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FIU submits budget, expects big bucks

C. JOEL MARINO
Editor in Chief

University officials will be busy traveling to Tallahassee for the next few months to ask state legislators for at least $98 million to fund various school projects, but how much we’ll actually get is anybody’s guess.

“You always put more than you expect to get back, then you adjust along the way,” said Steve Sauls, vice president of governmental relations.

A list of budget priorities given to The Beacon include funding for new University buildings, money for the College of Medicine and aid with enrollment growth.

• The Board of Governors – the entity in charge of overseeing the state’s public university system – requested $470.3 million from the Public Education Capital Outlay Trust Fund for university projects. This special reserve fund (also known as PECO) is used specifically to finance construction and building renovations. Out of this proposed amount, FIU would receive $41.7 million that would be allocated to projects such as a graduate classroom building ($4.68 million) and a science classroom complex ($29 million).

• The Board of Medicine, which was approved by the BOG and State Legislature last year, is expected to receive around $5.5 million. This is seen as just a portion of a seven-year incremental request that would eventually add up to $22 million. Funds received this year would be used for faculty salary, administrative and support personnel expenses, and equipment, library and technology resources, among other things.

However, a long-term estimate shows that the college would require $64 million in facilities construction. The two main buildings in the works are a molecular science building ($24 million) funded solely through federal grants and PECO money and the main medical center ($40 million), which would be funded through donations and matching grants. There have been no updates given on the search for a private donor.

• Based on the given docu-

Chat answers students’ concerns

KELLY POVEROMO
Contributing Writer

Students can now kiss the hassle of enrollment goodbye. Since November of 2006, the Enrollment Services at FIU has been hosting an online chat service called Panther Chat for those in need of on-spot financial, admissions or registration aid.

“Holding on the telephone and making inconvenient, long lines are a thing of the past,” said Marco Gomez, business analyst for Enrollment Services, in the Panther Chat press release.

Now help is only a click away with the new Panther Chat, an online customer service for students. By visiting the MyFIU portal online, students have access to live chats with enrollment service staff members in regards to financial aid, admissions and registration.

“It was going to happen eventually. Almost everything is online now and I am glad FIU has joined in on that trend. It makes things a lot easier,” said Megan Rojas, a freshman and Panther Chat user.

The hours of Panther Chat vary depending on department. The financial aid and registration chat is open Monday through Friday from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Students may also receive a cyber message for representatives who are busy traveling to Tallahassee.

Vendors become part of GC tradition

CHARLIE GRAU
Sports Editor

For the past 13 years, Robert Rabionet has stood with his vending cart near the Graham Center food court selling a variety of perfumes and colognes to students.

“I think this is the best place to work,” Rabionet said. “For me, FIU is like a big family. After so many years, everyone’s been very nice to us.”

The five consistent vendors who are often seen by students and faculty while walking through the GC halls have become part of the building’s growing tradition over time.

Prior to selling his fragrances inside GC, Rabionet used to sell his products by the University Park water fountain. Although it was much hotter outside, he didn’t mind the heat because it was better than his previous job working in the home department for Burdines.

“It was such a pain. It was good when commission was very high, but after that I left,” Rabionet said. “[At Burdines] you have to work really hard. Here it’s a little more relaxed. I live close by so it’s very convenient.”

Not all the vendors switched careers like Rabionet. Ingrid Carbajal has been selling Peruvian jewelry since she can remember.

Like Rabionet, she heard about people selling goods at FIU from another vendor. After traveling from craft show to craft show, Carbajal decided to try her luck with students.

“I love working with young people,” Carbajal said. “Whenever they see me outside of school, they’ll say hi.”

Over the years, the GC vendors have created strong friendships and even developed their own security system.

“We are all good friends and protect each other. When Ingrid goes to lunch, I’ll watch her cart and vice versa,” Carbajal said.

FIU Gra-We are glide
**THIS WEEK ON CAMPUS**

**MONDAY • MARCH 5**

- SPC American Heritage Opening Ceremonies “A Trip back to the 50’s”: 12 p.m., GC Forum (UP)
- SPC Rock Around the Clock Karaoke Night: 7 p.m., Porter Davis Game Room (UP)

**TUESDAY • MARCH 6**

- SPC Coffee House (with performances by Giel & Carlos Beronatti): 12 p.m., GC Forum (UP)
- American Identity Head to Head Challenge: 6 p.m., GC Ballrooms (UP)
- SPC General Meeting: 5:30 p.m., GC 140 (UP)
- SOC General Meeting: 5 p.m., GC 150 (UP)
- “Baraka” Lecture: 7 p.m., GC Panther Suite (UP)

**WEDNESDAY • MARCH 7**

- SPC American Heritage presents Family Feud: 12 p.m., GC Forum (UP)
- SSGA General Meeting: 3:30 p.m., GC 140 (UP)
- SPC Women’s Celebration – Safe Sex Talk with FIU: 6 p.m., WUC Ballrooms (BBC)
- International Students Club presents Game Day: 1 p.m., WUC Panther Square (BBC)

**THURSDAY • MARCH 8**

- SPC presents Line Dancing (with Boogie Man George): 12 p.m., GC Forum (UP)
- Greek Awards: 7 p.m., GC Ballrooms (UP)
- Big Gurl Fashion Show: 8 p.m., WUC Mary Ann Wolfe Theatre (BBC)
- SPC American Heritage presents Family Feud: 7 p.m., GC Panther Suite (BBC)

**FRIDAY • MARCH 9**

- SPC Films presents “Happy Feet”: 7 p.m. & 10 p.m., GC 140 (UP)
- FIU Lecture Series – Acoustical Astronomy: 8 p.m., CP 145 (UP)
- LOL Comedy Series “All Women Edition”: 8 p.m., WUC Mary Ann Wolfe Theatre (BBC)

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**ZUMBA!**

**HIPS DON’T LIE:** Students dance and exercise to zumba March 1 in the Graham Center Pit. Zumba is a new weight loss class offered at FIU that combines dances such as salsa and belly dancing with aerobics.

