moral Conscience and a Faith Friendly Career in Averting: White-Collar Temptations, Scandal and Prosecution.”

It is dedicated to revealing an essential moral link of guidance for FIU graduates, business and law students and community participants.

Alfredo A. Porro Jr., a retired law professor, will be one of the discussion leaders. Topics to be discussed include conflicts and decisions that await each student. The keynote speaker will be David W. Miller, executive director of Yale University’s Center For Faith & Culture.

The event will take place Feb. 15 at 6:15 p.m., in the College of Law, Courtroom 1000.

Open air art festival exhibits students’ works

The FIU Art Festival will take place Feb. 15 from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m.

Junior Rob Freyre, a student majoring in math, is putting the event together with help from the Student Government Council at University Park.

The event will be an open air display of student art by the Graham Center fountain.

There will be five tents and 10 display tables. Free food will also be served to the first 200 students in attendance.

– Compiled by Betsy Martinez and Maria Chercoles from wire reports

RELAY FOR LIFE Money provides for charity

REUBEN PERERA Staff Writer

More than $29,000 was raised by student organizations, departments and local community members at the FIU Relay for Life, an annual philanthropy event where members from different organizations and groups walk around a track while others members raise money for the fight against cancer.

The 18-hour event took place at the Football Stadium in University Park Feb. 9 – 10 with the opening ceremonies and the Survivor’s Victory Lap when cancer survivors walked a lap around the track.

Volunteers from FIU and the South Florida community helped support the event by forming teams and hosting different fundraising activities such as selling food, drinks and materials.

The volunteer organizations included fraternities, sororities, academic societies, housing residents and student-run organizations such as Campus Life organizations such as the Student Programming Council and Panther Rage.

The theme of the 2007 event was “Cure the Relay.” Many teams took advantage of this theme by decorating their tents with colors and material relating to circuses and carnivals.

The Elba family were awarded the best decorated tent award was awarded to the FIU Accounting Association.

“The main purpose of Relay is to represent the hope that those lost to cancer will never be forgotten and that those who face cancer will be supported, and that one day cancer will be eliminated,” said Vanessa Collado, marketing and publicity chair for the Relay for Life committee, in a previous interview with the Beacon.

Event Chair Melissa Gavira said that the motivation behind her involvement in Relay for Life was the camaraderie she saw from students who participated.

“It’s the way you get people together for a good cause and it’s a campus event, and it gets the FIU community together,” Gavira said. “It helps you open up and understand the world better and how to become a better person.”

At 9 a.m., a Luminary ceremony was held where candles were lit in honor or in memory of those whose lives have been affected by cancer.

At the end of the event at 8 a.m., Gavira, along with her co-chair Meaghan Garcia, announced the winners of various awards. The Undergraduate Studies Office at FIU was named the number one fundraising team.

The Elba family were awarded second place for raising the most money ($5000).

The Spirit Award was awarded to the Social Workers Association.

Relay for Life is a year-round event that is continuously raising money for the American Cancer Society in order to provide for patient services, trainings and research.

Money is raised nationwide in different ways, whether it is through bake sales, car washes, canning (fundraising money at street intersections) or accepting donations.

According to Gavira, the Relay for Life committee had set a goal of $70,000 before August 2007.

Before Relay for Life, they managed to raise around $24,000, most of it coming from online donations through the American Cancer Society website.

After Relay for Life, the amount raised adds up to roughly $58,000, just $12,000 shy of their target.

In previous years the event gathered 96,000 participants in Florida and 3 million worldwide.

The concept of Relay for Life began in 1985 when a doctor walked 83 miles on a local track for 24 hours to raise money for the American Cancer Society.

The American Cancer Society’s Relay for Life is a nationwide signature activity, the single largest non-profit event in the world.

Supreme Court justice guest at building’s dedication

Supreme Court justice guest at building’s dedication

The Beacon – February 15, 2007
Local vendors offer cheap food choices

PEDRO G. CORTES
Contributing Writer

LUNCH SPECIAL
Miami Nealampeis to a variety of pallets and spenders
that as a student you may not always have the time or money
to sit down in a restaurant for a couple of hours.

Welcome to *At the Bay*’s Lunch Special where we’ll
take you to places you may not have known about around
Wolfe University Center. It’ll take you three
to five minutes to get there
but you’ll be back to class
before you know it—with a full stomach.

CHEEN-HUAYE

Marco Velasquez, the owner of Cheen-huaye spent the
1997–1998 academic year working
in Southern Mexico, as well as
tasting and cooking so much of
the delectable dishes he serves.

