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The Beacon, March 26, 2007

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Research may turn sugar into fuel

KATHERINE RUZI
Contributing Writer

Joining world leaders’ efforts to develop alternative fuel sources, FIU’s Applied Research Center has teamed with sugar producer Florida Crystals Corporation to begin a pretreatment process of converting sugarcane bagasse into ethanol, an alternative fuel.

Ethanol could be used one day to fuel the entire country, as well as parts of Latin America and the Caribbean. What this means is that hopefully one day the United States will be producing gasoline domestically.

The partnership between the University and the sugar company took place days before President Bush traveled to São Paulo, Brazil, where he announced the key players in producing ethanol as a fuel technology and promote its use by other nations in the region.

According to George Philippidis, associate director and principal investigator of the ARC, the main goal of this project is to make Florida one of the three key players in producing ethanol as a supplement to gasoline. “Right now in the U.S., we are making about 5 billion gallons of ethanol a year, primarily out of corn,” Philippidis said. “However, there is simply not enough corn to make enough ethanol to replace a significant amount of gasoline. Therefore, we are looking for alternative ways.”

Although corn is the primary means from which ethanol is produced, experts say that corn can only supply 10 percent of future gasoline demand in the United States. This limitation is what encouraged researchers to find other crops from which to produce fuel.

There are other challenges, including limited land to grow the crops and scarcity of irrigation water. “Cellulosic ethanol is what we are pursuing,” Philippidis said.

Cellulosic ethanol is a type of ethanol that is produced from a great diversity of biomass including urban representative from each of the three companies present on campus at least once a month.

Employees will also be able to keep their insurance even if they leave the University.

If you want to sign up directly with somebody or you want to ask questions to somebody in person, you’ll know that, every month, these people will be here physically to be able to deal with your issues,” Sanchez said.

All three companies have verbally agreed with all the University’s requests, but no contracts have been signed and nothing has been made official.

If any company decides it cannot provide everything the University asks for, it will be dropped, Sanchez said.

The finalized plans are set to be released April 15 on the human resources website.

The website will give employees general information and allow employees to compare each of the offered plans.

It will also provide a link so employees can enroll online.

Sanchez expects the University to offer to three health care providers to employees by May

Music professor Alejandro Caballero, also an adjunct professor, was glad to hear the news.

“If they do that then that’s really good. And if I get hired again for next semester that’s really good as well,” Caballero said.

Caballero has his own insurance because he is also a mortgage broker, but he says he would be willing to switch if the University provides a better plan.

Rodriguez and Edwards believe this will give temporary employees more incentive to stay.

“I am proud to see that the University offer this option to adjuncts and other employees who are facing the insurance squeeze, even if I have to take on another part-time job,” Amari said.
Sugar fuel research in progress

and agricultural waste, and other sources like cellulose. This technology has been in the making for over 15 years. Now FIU’s plan is to use sugar waste materials, like bagasse, and extract the ethanol from it. Bagasse is a waste byproduct of sugarcane, produced in tons every year at FCC, the number one producer of sugar in the United States.

“If we can make the process more efficient, then ultimately we can save the amount of fossil fuels that we burn,” said Harlan Sands, executive director of the ARC.

The ARC has generated $2 million for the effort, $1 million coming from a state grant and another $1 million contributed from the sugar company. With that, the ARC plans on bridging the gaps in technology and making this process commercialized so they can begin building plants and producing ethanol to fuel the country.

This project is considered a great opportunity for experts at the ARC and for FIU graduate and undergraduate students to participate hands-on in helping to bring a big change to the country.

“[Students] will get to participate from the beginning, right through the finished product and understand how science interfaces with private industry to come up with a better product. This fits in with everything we do here at FIU,” Sands said.

The horizon for the project was three years. However, both Philippidis and Sands agree that it will most likely accelerate quicker than what was initially predicted for the study.

“I think you are going to see a lot of progress very quickly,” Sands said.

