Mail list promotes community service activities

CHRISTOPHER DIAZ
Contributing Writer

Patricia Temino, assistant director for the Center for Leadership and Service, believes altruism is in the heart of FIU students. It’s just a matter of finding an outlet for them to show it, she says.

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CRIME SCENE

STUDENTS LBBEY IN
TALLAHASSEE

CHRISTOPHER DIAZ
Contributing Writer

Between midterms, papers, work and other obligations, 20 Student Government Association members traveled nine hours to Tallahassee March 7 and 8 to represent the University at the start of this year’s legislative sessions.

On March 8, also known as FIU Day, the students were divided into groups and taken to the office of senators and representatives, where the students had the opportunity to meet them and talk about the University’s goals.

SOMETHING SMELLS FISHY: Paola Prada, a second year Ph.D. student, performs an experiment in the forensics lab to see how human scents can be used to convict suspects in crimes.

KHADJA HARRIS
Contributing Writer

The popular CBS drama “CSI: Miami” kicked off in 2004. But in 1997, Kenneth Furton had already founded FIU’s International Forensic Research Institute – the only program in the nation that has full accreditation for its undergraduate certificate and graduate degree programs, and currently has over 80 students registered.

Although shows like the nationally viewed investigative drama series “CSI” may have created an interest in the field, Furton doesn’t think the TV show realistically portrays forensics.

“Even though ‘CSI’ is inaccurate and doesn’t show what forensic scientists really do, it generates interest in the field, so it isn’t a really bad thing,” he said.

Besides having a brilliant intuition, which is what shows like “CSI” portray Furton offered other qualities required to become a forensic scientist.

“Students must be inquisitive and have an interest in solving problems,” Furton said.

Furton added that the average forensic scientist doesn’t work with dead bodies. Autopsies are instead performed by the medical examiner or the coroner’s office.

FIU had been offering forensic science programs for over 30 years at various levels before the institute formed 10 years ago. The IFRI currently is one of the largest academic forensic science centers in the United States and is funded by government grants and over $1 million from annual state funds.

Because of IFRI’s advanced equipment, the institute is truly making a name of itself in the forensic field. It has partnered with laboratories in countries around the world, mainly in the UK and Australia, where the labs exchange research findings. Also, IFRI works with labs in Latin American and the Caribbean to help develop counterterrorism techniques.

The IFRI excels at the local level as well.

On March 8, also known as FIU Day, the students were divided into groups and taken to the office of senators and representatives, where the students had the opportunity to meet them and talk about the University’s goals.

One of the major issues that we were pushing for was the institution of the technology fee. And the word fee scares most students, but this fee would actually be the stepping stone to better technology in the classrooms, fully wireless campus, and the end of the $299 online fee [charged for online courses],” said Student Government Association member Kenny Gelok, director of student legislative affairs.

Representative Anitere Flores, who met with the students and who represents District 114 (Kendall, Westwood Lakes and the area surrounding FIU) praised the students’ dedication.

“The best lobbyists the University has is the students themselves and anything from a tuition change to the public policy to what the University will look like will effect the students,” Flores said. “It is equally important for us legislators [to see how] the policies we make affect the lives of students.”

And as far as the students meeting in person with the representatives rather than communicating approval via mail, Flores

Students use forensics to solve crimes

KHAADJA HARRIS
Contributing Writer

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Patricia Temino, assistant director for the Center for Leadership and Service, believes altruism is in the heart of FIU students. It’s just a matter of finding an outlet for them to show it, she says.

She hopes to be proven right through the Rory Community Calendar, a new program the center offers promoting one-time volunteer opportunities through e-mail.

“I think college students really do care [about helping others]. A lack of information on how to get involved is the biggest problem. If students were aware of the opportunities, they would really make a difference,” Temino said.

RCC launched Jan. 30 and Temino hopes it will be a success and remain for a long time.

The activities are very diverse. In January, students volunteered at the Good Hope Equestrian Training Center, a center offering therapeutic horseback riding for people with disabilities, and in February volunteers helped cleanup Virginia Beach.

There are 15 activities planned for this semester, which include volunteering at Special Olympics and helping restore natural areas.