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**Panther chat solves concerns**

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**CHAT, page 1**

“Our main focus was on the students. Obviously we do not wish to force something they do not want or need, so prior to executing anything, we asked students for their opinions,” Gomez said.

From this study, they realized this would be an ideal service since most students are often already on their computers.

“We are noticing a positive [out- come],” said Gomez, “It is just not a hunch.”

After the user logs on, students are prompted to answer a survey on their opinion of the service. According to survey results, Panther Chat has a current success rate of 93% implying users would recommend the service to a friend.

As far as future services, Gomez claims to be working on a frequently asked questions page.

“Panther Chat is all about making it more convenient and faster for the student,” said Gomez.

While visiting the Enrollment Services office is still an option, students may find it more convenient to visit Panther Chat from the comfort of their residence hall, home or a computer lab.

As mentioned in the press release, “students can access Panther Chat while navigating through any of the Enrollment Services websites by clicking on the Panther Chat button, which are readily available on practically every page.”

“Panther Chat was helpful,” Rojas said. “I found [the chat] while I was surfing the financial aid website and was able to solve my problems right away.”

There’s a possibility that other departments may join Panther Chat, but nothing has been confirmed.

“Our main goal is satisfying the student,” Gomez said. “We want them to get information in a more efficient way and if this raises satisfaction rates, then why not?”

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**SGC-UP Notes**

Feb. 28 Call to order: 3:43 p.m., Adjournment: 5:23 p.m.

President’s Report (Alfonso “Alfie” Leon):
- Special presentation by Governmental Relations office to prepare students for FIU Day.
- Florida Crystals recently gave $1 million grant to applied research for alternative fuels.

Comptroller’s Report (Nancy Cadavid):
- Budget deliberation date was supposed to be March 2. New tentative date will be March 10.

Chief of Cabinet’s Report (Larissa洛克ett):
- White House officials March 13 and 14 in GC Ballrooms.

Speaker of the House’s Report (Rocio Perez):
- No council meeting next week. House meeting March 5 to discuss legislation changes.

Student Services (Gretel Hebbert):
- Meeting with Felecia Townsend regarding beverage bids. They are currently in Phase 1. Request for vendors document came back from legal. Not submitted to the general public yet.
- Meeting with Victor Citerella from facilities management for outdoor outlets on March 2.

Student Union (Michael Jadon):
- Received draft from FIU College of Architecture. Requesting $10,000 from SGA for the student remodeling project. Architecture students are going to redesign GC 140 and 150.
- Coke has contacted Townsend. They are asking for a discount. They are currently in Phase 1. Request for bids. They are currently in Phase 1. Request for bids. They are currently in Phase 1. Request for bids.
- A.J. Meyer (At-large): I just want to ask again that we get these appropriations before the meeting if possible.

Appropriation A07-04 for $800 for invitations and refreshments for the School of Architecture’s two Gallery Nights (8-0-3).

A.J. Meyer (At-large): I just want to ask again that we get these appropriations before the meeting if possible.

Appropriation A07-05 for $2,000 for food, speakers and rainbow tassels for Stonewall Pride Alliance Spring LGBT Awareness Program Day (6-0-5).

A.J. Meyer (At-large): I just want to ask again that we get these appropriations before the meeting if possible.

Approval of the the revised elections code passes.

Absences:
- Jennifer Ruiz (At-large), Mikana Maeda (Architecture), Brian Andino (CHUA)

Announcements:
- 10 people attended Feb. 28 safety forum. Chief Bill King gave a great discussion.

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New Information Technology chief hired to boost campus wireless service

YOLANIE ALMANZAR
Contributing Writer
Min Yao never planned to be known as the “IT guy,” but now, as the new vice president and chief information officer for the division of information technology, one of his goals is to make FIU a wireless campus.

“I want to be known as the IT guy who works for students’ needs,” Yao said.

In recent years, University officials have found that wireless connection on campus is among the top students’ needs and Yao—who’s been here a little over six years—believes that students should be the priority.

Yao’s position makes him responsible for all of the University’s technology services, including Pan-therSoft, the IT security office and media services in the classroom. He is currently working with the University to install an additional 200 wireless access points, focused on the largest classrooms on campus.

FIU president Modesto A. Maidique’s clear vision to make FIU an academic institution is what attracted him most to the school.

“I often wonder why people pay this much money to do a Ph.D.,” said Bond.

But it wasn’t until frustration over the computers at an old office job that he realized his expertise lay in computer technology. It was at this office where employees still depended on printing from a main-frame located outside the office—that he decided to install a new computer system that linked personal computers together. The new set up allowed office employees to print from a local printer.

Yao smiles as he remembers the accidental discovery and says that he never feels tired when he’s working with computers. He likes to read journals on the latest technology after work and test new software himself.

Former FIU academics get maximum sentences

Convicted ex-FIU academics Carlos and Elsa Alvarez apologized Feb. 27 for the secret life they led as informants on Miami’s exile community for Cuba.