FUEL, page 1

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THIS WEEK ON CAMPUS

MONDAY • MARCH 26

Panther Rage General Meeting: 4 p.m., GC 140
SPC-BBC General Meeting: 4 p.m., WUC 159
College of Law’s Karaoke Night: 8 p.m., Gracie’s Grill

TUESDAY • MARCH 27

Honors Council General Meeting: 3:30 p.m., GC 150
SOC General Meeting and Elections: 5:30 p.m., GC 150
SPC-UP General Meeting: 3:30 p.m., GC 140
SPC Karaoke Night: 7 p.m., Gracie’s Grill
IVFC “Know Why You Believe” Group Discussion: 12:30 p.m., WUC 245
The Film Circle Discussion and Meeting: 6 p.m., WUC 100

WEDNESDAY • MARCH 28

SGC-UP General Meeting: 3:30 p.m., GC 150
Panther Power Meeting: 1 p.m., WUC 157
SGC-BBC General Meeting: 3:30 p.m., WUC 155

THURSDAY • MARCH 29

GSA Gradskellers: 6 p.m., Gracie’s Grill
Humanities Club Meetings – Film Night: 7 p.m., WUC 100
College of Law Bowling Night: 8 p.m., Bird Bowl
Delta Epsilon Iota Academic Honor Society’s Medical Networking event: 6 p.m., GC Faculty Club
Undergraduate Economics Association’s meeting: 6 p.m., PC 331

FRIDAY • MARCH 30

ENGAGE Leadership Workshop: 11 a.m., GC 305
Academic of Leaders Session: 5 p.m., GC 305
SPC Film – The Pursuit of Happyness: 7 p.m.
& 10 p.m., GC 140
Frost Art Museum exhibition: MFS Exhibition 2007, 8 p.m., Frost Art Museum

SATURDAY • MARCH 31

Torch Awards Ceremony: 6:30 p.m, cocktail reception, 7:30 p.m, awards presentation, GC Ballroom, tickets $100 each

SUNDAY • APRIL 1

SPC presents Wrestlemania 23 Live!: 6 p.m., Gracie’s Grill

NEWSFLASH

Provost announces new College of Education dean

Provost Ronald Berkman announced March 14 the appointment of Luis Mirón as the new dean of the College of Education.

In past years, Mirón has directed multiple public policy and school reform studies and has taught at various universities, including UC-Berkeley, Loyola University and Tulane University.

His research has garnered more than $1.6 million in funded grants and contracts, and his published work focuses on urban school reform, educational equity and educational leadership.

Mirón replaces Judith Blucker, interim dean, who has provided more than 30 years of leadership to the University in various capacities.

Mirón will join the FIU community June 1.

– Compiled by Maria Chercoles

– Compiled by Reuben Pereira
Students bike for charity

CYCLISTS, page 1

To interact with people with disabilities while giving out grants to these groups.

Kyle Thomas, director of Marketing at Push America, participated in “Journey of Hope” as an undergraduate student. His experiences motivated him to continue working with the organization to make a difference in the lives of people with disabilities.

“It was by far the best summer of my life, and I didn’t want it to end,” he said.

Cyclists are preparing for the trip with regular visits to the gym and outdoor bike riding. Varona started training last August and is now biking 200 to 300 miles a week. All six of the men are also responsible for raising the funds ranging from $600 to $5,000 per person to participate in the event. The money is raised through corporate sponsorships and individual donations.

Pi Kappa Phi as a group has been raising money for Push America throughout the year. The fraternity has worked together on events such as the Gentleman’s Auction, where the fraternity’s members are auctioned off for a date, and a Push America gala, and an increase in the fraternity’s volunteer hours at the Possible Dream Foundation, an organization in Homestead that supports people with disabilities.

Anyone interested in making a donation to Push America can visit pushamerica.org.
A college student...
Angel Reich, an Oakland mother of two, suffers from a brain tumor. If there was, as Mr. Martinez wrote, a systematic effort to back down from allowing federal resources to make law for us, since our government still classifies marijuana as having no medical uses whatsoever.

The solution is to recognize the benefits of medical marijuana and reject the propaganda that the pharmaceutical, cotton, petrochemical and cigarette companies want you to believe.

Our state legislature needs to put pressure on federal law by allowing the use of medical marijuana.

Write that bill. Pass that bill, and turn it into law—seriously.

- Look for “Bobby’s World” every other Monday in the Opinion section of The Beacon.
‘American Dream’ ideal transcends legislation

VERONICA SUAREZ
Contributing Writer

Crossing the Rio Grande at 5 years old did not seem like the American Dream for alumnus Christian Jarquin. There was fear of coyotes, risk of robbery and risk of La Migra, the immigration police. Jarquin’s mother, who took him across the U.S.-Mexican border, could not acquire visas in her native country Nicaragua because of the political situation. So they crossed the border mejadad – without legal documentation.

But for Jarquin and his mother, who were fleeing a war and revolution in Nicaragua, reaching freedom and the promise of a better life was worth the risk.

"This country is a blessing," Jarquin said. "It’s a gorgeous, wonderful, great nation that has embraced my family. But at first it was very scary because my mom didn’t speak the language. She had no legal papers to work here. She had to work in the tomato fields and earn whatever they wanted to pay her because she had no papers.