According to Temino, it’s easy to get involved. All students have to do is contact the center by telephone, e-mail or by visiting the center and joining the mailing list.

Once in the system, e-mails will be sent once a week promoting and describing the different activities.

The center does not currently have a website with project listings, but are planning to have one by the end of the Spring semester.

Anyone is welcome to participate, and the only requirement besides wanting to be involved is to be a student, Temino said.

There is an evaluation at the end of each activity to help the center improve its services.

“We are really trying to reach students and give them what they want on these activities,” Temino said.

There is something to do each weekend, and the duration of the activities can range anywhere between two hours to the whole day.

For those interested in taking on a leadership role, the center needs a project manager for either the entire semester or for a single activity.

Being a project manager requires previous experience, Temino said.

Harold Silva has been a project manager with RCC in different community activities such as beach cleanups and child tutoring.

Project manager is an opportunity to gain leadership skills, Silva said.

For more information on the Center for Leadership and Service go to GC 2240 or call 305-348-6995.
TALLAHASSEE, page 1

said that “the most effective way to advocate for an issue is face to face contact. It’s crucial because it also gives time for interaction between the legislature and the students.”

“No the key is for us to follow up and take any issues or suggestions given to us [by the legislators],” said Cassandra Andrade, a member of FIU’s Model United Nations. Providence Okoye, vice president of the Student Government Council at University Park, gave her impression of the legislators.

“...They paid attention and even when we didn’t get a chance to meet with the representatives themselves, their aids were great and they made sure to let us know they would convey our issues to the legislators.”

Besides some downsfalls — such as the student’s bus was stuck in the rain on the way back, leaving the group stuck on the road for three hours — the students succeeded at voicing their concerns and asking state senators and representatives for more funding.

“I am very passionate about my university; I bleed blue and gold. Every student that went on this trip, if they did not have this same passion they wouldn’t have been able to speak with the legislators. They all have this passion for the University,” Providence said.
Alumni promote kids’ book on penmanship

CARLA ST. LOUIS
Staff Writer

For FIU alumni Leroy Adam and McSai Jean-Baptiste, reading to elementary school students is their passion.

“We love children and working with children. We’ve found that’s where our passion lies — feeding the energy that children give you,” Jean-Baptiste said.

Adam and Jean-Baptiste were able to promote their educational children’s story, Get a Grip, Patrick, on Feb. 9 while pursuing their passion at Natural Bridge Elementary School.

The Beacon first reported on Get a Grip, Patrick in the article Students Address Poor Handwriting Oct. 9.

The authors currently have not published a discussing about their book. However, their book has established a cult-following of institutions and professionals within the Miami-Dade community due in part to the book’s aim, which is to correct improper penmanship, and the authors’ interactive presentations.

The book’s teaching methods.

“Repetition and being very detailed helps them to grasp everything — even with learning how to read.”

The duo has presented interactive readings at such elementary schools as Palm Lakes, Hubert O. Sibley, W.J. Bryan and Bride.

Samuel Joseph, executive director of America Scores Miami, has agreed to aid the group.

The organization, a sub-chapter of the national after-school program, utilizes physical education, literary and community services activities to engage at-risk youth.

Joseph explained that this partnership will include a series of book readings at the organization’s school program sites, and aiding the authors in obtaining a publishing deal.

“America Scores Miami and I, personally, have committed to a long-term partnership with the founders of the Get a Grip, Patrick initiative,” Joseph said.

Indeed, there’s a need to read Get a Grip, Patrick, according to Masuyama.

“I have been a teacher for 11 years and this is the most effective method I have seen to teach the kids how to hold their pencils properly; I want that book.”

Journalist lectures at BBC

JESSICA SOLIS
Staff Writer

As part of its annual Hearst Distinguished Lecture Series, the School of Journalism and Mass Communication has invited award-winning journalists and columnist Samuel G. Freedman to discuss his latest book.

The book, Letters to a Young Journalist, provides insight on the journalist’s role in a democratic society.

The lecture will take place on March 13 at 6:30 p.m., at the Mary Ann Wolfle Theatre.