U.S. District Judge K. Michael Moore slammed Carlos Alvarez with the maximum five-year prison sentence for conspiring to act as an unregistered Cuban agent and Elsa Alvarez with the maximum three years’ imprisonment for harboring her husband’s illicit intelligence work and failing to report it to authorities.

The sentences marked the closing chapter to the Alvarezes’ life as once-accomplished Cuban exiles.

FIU administrators, students head to Tallahassee

University President Modesto A. Maidique, members of the FIU Board of Trustees and a delegation of more than 20 student representatives are heading to the sixth annual FIU Day in Tallahassee March 7-8.

One of the goals of the annual meeting is to discuss upcoming events and developments in the University. In addition, the FIU delegation will be lobbying state legislators for University funds.

For more information visit the FIU Governmental Relations web site.

- Compiled by C. Joel Marino and Yesenia Forte

CORRECTIONS

In the March 1 issue, the article titled “Sharpton promises students he’ll visit shantytown” should have attributed the quote, “When there are fights like these, we would hope black leaders would help” to Chris Daley.

In the same issue, the article titled “Maidique does the time warp” should have been credited to contributing writer Jose Martinez.

In the story titled “Patrons party at annual fest,” The Beacon could not provide evidence that there was a mostly drunken crowd as was reported.

The Beacon will gladly change any errors. Call our UP office at 305-348-2709 or BBC at 305-919-4722.
Enrollment, building renovations top priorities

UP vendors feel at home

BUDGET, page 1

vend ors feel at home

Ribbonet said.

• The board also recommended that $16.7 million be used for FIU’s enhance-
ments funds.

The Beacon – March 5, 2007

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http://admissions.fiu.edu/
http://final.fiu.edu/
http://registrars.fiu.edu/
WHAT’S THE DISH?

MEAL DEALS: Students, faculty and members of the Acomark company got together twice last Thursday to discuss up and coming changes to the dining facilities at the Biscayne Bay Campus. Students gave their opinions as to the type of food they prefer. READ OUR STORY MARCH 8 FOR DEVELOPMENTS IN DINING.

SGC-BBC Notes

SGA General Meeting Feb. 28, 2007
Call to order: 3:38pm
Adjournment: 5:24pm

President's Report (Camilo Silva)
• Students running for SGA cabinet positions: the SGA president is the only one who can appoint the cabinet positions, but the executive board can advise the president on his appointments. New members include: Melanie Hodge, Elections Commissioner; Kinesha Reid, Clerk of Council; Verman Green, Internal/External Affairs Director; Daniel Macadar, Community Relations And Environmental Affairs Director.

Vice President's Report (Brent Maximin)
• For the last two weeks, Maximin has met with several SGA members to get feedback on SGA and each member’s position and duties. He wants to meet with a new batch of members.

Guest Speakers
• Noel Guerrero, Hispanic Association of Colleges and Universities. Internship opportunities available to all FIU students in Washington, D.C.

Old Business
• Vote to appoint Rene Portillo as SGA Graduate Student Representative. Aye-nay-abstain: 6-1-0

• Noel Guerrero, Hispanic Association of Colleges and Universities. Internship opportunities available to all FIU students in Washington, D.C.

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Professor's methods influenced by philosophers, Star Trek

Alexandra McAnarney, Staff Writer

The “SANKOFA: African-American Museum on Wheels” arrived on the heels of Black History Month at FIU last Monday with 35 display tables containing around $1 million worth of artifacts dating back to around 1860.

This museum on wheels has existed for the past 15 years and is known globally, traveling across the United States, and even to Europe, the Caribbean and Africa. “Everywhere I go it’s very well received,” said Angela Jennings, museum curator. “It’s very important for people to see what the African-American culture is about and for other ethnic students to take in the displays. Most people are not well versed with the inventions that were created within the black community and we want to educate them.”

Sankofa is an African word that refers to the reclamation of one’s past in order to move forward. “It’s been a challenge getting her here. We would like her to be at a fixed location for three days, but having her at the University is a privilege,” said Robert Coatie, senior director for Multicultural Programs and Services, referring to the museum.

The items chronicled African-American history, beginning with slavery, through the cotton trade and going through World War II and the Civil Rights movement. Included among the display pieces are two hand crafted quilts from South Carolina commissioned by Jennings.

The quilts are maps detailing the route used by escaped slaves to follow north into Canada or south into Florida to be helped by Native Americans.

“On the quilt, it tells you that when you’re thirsty to search the sky for flying grease because they’ll lead you to water. A bear paw and a monkey wrench lead you in different directions, and North, South, East and West are stitched on to the quilt,” Jennings said.

Akin Ogundiran, director of African New World Studies, said he believes this display de-emphasizes modern day materialism.

“Things were less materialistic. Common, hand made things were of great importance. These are small artifacts that carry with them historical significance with the meaning they held to the person that made them,” he said.

Other artifacts include hand crafted materials that hold significant historical value, such as Civil War memorabilia and plaques commemorating the Tuskeegee Airmen, the first all-black air squadron put together during WWII.

“[Jennings] was a Wally appreciation for Mizrach, but because it gives you the tools to be an informed, empowered citizen of your republic,” Mizrach said.

According to Mario Funk, one of Mizrach’s students, the professor uses his passion as a means of getting through to his students. “Sometimes he starts to get emotionally charged, usually concerning various social injustices that exist in this country or the world at large.”

Mizrach cites John Dewy, an American philosopher and educator, as his biggest influence while teaching. “Dewy argued that an education is a public good not just because it fills you with useless facts or prepares you for a corporate cubicle, but because it gives you the tools to be an informed, empowered citizen of your republic,” Mizrach said.