Jarquin’s mother was one of the estimated 10 to 12 million illegal immigrants who live in the United States and take underpaid jobs or work "under the table." According to a report developed by the Pew Hispanic Center, illegal immigrants as a group tend to be less educated and have lower incomes than other sections of the U.S. population.

In spite of these obstacles, Jarquin earned and received scholarships after qualifying for permanent residency under the Nicaraguan and Central American Relief Act law signed by former President Clinton in 1997. Although there are certain laws that aid some groups of immigrants to achieve permanent residency, there is no comprehensive law that aids all illegal immigrants to gain access to citizenship. In contrast, the House of Representatives passed a bill last year that proposed illegal immigration to be treated as a felony rather than a civil penalty.

Immigration law professor, Mike Backsman

Thick skin necessary to take criticism

The elephant is one of the most beautiful and noble creatures. Pachyderm – the type of animal an elephant is – means thick skin, so if you told an elephant it didn’t look good in plaid, it probably wouldn’t care what it looked like.

Humans, however, are not pachyderms. The near-fatally injured incident I had with a paper cut once proves that. Metaphorically speaking, though, the situation worsens. People have difficulty giving criticism and even worse at receiving it. However, that doesn’t make the act invalid. Without it, people wouldn’t constantly second-guess their choices in fashion, careers or even mates – and we all know a country filled with confident, autonomous decision-makers is not what the Founding Fathers had in mind.

You have to assume that by now, most youths have grown up with a chip on their shoulders. Don’t worry. It’s not so much that parents don’t have to foster healthy self-perceptions, it’s just that they don’t care. Keep in mind that the generations before us are blue-collar, war-time producers. The fact that you may be good at something is viewed as laziness versus a natural ineptitude. Enough phrases like “I saw little Suzy give her mom two macaroni necklaces” will make anyone hypersensitive after a while. I never could get past eating the paste.

With that said, you have to assume everyone’s a little sensitive. So when your boss tells you “Stop on the gas, girlie, those frappuccinos aren’t going to make themselves,” you better react. Your first reaction can’t be to scream out “The warheads are coming out as fast as they can, general!” I mean, if only your boss was 26 and the reference would be less serious when you say “I think I …err… have a problem … with … umm … what were we talking about?”

If you’re aware of the nature of criticism, you need to know how to react, in turn, you must have the tact to dish it out. For one, you can’t talk down to the boss. You’ll get a better reaction if you don’t exclaim your phrase with “understand, tiger?” and then pat them on the head. Especially when that person’s a biker – I won’t elaborate.

As a rule of thumb, you should also try to be direct when giving criticism. Don’t stall or fumble over your words or you’ll be taken even less seriously when you say “I think I …err… have a problem with … umm … what were we talking about?”

Also, if you want your criticism to be taken seriously, keep it as constructive as possible. Sneaking in even the most innocent of “you jerk” will blow your argument. Just give it out, make your point, and get over it.

The best way to take criticism is with a grain of salt. Granted, if it’s from people you care about, you’re going to take it more seriously than if it’s from let’s say an out-of-touch aging hippie who wouldn’t know comedy if it squirted him in the face with seltzer water … not that I would know.

In that vein, you may want to be careful with the feelings of those you care about. Because the end, we may not share the thick skin factors with our elephant brothers, but we do share one thing – we never forget.
IMMIGRATION, page 6

Troy Elder, argues that this kind of legislation “criminalizes not only the illegal aliens” but also people who try to help them: including lawyers, Catholic charities and social groups. The bill also ignited the immigration marches of last year where millions of immigrants protested in major city streets such as Los Angeles, Chicago and New York for their human rights. Some immigrants held banners that read: “We are not criminals.”

“The message was that ‘we’re here, we’re your neighbors, we’re part of the fabric of this nation; we’re working hard and we want to be treated with dignity and respect,’” Elder said about the participants of the immigration marches.

He argues illegal immigrants contribute to our society. Illegal immigrants pay taxes through identification numbers issued by the Internal Revenue Service. In order to work, some illegal immigrants buy fake social security numbers and identification cards. But most important, he argues illegal immigrants work in jobs that Americans do not want to do.

“The undocumented population would not be here if there were [no] jobs for them,” he said. House cleaners, gardeners and home-health aids are just some of the kinds of jobs illegal immigrants do “that keep the [economy] running.”

The debate on illegal immigration, however, is rooted more on emotion than on logic, according to Guillermo Grenier, a sociology professor and expert on immigration. He said those who oppose illegal immigration are afraid of perceived changes to the national identity of the country. Most immigrants come from Latin America and Asia, and according to Grenier, these groups of people are less likely to assimilate to American culture.