Freedman spoke to The Beacon via phone to discuss his very early days as a writer and why being a journalist is an important job.

Q. How did you go about becoming a journalist?

I started out in junior high school. I started doing [journalism] when I was in eighth grade. Our junior high school had just been built, and there was no junior high school building before and no junior high school paper, so one of the teachers held a meeting for people who were interested in volunteering for positions they were interested in, and so I sort of boldly and recklessly volunteered to be editor in chief.

Q. What do the new journalism students and the new journalists that just graduated have to look forward to?

I think there are real challenges here because there are economic challenges to the business model of traditional news or organizations. There’s also the challenge to the whole idea of there being such a thing as a professional journalist that detracts from both the right and the left from the “mainstream media.”

Q. Were you ever told by a public official that a meeting was private or off-limits to you?

Usually it was pretty clear what was and what wasn’t. When I was a reporter in different parts of the country, in New Jersey, in Illinois, the Sunshine laws (the public meeting laws) were pretty clear and I think sometimes we even had little cards that our editors gave us that kind of gave a quick rundown of what the public meeting law was, so we had that for reference.

Q. How did you do by becoming a journalist?

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Q. What made you want to become a journalist?

I grew up in a family where we read the New York Times every morning as if it was the Bible, and that was part of it. We were very interested as a family in political issues and social issues. Also, I wanted to be a journalist.

Q. What do you want to be a journalist doing?

I think there are real challenges here because there are economic challenges to the business model of traditional news or organizations. There’s also the challenge to the whole idea of there being such a thing as a professional journalist that detracts from both the right and the left from the “mainstream media.”

Q. Were you ever told by a public official that
In Florida, a law created in 1869 banned convicted felons from voting, even after they have served their sentences. In order to regain their right to vote, ex-felons must appeal to the clemency board in Tallahassee, a process that takes months or even years due to an extensive backlog of applications. Anestimatied 950,000 ex-felons are ineligible to vote under this law.

Some would say it is a matter of race and politics. After all, many of those ex-felons happen to be African-American or other minorities. Perhaps it is no coincidence that this law was passed in the same year as the 1867 amendment, granting African-Americans the right to vote.

Some have even suggested that the votes of these felons could have changed the results of several elections in recent years, including that of the president.

Many of these people blame the system for ending up in jail; they may support those candidates that seem to be fighting that system, and the injustice it promotes.

Whether or not this is true, the fact remains that these ex-felons will be paying taxes with the work they have done. They can get. I seem to recall a little revolutionary war being fought over the issue of taxation without representation.

This is a matter that strikes not just those of a particular race, but also all citizens in our great country.

Press unfairly judges Ann Coulter for insensitive remarks

DAVID FOCEL
Contributing Writer

In Florida, a law created in 1869 banned convicted felons from voting, even after they have served their sentences. In order to regain their right to vote, ex-felons must appeal to the clemency board in Tallahassee, a process that takes months or even years due to an extensive backlog of applications. Anestimatied 950,000 ex-felons are ineligible to vote under this law.

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This is a matter that strikes not just those of a particular race, but also all citizens in our great country.

We must remain aware of the fact that there is free speech in this country, and also acknowledge the fact that bigotry is omnipresent. It is approximated that 45 percent of gay males and 20 percent of lesbians report having experienced verbal harassment and/or physical violence as a result of their sexual orientation.

Coulter’s comments should not be disregarded simply because she made one comment that can be interpreted as homophobic.

We do not condone nor agree with Coulter’s comments and feel they were in fact impetuous, but I cannot help but begin to be slightly agitated by the systematic effort to prevent this woman from expressing her opinions, however ludicrous and farcical they may be.

We should be fighting the system, and the injustice it promotes.

Therefore, the media attempts to portray what they perceive as “bigoted” comments as if they are the word ‘f----t,’ so I — so kind words should not be disregarded simply because she made one comment that can be interpreted as homophobic.

us the question as to what the public, even the advertisers on her website.