Located on 151st Street, across the Biscayne Bay Campus entrance, Cheen-
huaye’s varied menu adds
trendy to the Biscayne Bay Times for its exceptional
restaurant has already
success in the south eastern region of the
United States. Sharpton is the perfect speaker for
the Democratic candidate for presi-
dent, and will help address human rights
and empowerment issues in a
dynamic way,” Hatcher said.

Sharpton’s lecture will deal
with concepts in empowerment.
and will help address human rights
and will help minorities achieve their goals. The
Chair of SPC-BBC, will aim to primarily
address, will be open to FIU
students of all races and ethnicities. The
conference, which will
take place during February’s
semester so that it would
hopefully bring more stu-
dents to the conference,”

The Beacon main speaker at BSU event

CHRISTINA LEMUS
Contributing Writer

Though Vanessa Robinson, vice president for the Student Programming Council at the 19-year-old Bay Campus, hopes all FIU
students will attend Al Sharpton’s
lecture at BBC, she hopes minority
students in particular will walk away with at least one piece of
advice: that everyone should be
able to succeed in the business
world no matter the race.

Sharpton’s lecture will deal
globally with contemporary issues.
Sharpton will also discuss social
issues among minorities.

The event will take place Feb. 23.
His lecture will be one of many events
taking place as a part of the Third Annual
2007 Black Student Union Conference, which will be from Feb. 22 through Feb. 24.

Expect the most dynamic conference in the south eastern region of the [United States]. Sharpton is the perfect speaker for
the events.”

BSU planned the BSU
Conference for the Spring
semester so that it would
take place during February’s
Black History Month and hopefully bring more stu-
dents to the conference,”

Hatcher said. Students do not have to be
a member of BSU in order to attend
the conference. In fact,
the conference, which will
include Sharpton’s keynote
address, will be open to FIU
students of all races and ethnicities.
The reason for this is because the conference,
according to Artiece Gachette, Pan-African
and Gender Studies coordinates.

“The conference will aim toward areas of
knowledge deficiencies for minorities and
will help students to overall improve their
life,” Gachette said.

Tickets for the events are free for FIU
students; however, limited opportunities for career mobility and growth. Our hospitals are
world-renowned acute care teaching facilities where quality nursing is our
tradition and mission.

For the next graduate we offer clinical and classroom-based orientation to foster professional and personal growth and development. A preceptor is assigned to ensure a successful
transition from student to professional.

To apply or learn more about nursing opportunities for new graduates at Mayo Clinic, please visit: www.mayoclinic.org/
Jobs-nursing-rad.

Mayo Clinic Nursing in Rochester, Minnesota invites new graduates to embark on an adventure and discover
unparalleled opportunities for career mobility and growth. Our hospitals are
world-renowned acute care teaching facilities where quality nursing is our
tradition and mission.

For the next graduate we offer clinical and classroom-based orientation to foster professional and personal growth and development. A preceptor is assigned to ensure a successful
transition from student to professional.

To apply or learn more about nursing opportunities for new graduates at Mayo Clinic, please visit: www.mayoclinic.org/
Jobs-nursing-rad.

Phone: 800-562-7884
E-mail: nursing.hiring@mayo.edu

Mayo Clinic is an equal opportunity employer and educator and does not discriminate on the basis of gender, race, color, national origin, disability, age, sexual orientation, gender identity, or religion.
Welcome to the wonderful world of college. It is the home of independence, freedom, parties, and a whole new level of sports—especially football. Dozens of fans all across America are even more dedicated to their favorite college football team than they are to professional football.

There has been increasing talk around campus that the stadium is going to be renovated for the team. That seems great, however, unless it is for their hard earned money that they will probably never even go in anyway. A fancy new stadium would seem ridiculous or unnecessary. Something that they felt was insignificant things that they have already have and acquire from us. If they can't afford a better stadium, they shouldn't build one until they can.

The fame of a successful team is going to be renovated for the team. The increase of $3.00 per hour credit hour per semester would pay for such fabulous amenities as 14 air conditioned luxury suites and 10,500 more seats. This has raised many discussions—and even more frustrations—for our student body regarding this matter.

“I would be mad if I had to pay more because I don’t even go to football games. Nobody is really for the Panthers anyway; they are not good yet,” said Carla Jimenez, a freshman.

Even if they won the championship, we should not be responsible for paying for their elaborate stadium.

The name of Law building already set in stone

The name for FIU’s College of Law building was made official at a dedication ceremony Feb. 10. It will be called Diaz-Balart Hall, after Rafael José Diaz-Balart, the grandfather of South Florida congressmen Mario and Lincoln Diaz-Balart.