A Facebook group titled, “I want to have Mizrach’s babies (even if I’m a man)” reflects student’s wacky appreciation for Mizrach, but he stays grounded, somewhat modest, and even slightly perplexed through all his praise.

“I have not found a cure for any major world disease or solved any global world conflict,” he said. “If people listen to some of my ideas and they take them further, explore nooks and crannies I never thought to myself, my ideas and they take them further, exploring nooks and crannies I never thought to myself, my ideas and they take them further, exploring nooks and crannies I never thought to myself, my ideas and they take them further, exploring nooks and crannies I never thought to myself, my ideas and they take them further, exploring nooks and crannies…”

Launda De La Fuente, Staff Writer

Steven Mizrach’s students call him a genius. Yet, for the adjunct professor in the department of sociology and anthropology, it’s all about making a difference.

Mizrach earned his Ph.D. in anthropology at the University of Florida in 1999 and

 specializes in anthropology and sociology of science and technology.

Mizrach, a self-proclaimed Star Trek geek, recalls a moment in the saga’s history when the dying Captain Kirk asks fellow Captain Picard why he became a starship captain.

Picard responded that it was because he was that captain’s chair he could make a difference.

Teaching subjects such as Hallucinogens and Culture (ANT 4461) and Science, Technology and Society (SYP 4421), Mizrach

shares his passion in much the same way. “I don’t want people thinking anthropology only studies ‘primitive’ people who live in huts and rainforests or that societies with space shuttles … must be better ethnically, morally or otherwise,” Mizrach said.

According to Mario Funk, one of Mizrach’s students, the professor uses his passion as a means of getting through to his students. “Sometimes he starts to get emotionally charged, usually concerning various social injustices that exist in this country or the world at large.”

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Shanty hut should inspire students to help poor

ROGUE CORONA
Staff Writer

Last week’s exhibition of a mock shantytown hut behind the Graham Center at University Park was an excellent way of “brining a glimpse of poverty,” as Andrew Santa Lucia put it in a Beacon article published Feb. 22, to the student population. The youth of America needs to look into the world, along with two giant swastikas and a few days ago I was in a bathroom stall if deep inside he truly resented himself for carrying such hate inside his soul.

I questioned if he fears how disgusted his friends and teachers would be if they knew the type of scorn and malice he feels towards others outside the door, if deep inside he truly realized himself for carrying such hate inside his soul.

I began to picture the poor soul who wrote this while covering inside the safety and privacy of a bathroom stall. I wondered if he was nervous as he heard the footsteps of others outside the door, if deep inside he truly resented himself for carrying such hate inside his soul.

I questioned if he fears how disgusted his friends and teachers would be if they knew the type of scorn and malice he feels towards others outside the door, if deep inside he truly realized himself for carrying such hate inside his soul.

I wondered if he feared the blood rush to my face which came in the form of a psychic assault. It was then that I had a moment of clarity as I stood in the bathroom stall and decided, my mind was already racing searching for a proper scapegoat to whom I could regurgitate all of this poison onto.

I began to picture the poor soul who wrote this white covering inside the safety and privacy of a bathroom stall. I wondered if he was nervous as he heard the footsteps of others outside the door, if deep inside he truly realized himself for carrying such hate inside his soul.

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I questioned if he fears how disgusted his friends and teachers would be if they knew the type of scorn and malice he feels towards others outside the door, if deep inside he truly realized himself for carrying such hate inside his soul.
This letter is regarding the debacle that was the Rev. Al Sharpton presentation on Friday, March 23. I was extremely disappointed to arrive at the Biscayne Bay Campus, after driving for one hour from my home to find Rev. Al Sharpton tucked away in a scarcely lit corner of the campus.

Due to the lack of advertisement on the University Park campus none of my colleagues had heard about Rev. Al Sharpton’s appearance and few were present. Worst of all, after dealing with the drive in rush hour traffic myself I found that we had just missed the discussion because the program was moved back from 7 p.m. to start at 6 p.m.

I’m not sure why I hadn’t heard about the change. Maybe because tickets were given away haphazardly, with no documentation of students’ ID numbers, leaving no trail to contact students with scheduling changes. An announcement could have been made on the FIU website or a general e-mail sent to students. I don’t know how the information wasn’t made available to everyone.

I was lucky to have been able to actually punto a remarkable and influential speaker whose presentation I was so greatly anticipating. It would have been nice to spend my Friday evening in a rare opportunity with this community leader than driving in circles around the city in rush hour traffic. [The University has] done a great disservice to the students as well as [its] guest, who undoubtedly would have enjoyed, in taller reception if students who were crushed to find they had arrived an hour late had been able to welcome and appreciate him as intended.

Please correct me if I’m wrong in my belief that this was a poorly organized, poorly advertised waste of an opportunity.

Courtney Dowdall
Graduate Student
Comparative Sociology

Festival misrepresented

I am appalled that the editor-in-chief of the Beacon characterized the event-goers at our South Beach Wine and Food Festival as “the mostly drunk crowd.”

Future newspaper writers must understand that words have meaning and an impact. It’s against the law in the State of Florida to serve individuals who are intoxicated.

Serving intoxicated persons can result in personal fines and the loss of the liquor license of the University.

I was at almost every event and attended both grand openings from before the tents opened until they closed. I did not observe any obviously intoxicated individuals.

I did observe thousands of people who were enjoying the sun, sand, food, wine and exhibitions.

I observed many uniformed Miami Beach police who were hired by the festival to assist us in maintaining good order and discipline. There was no one arrested for public intoxication during the entire festival.