Furthermore, during the 2008 presidential campaign, up to 12,000 legitimate voters were misidentified as ex-felons, raising the issue of disenfranchise-ment to the wider public. Thankfully most of them were cleared of this error, but up to 4,000 may have still been barred from voting in the election. It seems as if things may change. After shifting posi-
tions on the issue during the gubernatorial campaign, Governor Charlie Crist seeks to grant ex-felon voting rights after 100 years of disenfranchise-ment. On March 1 he met with members of the clem-
ency board in an ef fort to get the ban lifted.

While most of the mem-
bers will go on record sup-
pporting the reinstatement of voting rights, the governor is not sure if he has enough votes to pass the bill.

Let us hope, for the sake of our Republic and our state, that those entrusted with public power will restore voting rights to those who have already suffered the consequences of their deeds. This measure would help not to protect criminals, but simply to protect the right of free and fair representation as an intrinsic value of our society.
ICY DAYS.

HOT NIGHTS.

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.
At times, a nearby home-away-from-home is the better option. Hitting a beachfront condo, though, is sometimes too many hotels to choose from. So how do you know which ones keep their promises of white, fluffy pillow-top beds and which ones don’t, any signs of customer satisfaction right from the start?

If the best parties are those in your own backyard, these are a couple of hotels that are sure to bring something warm, welcoming feel to them. Many of Bayside, The Fortune House is near such attractions as Bayside Marketplace and Vizcaya Museum and Gardens. The rooms are very spacious, but if comfort is a major issue for you, then maybe you should look somewhere else. But if you’ve ever dreamt of sharing a twin-sized bed with two passed out friends and a not-so-fragrant stranger, then maybe you should give this hotel a shot.

One Bedroom Suite – $92 / Two Bedroom Suite – $145

SONESTA HOTEL AND SUITES
2889 MCFARLANE ROAD
305-529-2828

Sometimes trusted, secure names make guests feel more comfortable during their stay. The Sonesta Hotel and Suites in Coconut Grove is exactly this – a known name, but in a unique location.

Coconut Grove is the newest hot spot in Miami, and if you want to experience what all the buzz is about, The Sonesta is here to help. A major perk this hotel offers is shuttle services to South Beach, just in case dealing with South Beach traffic is what you’re worried about. The rooms offer beautiful microdermabrasion facials and hot stone therapy. Standard Room – $245 / Junior Suite – $260 / Premium Suite – $345 / Rooftop Penthouse – $450

THE CARLTON
1433 COLLINS AVENUE
305-672-3858

Do you just want to be with your special someone during the break? The Carlton’s guestrooms are small, comfortable and very – perfect for a new couple that wants to get to know each other a little better. Spend a night of food and dancing down South Beach and then come home to your perfect room at the Carlton. Don’t forget to stock up on the complimentary European spa and bath products. Deluxe Double Queen – $130 / Superior King Poolside – $137.69

There you have it – seven of the best spots in Miami for a weekend getaway, far from whatever it is you need to be far from. Now that you have your stunning room, don’t spend too much time in it that you forget school started again. All information taken from Yahoo! Travel

Few willing to share answers to life’s questions

Once, I remember well, my life was a feast where all hearts opened and all wines flowed.

– Arthur Rimbaud, A Season in Hell

I’m not going to deny it – I’ve been taking the easy way out with this column, spotlighting people I know and my ongoing search for the meaning of life! Though I’ve spent the whole month comparing life to an adventure, a sad routine and the extravagance of a rock star, the people I used to exemplify these themes were acquaintances that just happened to fit that week’s mold.

This week, I decided to go out on the street and ask strangers if life had any meaning for them, just to see what reaction I’d get.

Most people I ran into laughed and wouldn’t take the question seriously or just ignored me. A girl I saw studying in the Green Library picked up her things and silently moved to another side of the building, perhaps scared off by the way I started the conversation (I asked her if she was in metaphysical literature and then chatted about life and questioning the meaning of life). She was, after all, standing next to the library’s best Argentine writer, Jorge Luis Borges.

Rejection didn’t bother me as much as the awkward answers, though. A group of sophomores I interviewed sitting by the turtle pond near the Byker business building giggled and gave me rhetorical gems such as “Is there life to a meaning?” and “Which came first, the meaning or the life?”