The Florida Legislature settled on the name in 2001, when it passed a bill making it official. It’s not clear on what merit Diaz-Balart was picked as the building’s namesake, but it’s certainly roused some controversy. Diaz-Balart served under former—and much-reviled—Cuban dictator Fulgencio Batista. It turns out that no one likes a dictator, so if current dictator Fidel Castro is the most-hated man among South Florida’s Cuban exile community, it seems that Batista is the second most-hated.

Thus, the choice of Diaz-Balart’s name to appear above the law building’s doors has angered many Cuban-Americans, especially the left-leaning ones, including activist Bernardo Benes and founding FIU Professor Anthony Maimgot.

But Diaz-Balart is not Batista. Though it’s not for us to say whether Diaz-Balart was an honorable man or not, having worked in Batista’s government does not say anything about his character, positive or negative. Honorable men have served under dishonorable leaders before. Others have simply digested the facts.

The building has been inaugurated, dedicated and open for a semester already. Its name is set in stone—literally. Making a fuss about it now is little short of political grandstanding. Noisemakers and rabble-rousers should save their discourse for things they can actually change.

Love it or leave it, it’s already named Diaz-Balart Hall.
The article started off strong but proceeded disappointingly. The author attempted to tie every part of the paragraphs together in order to keep up the idea behind the article. I also re-wrote the concluding paragraph because the one given was a little boring. I combined a couple of the paragraphs into one to make it more cohesive.

The Reliable Observer

Almost every film that wins the Best Picture Oscar is either one of the following: an emotional whopper, an "important message" film, an epic, a musical or a biopic. Any combination of the above gets your film bonus points with the Academy.

In fact, if you take a look back at every Best Picture winner, it’s hard not to find a trend. Notice a variation from the aforementioned categories in the last 10 Best Picture Oscar winners: six epics, one musical, two message films, one biopic, . . . , and American Beauty (1999). In the race this year, The Queen, Babel and Letters from Iwo Jima all fit the Oscar bait role. The best two films of the group are outside the norm: however, The Departed is the crime film whereas Little Miss Sunshine is the feel-good film. However, this year, both these films seem to have the upper hand. Let’s see what happens.

If you’re up for Best Actor at the Oscars, odds are good if your leading man is mentally or physically challenged, a real life person, a villain or a larger-than-life character. Bids are doubled if any of them die tragically. In the Best Actor group, we have triple-threat Forest Whitaker playing a villain, a real-life figure in larger-than-life role in The Last King of Scotland. Maybe voters will vote for him three times. His competitors aren’t far behind with Ryan Gosling playing a drug addict, Peter O’Toole playing a dying man, Leonardo DiCaprio playing an anti-hero and Will Smith playing a real person.

In the last 15 years alone, physically/mentally handicapped or sick characters have won seven times. Of the other eight, four have been villains, two have been tragic, larger-than-life characters and the other two have been Holocaust victims (always a plus with the Academy!).

On the other hand, if you’re female and want to win a Best Actress Oscar, going ugly is the best way to go. Either that, or of course, go with a historical figure. Take a look at Hilary Swank, Charlize Theron, Halle Berry and Julia Roberts. They all went ugly route and/or played biographical roles. This year’s nominees bring back the same formula with Helen Mirren as the Queen of England, Meryl Streep as a villain and Judi Dench as just ugly.

For the supporting actor/actress categories, it also helps if you scream, cry or play the long-suffering wife. Being a cute kid helps, too.

Out of the 20 acting nominees this year, 19 can be classified under the Oscar norm of typically nominated roles. So despite the nominees being the most diverse in years, the same formula will be used to narrow down the field.

And finally, back to Scorsese. After struggling all these years to please his detractors with the stuff that made him a legend – the roots that will grant him the notorious statuette – he decided that enough is enough and returned to the stuff that made him a legend – the crime drama. Perhaps it’s his return to his roots that will grant him the notorious statuette after all these years.