The festival was a huge success bringing in not only money but respect for the University. Introducing our School to people from around the world. I am presently processing $200,000 to be awarded to our student volunteers who contributed so much to the success of the festival.

It is saddening to see our University newspaper besmirch the School of Hospitality and Tourism Management and Florida International University.

Joseph J. West, Ph.D.
Dean
School of Hospitality and Tourism Management
For an icy blast of flavor, I grab the New Iced Coffee at McDonald's®. In three great flavors – **Vanilla, Hazelnut and Regular**. Available anytime of the day so I can always quench my thirst.
Dancers overcome injuries, hectic scheduling for squad

SERGIO BONILLA
Asst. Sports editor

An FIU Golden Dazzler passes out on the floor during practice, yet she smiles as she sees one of her teammates help her up while the other dancers continue their routine.

This year’s Golden Dazzlers team – FIU’s only official dance team – is continuing the tradition of aiding and guiding one another through practices, competitions and performances, a tradition that began in 1989.

Their identity as a dance team is defined by a variety of styles including pop, jazz and hip-hop. The girls begin training camp every June and periodically perform and practice each style throughout the year at University football, volleyball and basketball games.

“It’s an 11-month commitment to be a Dazzler,” Popritkin said. “Popritkin was a Golden Dazzler dancer from 1992 to 1995 and she coached the team sporadically after graduating from FIU; her responsibilities as a Dolphins’ cheerleader captain did not allow her to coach the team full-time from 1997 to 2000. However, she departed from the Dolphins in 2000 and has coached the team full-time since 2001.

Besides performing during basketball, volleyball and football season, the Dazzlers perform at FIU-related events and externally requested events such as the Latin Grammys. They are also obliged to be full-time students enrolled in 12 credits and attend practices six to nine hours a week.

“I believe only a former Dazzler can be coach,” Popritkin said. “Only a Dazzler knows how stressful it is.”

In April, the 22 Golden Dazzlers will be competing in the National Dance Alliance championship, which consists of a two-minute routine incorporating hip-hop, jazz and pom styles.

Since its formation, the Golden Dazzlers have always competed under Division I. The 2007 competition will be the first time the Dazzlers compete under Division I-A, which is considerably more competitive.

The higher level of competition will change the team’s approach when scouting potential Dazzlers, a process which involves visits to high school performances.

“We’re going to be recruiting much more aggressively,” Popritkin said. “That’s what happens when you move up a level.”

The transition to compete against more talented teams has made Flores’ teammates help her during her weakest physical and emotional moments. On the day she had surgery, the team visited her house to raise her spirits.

When Flores was unable to stand in a shower, her teammates aided her.

LIFE!

Center keeps student conduct in check

RESOLUTION, page 11

According to Dlhosh, there are no zero-tolerance policies in effect, but the SCCRC does not take matters of assault, sexual misconduct, stalking or any other serious accusation lightly – punishment will fit the crime.

If a student is found guilty of substance abuse, for example, they may be suspended for a semester and have to undergo substance therapy as well.

When new students step onto campus, they are given a copy of the FIU handbook that contains rules to govern their conduct. The Student Conduct and Conflict Resolution Center, located in the Graham Center, room 311, is where students can end up if they break those rules.

“There are expectations for those seeking higher education,” said Karen Dlhosh, director of the SCCRC. “We administer the student code of conduct.”

One way to look at the SCCRC is as FIU’s judicial system, even though it works somewhat differently than real courts – it can’t put students in jail and all proceedings are kept confidential.

The SCCRC’s job begins when a student or faculty member fills out an incident report form, which details the nature of the breach of the code of conduct, witnesses and the name of the offender(s).

It is important for those filing out the form to be specific as to the nature of the offense, as there has been a rise in SCCRC activity – a rise that Dlhosh attributes to the natural growth of the University. With more people on campus, the chances of misconduct increase.

Because the SCCRC does not perform its own investigation, filling out the form is crucial. All information it uses comes from the incident report and witnesses. Based on the report, the SCCRC determines whether there has been a conduct violation. If a breach has been determined, FIU will formally issue charges through the SCCRC; individuals do not file charges against students through the SCCRC.

“We balance student rights with the expectations of the University,” Dlhosh said. “If the violation was physical in nature, it is recommended students call the FIU police primarily to secure one’s safety and, secondly, to have an official police report filed.”

Whenever police reports regarding FIU students are filed, they are forwarded to the SCCRC, thus giving the center more information for the next step in the judicial process: the hearing.

There are two types of hearings: an Administrative hearing – where one administrator will decide the outcome of the case – and a Student Conduct Committee hearing, where two students and one administrator collaborate on the outcome of the hearing.

An accused student can also stipulate the charges against him or her and accept whatever punishment is decided.

The accused may have one advisor present to give them advice during the hearing.

The advisor, however, may not speak for the student and cannot be an attorney unless the accused is also going through criminal prosecution for the same matter involved with their SCCRC hearing.

“We are set up to be a developmental process,” Dlhosh said. “It is not an ‘off with your head’ situation.”

An FIU Golden Dazzler passes out on the floor during practice, yet she smiles as she sees one of her teammates help her up while the other dancers continue their routine.

This year’s Golden Dazzlers team – FIU’s only official dance team – is continuing the tradition of aiding and guiding one another through practices, competitions and performances, a tradition that began in 1989.

Their identity as a dance team is defined by a variety of styles including pop, jazz and hip-hop. The girls begin training camp every June and periodically perform and practice each style throughout the year at University football, volleyball and basketball games.