Some answers manage to surprise me. Reanna Smith, a junior majoring in English, didn’t mind telling me that her life is just a quest for practical knowledge.

Her hero is Arthur Rimbaud, the rebel teen poet who made a career out of scandalizing French society as much as he did writing lyrical masterpieces.

“I think scholars remember Rimbaud as the kid who—off other famous gay poets and wrote some interesting things on the side. But I read his biography in high school and I just fell in love with what he stood for. I love people ignore today,” she said.

Smith pointed out that Rimbaud was always reading scientific texts, mechanical journals and every book he could get a hold of just so there would never be anything he didn’t know.

“He was a poet but he was also an explorer of life,” Smith said. “More than figuring out why we’re here, I want to know how we got here and what we’re going to do now that we’re here.”

Although I was fascinated by Smith’s educated response to my question, it was the easiness with which she answered that really intrigued me.

I consider my search – seven of the best spots in Miami for a weekend getaway, far from whatever it is you need to be away from.

Now that you have your stunning room, don’t spend too much time in it that you forget school started again.

All information taken from Yahoo! Travel

Staff Writer

LEONCIO ALVAREZ

WINTERHAVEN SOUTH BEACH
1400 OCEAN DRIVE
305-531-5571

The Winterhaven is a good little escape if you want to be right where all the action is. The rooms offer beautiful views of the ocean and even though they’re a little cramped, they do have a warm, welcoming feel to them. Many restaurants, including Finnegan’s Way (13 Street and Ocean Drive) and the 24-hour Jerry’s Famous Deli (14 Street and Collins Ave.) are mere feet away as well as many trendy shops. The highlight, though, is that the shore is just within reach at this South Beach spot.

THE CHESTERFIELD HOTEL AND SPA
855 COLLINS AVENUE
305-531-5831

If a life of luxury is the only way you’ll spend your Spring Break, then this hotel and spa should be the first place you look at. The Chesterfield offers six types of rooms, including a lavish rooftop penthouse suite with its own tiki bar and outdoor showers. The spa is open seven days a week and offers such services as French manicures, Swedish massages, microdermabrasion facials and hot stone therapy. Standard Room – $245 / Junior Suite – $260 / Premium Suite – $345 / Rooftop Penthouse – $450

THE FORTUNE HOUSE
185 S.E. 14 TERRACE
305-349-5001

Fed up with the beach crowds but still want a South Beach feel? Then you’ll be very fortunate to have found The Fortune House. Situated in the heart of Bayside, The Fortune House is near such attractions as Bayside Marketplace and Vizcaya Museum and Gardens. The rooms are very spacious, but if comfort is a major issue for you, then maybe

THE BEACON
6111 COLLINS AVENUE
305-534-2934

This way, you can also ask if any amenities are out of service – Beach parking is difficult to find; valet parking typically is a daily $20 fee. Carlile reservations with a phone cell – especially if you’ve booked through a third party website (e.g., expedia.com). This way, you can also ask if any amenities are out of service – Not everyday in Miami is paradise. Check weather forecasts before you travel
FIU SPORTS REPLAY

Winning becoming a habit for softball and tennis

The Golden Panthers’ softball team has won five of seven games thus far during the Blue and Gold Fall Series Memorial Tournament being held from March 2-13 at University Park. The tournament consists of five teams: Stonybrook, Mount St. Mary’s and UNC-Wilmington, Western Kentucky and Rutgers.

FIU 2, STONYBROOK 1

Sophomore outfielder Kim Rodriguez hit a solo home run against Stonybrook and senior catcher Tabitha Embry’s extra-inning single scored the game-winning run. Senior Jared McGuire earned the win with a scoreless 1 1/3 innings. Stonybrook’s pitcher allowed five runs in five innings.

FIU 8, MOUNT ST. MARY’S 0

Sophomore Penny Eastman (3-5) dominated the five of seven games thus far during the Blue and Gold Fall Series Memorial Tournament being held from March 2-13 at University Park. The tournament consists of five teams: Stonybrook, Mount St. Mary’s and UNC-Wilmington, Western Kentucky and Rutgers.