Oscar-winning formula as simple as ‘going ugly’
WEEKEND

THURSDAY • FEBRUARY 15
WHAT: Black Student Union Party
WHERE: Gracie’s Grill
WHEN: 10 p.m
HOW MUCH: Free

FRIDAY • FEBRUARY 16
WHAT: A Funny Thing Happened on the Way to the Forum
WHERE: Wertheim Performing Arts Center Concert Hall
WHEN: 7 p.m
HOW MUCH: $10

SATURDAY • FEBRUARY 17
WHAT: Van Wilder Tour featuring Everclear, Johnny Lives!
WHERE: The Culture Room (3045 N. Federal Hwy, Fort Lauderdale)
WHEN: 8 p.m
HOW MUCH: $20 at door

SUNDAY • FEBRUARY 18
WHAT: Tommy Davidson
WHERE: The Miami Improv (3390 Mary Street, Suite 182)
WHEN: 8:30 p.m
HOW MUCH: $23.54

– Compiled by Reuben Pereira

TRIVIA TRIBUTE

ONLY A GAME?: Students partake in the Student Programming Council’s Black History Month Brain Buster Game Show in the Graham Center Forum on Feb. 13. The show is part of SPC’s Pan-African Heritage 2007 celebration, which has been protested by various organizations (left).

Interested in participating in research?

We are looking for subjects to participate in a research study for an investigational birth control pill. The study involves approximately monthly visits to the research center and lasts about 8 months. Subjects may be currently using another method of birth control. If you are a woman, age 18 to 45, you may be eligible to participate. Participants will receive study medication, study-related exams and compensation (up to $450) for time and travel.

Call for more information
305-596-9901

Janet Gersten, M.D.
New Age Medical Research Corp.
8900 SW 117th Avenue
Suite 207-B
Miami, FL 33186
Defense hampers homestand

The very next batter, Ryan Lollis, hit a fastball over the right field fence that gave the Tigers their first lead of the game.

The Tigers retained their lead and scored six more runs in the eighth inning because of some costly errors and timely hitting on their part.

Whitley was tagged for eight runs, two of them earned, in a little over an innings worth of work. Though his ace struggled to find his control, Price stood by his decision to go with the former starter.

MISSOURI 3, FIU 2

The first two games of the series displayed offensive talents. The series finale exhibited effective pitching from both teams, but the sloppy defense by the Golden Panthers would be the difference in the game again.

“It’s never a small set of guys you can blame for losing,” FIU starter Jorge Ramos said. “Were a team and we all lose.”

Ramos and the Tigers’ John Thies pitched effectively using different methods.

Ramos, who pitched the best game of his collegiate career, was at his best when working quickly.

When pitching continuously, he was throwing more first pitch strikes and putting away hitters easily.

The Tigers often called time to disrupt his rhythm – including a one-minute delay because one of the bullpen doors opened – and made his control a big problem as two of his five walks led to runs.

Conversely, Thies had little control problems as he walked no hitters. His commitment to throwing strikes helped him to allowing six hits in four innings.

The Golden Panthers were patient against Thies, but never broke through with a big inning. He received a no-decision and Ian Berger was awarded the win, pitching one and two-thirds innings in relief.

Although Berger was awarded the win, Tigers relief pitcher Kyle Gibson dominated the Golden Panthers the last three innings.

For the first time in the series, hitters were looking foolish, confused and off-balance.

Gibson received his first save of the season smoothly – except for one pitch that nearly tied the game.

Pinch hitter Ryan Mollica stepped up to the plate with one out left.

Gibson’s third inning of work caused his pitches to lose movement and Mollica crushed a pitch towards right field.

The crowd cheered emphatically, but the ball died at the warning track.

The American flag indicated the wind was blowing towards left-center field.

Pinch hitter Ryan Mollica stepped up to the plate with one out left.

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The crowd cheered emphatically, but the ball died at the warning track.

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Defense and pitching spoils first home opener

SERGIO BONILLA AND ROBERTO CARTAGENA
Beacon Staff

Sloppy defense and horrendous relief pitching ruined FIU's (1-4) first home series of the season as they dropped three straight losses to the University of Missouri-Columbia (3-0).

The three game series which took place Feb. 9 - 11 at University Park Stadium didn’t feel like home for Golden Panthers pitchers as they gave up 30 runs over the series.

The Golden Panthers’ offensive woes left 11 men on base. The luck of timely hitting with men on base against UCF fore-shadowed the offensive problems FIU would face in their home opening 3-game series against the Missouri Tigers.

MISSOURI 12, FIU 6

The first six innings of the Golden Panthers’ home opener was a close battle, which included second solid start from freshman starter Corey Poliziano (1-1).

“Wow, that’s what you call pitching,” manager Danny Price said. “He did everything a freshman should do.”

FIU trailed 3-2 entering the top of the seventh inning, and headed to the bottom of the seventh trailing 10-2.

The Tigers’ seven runs in the seventh inning exposed the Golden Panthers' bullpen and sloppy defense. Eric Horstmann was the first relief pitcher to replace Poliziano, but he would only be the first of three relief pitchers to suffer the Tigers' offensive barrage.