“It’s an 11-month commitment to be a Dazzler,” Popritkin said. “Popritkin was a Golden Dazzler dancer from 1992 to 1995 and she coached the team sporadically after graduating from FIU; her responsibilities as a Dolphins’ cheerleader captain did not allow her to coach the team full-time from 1997 to 2000. However, she departed from the Dolphins in 2000 and has coached the team full-time since 2001.

Besides performing during basketball, volleyball and football season, the Dazzlers perform at FIU-related events and externally requested events such as the Latin Grammys. They are also obliged to be full-time students enrolled in 12 credits and attend practices six to nine hours a week.

“I believe only a former Dazzler can be coach,” Popritkin said. “Only a Dazzler knows how stressful it is.”

In April, the 22 Golden Dazzlers will be competing in the National Dance Alliance championship, which consists of a two-minute routine incorporating hip-hop, jazz and pom styles.

Since its formation, the Golden Dazzlers have always competed under Division I. The 2007 competition will be the first time the Dazzlers compete under Division I-A, which is considerably more competitive.

The higher level of competition will change the team’s approach when scouting potential Dazzlers, a process which involves visits to high school performances.

“We’re going to be recruiting much more aggressively,” Popritkin said. “That’s what happens when you move up a level.”

The transition to compete against more talented teams has made Flores’ teammates help her during her weakest physical and emotional moments. On the day she had surgery, the team visited her house to raise her spirits.

When Flores was unable to stand in a shower, her teammates aided her.
Robin Thicke – The Evolution of Robin Thicke

The R&B album demonstrates the amorous allure of his romantic love albums that feature the same old ballads about broken hearts. Robin is the son of actor Alan Thicke, known primarily for playing Dr. Jason Seaver on the ‘80s sitcom “Growing Pains.”

The film, scheduled for theatrical release March 9 and adapted from the graphic novel of the same name by Frank Miller (Sin City), is an epic retelling of the battle of Thermopylae where a Spartan contingent of 300 men held off the seemingly innumerable Persian army. The film, scheduled for theatrical release March 9 and adapted from the graphic novel of the same name by Frank Miller (Sin City), is an epic retelling of the battle of Thermopylae where a Spartan contingent of 300 men held off the seemingly innumerable Persian army.

Spartans and Persians collide for two hours in the testosterone-driven 300, an epic retelling of the battle of Thermopylae where a Spartan contingent of 300 men hold off the seemingly innumerable Persian army.

Visually, 300 is stunning, due in part to the use of blue screen for many of the movie’s scenes. When Leonidas and his men first see the Persian enemy approaching in the distance as smoke and dust are kicked up from under their feet, one can’t help but anticipate the ensuing battle, which is pure visual candy, albeit too bloody for the squeamish.

Aside from the use of blue screen, director Zack Snyder (Dawn of the Dead) uses a technique nicknamed “the crush,” giving 300 a photographic look by manipulating the color balance and contrast ratio of the film.

Butler, who played the Phantom in the 2004 Joel Schumacher version of The Phantom of the Opera, gives the war epic’s best performance, convincingly leading his small group of determined men against a mammoth army. To physically prepare for the film, Butler worked with former professional mountain-climber Mark Twight, who trained him and the rest of the cast by coordinating workout sessions involving the use of medicine balls and kettle bells.

The results of such physical training are evident: Butler and the cast look battle-ready for many of the movie’s scenes. When Leonidas and his men first see the Persian enemy approaching in the distance as smoke and dust are kicked up from under their feet, one can’t help but anticipate the ensuing battle, which is pure visual candy, albeit too bloody for the squeamish.

Despite strong performances by the cast, the movie has a distinct flaw: the story’s constant shifting from the action-packed battles between the Spartans and Persians to the dialogue-driven happenings in Sparta. Although it’s nice to know that Sparta still exists while the men are away fighting, the abrupt shifts kill the adrenaline rush induced by watching someone get decapitated or stabbed for the 40th time.

Nevertheless, if audiences want to feel as if they can take on the world, 300 is the movie to watch. In terms of action, captivating visuals, bloodshed and more bloodshed, it delivers a powerful and satisfying blow worthy of a Spartan soldier.
Golden Dazzlers find unity, strength in numbers

“...If you can get through this, then you can get through anything.”
– Vanessa Marrero

Center to co-sponsor initiative promoting ethics, civility

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Applications are due by Friday, March 16, 4 p.m.
* Relevant experience desired – turn in a copy of your resume
* E-mail or drop-off applications to Robert Jaross, Director of Student Media in GC 210 or call 305-348-2709 for more information.

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They took me to a sink and washed my hair,” Flores said.

Her teammates’ attentiveness left Flores with a gracious outlook.

“I’m always telling them now not to be lazy and appreciate dance while you can,” Flores said. “It can be taken from you so easily.”

Her team captain, junior Shea McMayo, who has been with the team for three years, also shares Flores’ leadership attitude. Although she is a performer, she considers herself shy. Her teammates’ presence, however, eases the pressures of performing in front of large crowds.

“Dancing with the team helps my confidence so much,” McMayo said. “My teammates around me give me support.”

As team captain, McMayo has to lead both veteran members as well as newer members such as sophomore Vanessa Marrero. Marrero understands the dedication and time management required to be part of the Dazzlers.

“When a Dazzler makes you face reality,” Marrero said. “It sets you for life because if you can get through this, then you can get through anything.”

This year, Popritkin grouped 22 personalities to form a team that works together, struggles together, laughs together and dances together during 11 months of the year.

“Being a Dazzler isn’t as easy as it looks,” Popritkin said.

“…If you can get through this, then you can get through anything.”