Townsend knocks in game winning run

pitch, which prompted the Eagles to make a pitching change.

Boston College first baseman, Mike Belfiore was brought in to pitch, but he wasn’t any better. He immediately gave up an RBI single to McOwen, followed by a hit from senior catcher Luis Bautista.

Boston College left fielder Jared McGuire over ran the ball and both Pullin and McOwen ended up scoring.

Coach Danny Price then decided to bring in speedy senior outfielder Chris Dunn to pitch run for Bautista. Dunn was able to reach third on a wild pitch by Belfiore, which made it easy for freshman Tyler Townsend to do what he’s done all season — hit.

Townsend knocked in Dunn with a single that went between short and second.

“I didn’t feel any pressure with Chris Dunn at third and no outs,” Townsend said after knocking in the game winning run.

He wasn’t any better. was brought in to pitch, but change.

pitch, which prompted the BASEBALL, page 8

Applications due by Sunday, March 16 at 4 p.m.

*E-mail or drop off applications to Robert Maros, Director of Student Media in GC 210 or call (305) 348-2709.

THE BEACON and WRGP are now accepting applications for Editor in Chief and General Manager. Applications are due by Friday, March 16 at 4 p.m. Turn in a copy of your resume. Relevant experience is desired. E-mail of drop-off applications to Robert Jaros, Director of Student Media in GC 210, or call (305) 348-2709 for more information.

DELL CAMPUS REPS NEEDED. Promote a top 30 company to gain real-world business & marketing experience! www.RepNation.com/Dell to apply.

Sitters Wanted. Average $10 per hour. Register free for jobs near campus or home www.student-sitters.com

Easy work near FIU conducting telephone surveys.

NO SALES. Work eves./weekends. No experience necessary. We train. Call 305-553-9828.

Looking for highly motivated energetic individual with the power to move people to assist in the marketing and promotions in Miami’s new sounds and lifestyle movement. Can you increase the buzz of Miami’s newest venues? Serious inquiries only contact Chiqui 239-784-7062 or e-mail Phil.Rima@gmail.com

SUMMER JOBS: Recreation Camp Counselors/Supervisors for summer recreation program 6/11-7/8/03 for children ages 5-15. WSI/Lifeguard and Maintenance Aides (5/30-7/26). Exp. Desirable. Apply at City of Plantation (West of Ft. Lauderdale) 400 NW 73 Ave., Plantation, FL 33317. Attn: Human Resources e-mail jtpangow@plantation.org

Photographers Needed. Bob Knight Photo is currently hiring part-time photographers to work local college and high school graduation ceremonies in May, June, August, and December. Applicants must understand basic digital 35mm cameras, own a dark colored business suit, possess a conservative appearance, and attend two paid mandatory training sessions in April. We have plenty of work throughout May but all photographers need to be available on weekends in late April and May and during our busiest week of May 18-31. Pay starts at $50.00 per event. Please visit www.bkhire.com for additional information and to fill out an application.

Baseball, page 8

The Golden Panthers’ No. 22 ranked tennis team in the nation knocked off #21 Florida on March 7 at University Park courts. They won all singles matches, including four in straight sets.

They lost one of three doubles matches, which was the only loss for the Golden Panthers against East Tennessee State.

FIU 7, MSU 0

The Golden Panthers tennis team (8-4) duplicated their success against Michigan State (9-2) by not losing one singles or double match on March 8, at the University Park courts.

-FIU 6, UNC-WILMINGTON 1

Eastman (4-5) pitched her second complete game of the series as she allowed one run on five hits and notched seven strike-outs.

Junior Amanda Cox hit her first home run of the season. The Golden Panthers scored three runs in the sixth to double their lead.

UNC-WILMINGTON 4, FIU 3

Seahawks pitcher Jess Luckett allowed three runs during her complete game victory. The Golden Panthers headed to the bottom half of the first inning trailing 4-1. Luckett struggled as she allowed a two-run home run to junior outfielder Ashley Falk. Despite the home run, Luckett fished the game recording a groundout.