“They didn’t walk off, they flew off,” Price said. “The wheels just fell off.”

Although Horstmann recorded two outs, he allowed two hits, three earned runs and two walks, which led to two runs.

The seventh inning began innocently with a ground out by Missouri’s Bond Brock. A single by first baseman John Mckee followed by a walk to right fielder Ryan Lollis started the Tigers’ rally.

Small ball by the Tigers, coupled with Golden Panthers wild pitches and errors, spawned the huge scoring inning. The Tigers managed to score the seven runs by hitting four singles in the seventh.

The Golden Panthers pitching staff was missing the strike zone frequently throughout the whole game.

The bullpen’s lack of control was one of the main contributors to the game-defining inning as it distributed seven walks and four wild pitches. Poor defense didn’t help matters either.

FIU committed three errors and allowed six uerneared runs, which was the difference in the score. In addition, the pitchers became fatigued and were forced to throw more pitches because errors extended the second, seventh and ninth inning. Consequently, the Tigers scored all their runs in those three respective innings. Second baseman Corey Lozano was responsible for two of the three errors.

Horstmann was substituted by relief pitcher Evan Ellison, but Ellison recorded no outs and three uerneared runs.

Relief pitcher James Lajiness ended the rally by striking out Mckee, who had originally led-off the inning.

The momentum shifted in favor of the Tigers following the bow-out seventh inning, but the Golden Panthers late run arrived too late.

Centerfielder Chris Dunn’s one out single preceded a Bryan Pullin home run, the first home run for the Golden Panthers this season. The Tigers’ lead was chipped, but they would respond with two more runs in the top of the ninth to make the Golden Panthers’ ninth inning rally less exciting.

Offensively, the Golden Panthers wasted several opportunities to extend their early lead; the most glaring was in the second inning when the Golden Panthers loaded the bases with no outs and only one run scored.

Senior pitcher Chris Siebenaler relieved Allen after he had loaded the bases. Siebenaler escaped the inning, only giving up a run.

Siebenaler ran into trouble again in the sixth inning when he loaded the bases off of two bunt singles and a hit-by-bitch.

Price called on newly-contracted reliever James Lajiness to stop the bleeding.

Missouri’s six runs came by the Golden Panthers’ sloppiness in the seventh and ninth innings. Second baseman Corey Lozano was responsible for two of the three errors.

Florida native Thomas Chestnutt named new women’s soccer coach

ANDREW JULIAN
Contributing Writer

The women’s soccer team will be marching to the beat of a new drum as former Fresno State women’s assistant coach Thomas Chestnutt Jr. was named new head coach Feb. 10.

The Florida native said he is excited to be coaching back in his home state.

While at Fresno State, he helped lead the Bulldogs out of the middle of the pack in the Western Athletic Conference to an NCAA tournament berth, the school’s second, and its first-ever WAC championship in 2005.

“Almost every team I’ve either played for or coached has been a winning program. I understand what it takes to win,” Chestnutt said.

Prior to his tenure at Fresno State, Chestnutt was no stranger to success, having helped the women’s soccer team at the University of Florida to a 2001 Final Four appearance and a 2003 NCAA quarterfinal during his stay from 2001-04 as an intern for the team.

“Winning is an expectation at UF,” Chestnutt said. “I hope the same will be expected at FIU within the next few years.

“We want to make it to conference tournament first and then challenge for the conference title,” Chestnutt said. “We want to get the program recognized regionally and nationally.”

Chestnutt, who is lauded for his abilities as a recruiter, is very excited to be given the opportunity to be a head coach close to his home.

Heading in to next season, he believes that the type of players he has will dictate the team’s style of play.

“You have to take advantage of what you have,” Chestnutt said.

Chestnutt played goalkeeper for three seasons at the University of Dayton, where he earned his B.S. in biochemistry with minors in biology, chemistry and German.

In addition to having an important role in recruiting at Fresno State, the new Golden Panthers coach was in charge of the academic success of the team and hopes to continue the academic tradition that coach Edwards started.

“I’m not going to be satisfied … we have to get better constantly,” Chestnutt said.

For the past 22 seasons, Everton Edwards has been at the helm of the women’s soccer program.

After posting 5-12-0 record last season, newly hired athletic director Pete Garcia fired Edwards, electing to steer the program in a new direction. Since 2003, women’s soccer has posted a 18-43-7 record.

In 1985, it was Edwards who started the program, posting a winning record in its inaugural year and doing so 11 more times during his time as head coach.

Edwards compiled a 165-179-33 overall record while behind the bench for the Golden Panthers.