– Vanessa Marrero

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The overall goal of the Civility Initiative is to promote awareness about the student code of standards that follow students everywhere they go, according to Dlhosh.

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College of Engineering & Computing
Jekabsone and Adley lead Golden Panthers to victory

WOMEN, page 16

Adley said her nine points, most which came in the post, were not a big deal. “I have to play against Lasma every day in practice; she’s 6’4. It’s nothing,” Adley said.

The Golden Panthers will travel to Lafayette, La., to face the No. 2 seed Ragin’ Cajuns in quarterfinal action Saturday at 7:30 p.m.

The Golden Panthers lost both games to Louisiana-Lafayette in the regular season. “We got to do a lot of things differently and better. We can’t let them control the boards like they did. They literally man-handled us. We got to stop them in transition, play harder and much more physical,” Russo said. “We have nothing to lose. Everyone’s going to have to put their bodies on the line. If we can physically combat with them, we can beat them.”

FIU 61, TROY 49

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SKIRMISH: Sophomore guard Iva Ciglar was contained shooting 1-for-10 from the field. The margin of points in the point and free-throw shooting was the difference in the game.

WINNER, page 16

Adley said her nine points, most which came in the post, were not a big deal. “I have to play against Lasma every day in practice; she’s 6’4. It’s nothing,” Adley said.

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AND THAT IS COMPLETELY NORMAL. HE HAS DEVOTED HIS LIFE TO THE HEALTH AND PROTECTION OF THESE TRUSTING, SOFT, SWEET, WOOL-GIVING CREATURES. HE IS A DECENT MAN. SO JUST CALM DOWN, HE HAS A GIRLFRIEND.
Bus accident leaves six dead and twenty-nine injured

ACCIDENT, page 16

students, faculty and staff. We know these people on a first-name basis,” he said. “For now we’re pulling together and supporting each other as best we can.”

On campus, students and residents of the community filled the school’s basketball gym to grieve together and learn more about what had happened. Some wiped away tears as they came in. The university, with about 1,150 students 50 miles south of Toledo, is affiliated with the Mennonite Church USA.

The baseball team had been scheduled to play its first game of the season in Sarasota, Fla., Saturday against Eastern Mennonite College of Harrisonburg, Va., and it had eight more games scheduled in Fort Myers, Fla.

Cobb said the bus was southbound on I-75 when it crashed about 5:30 a.m. The driver may have mistaken an exit ramp for a lane, he said. It was dark at the time, but the weather was clear when the bus went off the bridge and landed on its side in the southbound lanes of the interstate.

The National Transportation Safety Board was called in to investigate.

Five fire trucks were at the scene as firefighters pulled crash victims through the roof of the bus.

Baseball equipment bags littered the scene after the crash, and luggage spilled from the vehicle when it was set right side up.

When the bus was righted, it was clear that all the windows on the driver’s side had been shattered, and there was considerable damage on the front of the bus and on the roof above the driver’s seat.

Calls Friday to the charter company, Executive Coach Luxury Travel Inc. of Ottawa, Ohio, were not immediately returned. Harder said the school had used the company in the past.

Steve Rogers, a Bluffton University assistant football coach, said he was working out in the weight room with members of the football team around 6 a.m. when they saw news of the bus crash on television. When they saw the markings on the bus, “that’s when reality hit everybody,” he said.

His players started calling friends on the baseball team, trying to reach some by cell phone.

“It hits home harder than it would if it had happened at a bigger school. Everybody knows each other,” he said.

Matt Ferguson, a freshman on the baseball team from Pleasant Hill, Ohio, said most of the freshman position players stayed behind.

“We were bummed out we didn’t get to go. Now, we don’t know what to think,” he said.

The team is close-knit, he said. “It’s one huge family. We spend all day together. We go to classes together. We do everything together.”

At a chapel service the night before, students had offered a prayer for their sports teams and other students to travel safely over spring break, said Barrington, a junior from Brooklyn Heights, Ohio.

“Sometimes you take that stuff for granted,” she said.

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TRAGEDY: The Bluffton University baseball team bus careened off a highway ramp in Atlanta leaving six dead and 29 injured.

GENE BLYTHE/AP PHOTO

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RENALDO SMITH
Staff Writer

For the Golden Panthers (12-17), the most consistent attribute of the season didn’t come in the form of free-throw shooting, 3-point shooting, rebounding or even defense. It came in the form of two things that can’t be reflected on a stat sheet: heart and hustle.

Using those two elements, the Golden Panthers left it all out on the floor in a disheartening 91-88 overtime loss to the Florida Atlantic Owls (16-14) in the opening round of the Sunbelt Conference Tournament on Feb. 28, in Boca Raton.

With all odds against them in a hostile environment, the Golden Panthers appeared to be anything but rattled early on. Their team play allowed them to tap into an unlikely offensive force in freshman center Nikola Gacesa. Although the Serbian has made big plays over the course of the season, he played with the confidence of a go-to man when they needed him to.

After capitalizing on an early lay-up in the paint to establish an inside threat, Gacesa, who finished the first half with nine points, drilled a 3-pointer to give FIU an early 10-8 advantage. Following Gacesa’s lead, the rest of the team shared the offensive load early.

Defensive specialist Chris Fuller hit a couple of jumpers, senior guard Johwen Villegas was aggressive in the lane and sophomore forward Alex Galindo chipped in with five early points. Despite the Golden Panthers’ strong play, the Owls still managed to stay in the game thanks in no small part to Carlos Munroe.