FIU 7, MOUNT ST. MARY’S 0

Eastman (5-5) was four outs away from recording a no-hitter. Pinch hitter Amanda Buckel’s double to left field was the first Mount St. Mary’s hit of the game. Eastman won her third consecutive game in as many starts.

White went 3-for-3 with a three-run home run.

FIU 5, MOUNT ST. MARY’S 2

Mount St. Mary held a 1-0 lead in the first inning and did not lead the rest of the game. The Golden Panthers answered with two runs in the bottom of the first. Besides the fourth and fifth innings, the Golden Panthers scored at least one run in every inning.

Kerri Houck (4-8) allowed two earned runs during seven innings of work.

TENNIS

The Golden Panthers’ No. 22 ranked tennis team (7-4) ended their recent skid against Florida State with a 7-0 victory versus East Tennessee State (5-7) on March 7, at University Park courts. They won all singles matches, including four in straight sets.

They lost one of three doubles matches, which was the only loss for the Golden Panthers against East Tennessee State.

Applications for Editor in Chief and General Manager. Applications are due by Friday, March 16 at 4 p.m. Turn in a copy of your resume. Relevant experience is desired. E-mail of drop-off applications to Robert Jaros, Director of Student Media in GC 210, or call (305) 348-2709 for more information.

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The Beacon – March 12, 2007
Late inning heroics spark comeback win over Boston College

Junior diver Lindsay Lowell was named the Sun Belt Conference's diver of the year after winning the women's 3-meter competition at the Sun Belt Conference Championships.

SPIN CYCLE: Junior diver Lindsay Lowell was named the Sun Belt Conference's diver of the year after winning the women's 3-meter competition at the Sun Belt Conference Championships.

Lowell named Sun Belt diver of the year

CHRIS MARTINEZ
Contributing Writer

Junior diver Lindsay Lowell has always looked up to her mother for advice when it came to athletics. It was never more apparent than the first time she experienced diving.

"My mother was a gymnastics coach and judge, but I was never able to get into it," Lowell said. "One day she began teaching diving at the local pool, and I fell in love the second I experienced it."

Fourteen years later, she's been a four-time state qualifier at Cooper City High School, received multiple scholarship offers, a pair of conference honors and, most notably, the Sun Belt Conference Diver of the Year. After all this, she hasn't looked back.

Lindsay grew up practicing and working at the Swimming Hall of Fame in Fort Lauderdale.

When she was old enough, her mother, Kim, retired and Lowell took over as head coach.

"It distrupted me how the professionals were completely consumed by diving," Lowell said. "I wanted a scholarship, sure, but the key for me was to be able to balance sports with my life."

Don't think that means Lowell is slacking.

"It's what scares a lot of people away from participating. Knowing that every action you make directly relates to your score keeps many from ever trying," Lowell said.

While attending Cooper City High School, Lowell qualified for the state championships all four years, and the hard work paid off.

Schools like Connecticut and Massachusetts — among others — came calling, but she finally settled on the North Carolina State.

However, she felt she was not developing with her team or coach and decided that she would have to return to south Florida.

Torn between the Golden Panthers and Florida Atlantic, it ultimately came down to FIU, diving coach Bryan Gillooly and the relationship the two of them developed.

"Coach Gillooly has been amazing to me, both as an instructor and as a friend," Lowell said. "His positive reinforcement and plain knowledge has been helping me more then I could have hoped for the past two years."

Though diving has been such an intricate part of Lindsay's life for the past 14 years, she recently came to a startling realization upon meeting with her academic advisor.

"It hit me that I only had one year left in college, she said. "One more year of diving. It was then I realized that diving wasn't going to last forever, that I was going to have to move it to the backseat soon and embrace my career."

Lowell has held an internship with an advertising agency and is majoring in communications and public relations. With only a year left, her 14-year run will be coming to a close and it will be time to face the real world. But that doesn't mean she's satisfied with herself yet.

"Winning diver of the year was an amazing surprise, since I had been having a rough year and it was great to see my hard work paying off," Lowell said. "But I still want to win both conference championships. I came really close last year and simple mistakes cost me."

As the end inevitably draws near, Lowell practices every day, with the intention, as she puts it, "to be better than I was the day before."