With everyone else on his team struggling, Munroe took matters into his own hands as he caught fire from the field. It was his 14 points on 7-for-11 shooting that pulled the Owls within two points heading into the second half, 36-34.

After nine lead changes in the opening half, the up-and-down theme continued. Villegas and freshman point guard Erick Nsangou shot the ball well for the Golden Panthers, while guard DeAndre Rice appeared to have an extra pop in his step for the Owls. After Fuller and Villegas took turns draining jumpers, Galindo converted a three-point play to give the Golden Panthers a comfortable 70-61 lead with 7:25 remaining.

Sensing the game slipping away, Rice led the Owls on a 12-2 run to gain a slim 73-72 lead. Galindo buried a big 3-pointer to put the Golden Panthers up 82-80, but Rice cashed in two from the charity stripe to tie the game at the end of regulation.

In the extra period the Owls just seemed one step faster. After point guard Michael James hit a lay-up to give the Golden Panthers an 88-86 lead with just over two minutes left, the Owls took over.

After Fuller missed the go-ahead 3-pointer with 12 seconds remaining, Galindo buried a big 3-pointer to put the Golden Panthers up 82-80, but Rice cashed in two from the charity stripe to tie the game at the end of regulation.

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After Fuller missed the go-ahead 3-pointer with 12 seconds remaining, Owls big man Paul Graham sealed the deal with a dunk.

Meanwhile, the Golden Panthers will look forward to a season with Galindo and Fuller at the forefront, minus seniors Villegas and forward Facundo Giorgi.

“If we got a couple more rebounds at the end, we win the basketball game,” coach Rouco said.

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Women’s basketball team moves on to next round of conference play

MAGALLY ESTRELLA
Staff Writer

The women’s basketball team defeated Troy 61-49 at home on Feb. 28 and will play in the second round of the 2007 Sun Belt Conference Women’s Basketball Championship.

The Golden Panthers (16-13) pulled through and snapped a four-game losing streak that couldn’t have come at a better time.

The win marked their third victory against Troy this season.

Senior center Lasma Jekabsone led all scorers with a game-high 23 points, including 14 in the second half aiding the Golden Panthers to victory.

The Trojans (12-17) got off to a strong start and opened up an eight-point lead, 16-8, in the first eight minutes of the game, but the Golden Panthers overpowered the Ragin’ Cajuns the second half, as they pulled away and snapped a four-game losing streak that couldn’t have come at a better time.

Cindy Russo said. “It’s hard, they don’t have the man power to stop our post play.”

Jekabsone added a game-high eight rebounds and had an overall great performance.

“I was just shooting the ball over my defender the whole game,” she said.

Junior guard LaQuetta Ferguson scored in double digits for the 13th straight game this season with 11 points.

Although she struggled from the floor during the first half, she pulled through for the Golden Panthers with back-to-back field goals with under two minutes left in the game, including the team’s only 3-pointer at the end of the game, stretching their lead to 10 points.

“When you got teammates rebounding, it doesn’t matter how many [3-pointers] you make or how many you miss as long as you make it up on the defensive side of the floor,” Ferguson said.

Helping Jekabsone and Ferguson was sophomore forward Marquita Adley, who provided a strong presence in the post. Coming off the bench, teammates looked for her, feeding her the ball in the post, which either resulted in an easy field goal or a foul charged to a Troy defender.

MOVING UP: Senior center Lasma Jekabsone recorded a game-high 23 points on route to a 61-49 victory over Troy. With the victory the Golden Panthers advance to the Sun Belt Conference quarterfinals.

Bluffton University baseball team suffers loss

MAGALLY ESTRELLA
Staff Writer

A charter bus carrying a college baseball team from Ohio plunged off a highway ramp early Friday and slammed into the pavement below, killing six people, injuring 29 and scattering sports equipment across the road, authorities said.

The bus, carrying the team from the close-knit, Mennonite-affiliated Bluffton University, toppled off the Northside Drive bridge onto a pickup truck on Interstate 75 shortly before dawn, police spokesman Joe Cobb said.

“It looked to me like a big slab of concrete falling down,” said truck driver Danny Lloyd, 57, of Frostburg, Md. “I didn’t recognize it was a bus. I think when I saw the thing coming, I think I closed my eyes and stepped on the gas.”

The impact broke his windshield, pushed his truck into the concrete and wrecked the front bumper, but Lloyd wasn’t injured.

Four students, the bus driver and the bus driver’s wife were killed, said police Maj. Calvin Moss.

A.J. Ramthun, an 18-year-old second baseman, was asleep in a window seat when the bus hit the overpass wall, jolting him awake.

“I just looked out and saw the road coming up at me. I remember the catcher tapping me on the head, telling me to get out because there was gas all over,” he told reporters.

His brother, a fellow team member, was trapped underneath the bus and damaged his hip. “He might not recover from that,” Ramthun said. He said his own collarbone was broken and he had to get stitches in his face.

Nineteen students - three in critical condition - were being treated at Grady Memorial Hospital in Atlanta, Dr. Leon Grandey, 29, was in serious condition and expected to improve.

“Three other injured people were taken to Piedmont Hospital, and seven were taken to Atlanta Medical Center, Haley said.”

“Piedmont hospital spokeswoman Diana Lewis said the team’s coach, James Grandey, 29, was in serious condition and expected to improve. This is a profound and tragic day in the life of Bluffton University,” school President James Harder told reporters Friday morning in Ohio.

Classes were canceled, and the school called off other sports trips planned during next week’s spring break, Harder said.

He said he had no details on the identities of those killed and injured.

“This is deeply impacting all of our students,” he said.

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