“The folks fighting immigration are saying assimilation no longer occurs. Assimilation is no longer an option for these immigrants,” Grenier said. He stated immigrants instead integrate into American culture. In some parts of the country, like Miami, immigrants don’t have to learn English even though “research shows unless you learn English you are doomed to low-paying jobs.” Grenier indicated that people like Samuel P. Huntington, an author and Harvard professor, argue that immigrants who are bilingual benefit more economically than native-born Americans who are monolingual.

An advocate of America’s national identity, Huntington criticizes Mexican-Americans in particular for not assimilating into American society. In an article named “Jorge, Can You See?”, published in the periodical Foreign Policy, Huntington discusses the American Dream.

“There is no Americano Dream,” he wrote. “There is only the American Dream created by an Anglo-Protestant society. Mexican-Americans will share in that dream and in that society only if they dream in English.”

As for American dreams in English and Spanish, Alumnus Christian Jarquin was not only able to graduate from FIU magna cum laude but also earn an opportunity to work for the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation.

Jarquin thinks the American Dream is an opportunity for individuals and society.

“To me, the American Dream is the opportunity to earn an education and work to benefit not only my family but our society,” Jarquin said.

In response to Huntington’s view of the American Dream, Jarquin does not think the American Dream is exclusive. “While I do agree that English is extremely important to learn, the American Dream is for everyone to share, because we are all a nation of immigrants.”

HISTORY, TECHNOLOGY AMONG FACTORS THAT INFLUENCE GENERATIONAL LABELING

GENERATIONS, page 6

Views history.

Authors Neil Howe and William Strauss have written extensively on how generations show that history is cyclical, with certain basic patterns rhythmically repeating themselves.

From this theory, the authors claim in the Millennial generation is imitating the GI Generation of 1900-1925, showing courage, patriotic faithfulness and conservative moral values. They reason that the Millennials are rebelling against the Boomers by resembling this much older generation instead.

Many Millennials themselves, like Garcia, would disagree. “We do have a conscience,” Garcia said. “[But] our generation is pretty much self-centered, inclusive and self-serving.”

But Safioue Kane, a Ph.D. student majoring in sociology, claims that “Me Generation” and “Selfish Generation” would be accurate descriptions of today’s youth.

“There’s something commercial about this generation,” Kane said.

Pollo believes that this generation is not quite known for the conservative morals like Howe and Strauss claim. “Moral liberalism,” Pollo said. “That’s one that has really made an impact on this generation.”

In contrast to Howe and Strauss, Kane views this generation’s strength not so much in its patriotic courage, but in its global thinking.

“There’s something fast about us: adaptability,” Kane said. “(Our) borders are very fluid.”

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Arcade Fire

REINIER HERNANDEZ
Staff Writer

Indie-rock band Arcade Fire became media darlings in 2004 after the release of their debut album, Funeral. They received continuous airplay on indie stations, received a nearly perfect review from the influential Pitchfork Media music website and even graced the cover of their native Canada’s edition of Time magazine.

The band, touted as the “saviors of rock” by publications and organizations like The Philadelphia Inquirer and the Associated Press, had quite the reputation to live up to with their sophomore effort.

After months of leaked tracks and speculation that the band would be unable to repeat their success, Arcade Fire have silenced the naysayers and come back with an album as powerful as their debut.

Released March 6, Funeral was met with near-universal acclaim from critics and fans alike. The band, who made their name with a rootsy, folk-influenced sound on their debut, ventured into more adventurous territory with their sophomore effort.

The album opens with “Sprawl II,” a mid-tempo track featuring horns and a gospel choir. The song sets the tone for the rest of the album, which is characterized by its blending of different musical styles.

The narrative deals with a father and son who are worlds apart, but are united by their love of music. The album features a variety of sounds, from the driving rock of “Neon Bible” to the folk-influenced “Cage.”

“I’m so proud of what we’ve done,” singer Win Butler said. “We’ve taken risks and it’s paid off.”

The band’s success has not been without its share of controversy, however. Some fans were disappointed by the more experimental nature of the album, while others were thrilled by the band’s willingness to try new things.

But for the most part, the album has been hailed as a triumph. The band has proven that they are not content to rest on their laurels and that they are willing to take risks in order to create innovative and memorable music.

“Funeral” is a masterful work of art that deserves to be heard by as many people as possible,” said Pitchfork reviewer Rob Hruska. “Arcade Fire have proven that they are one of the most exciting bands working today.”

The album is a testament to the band’s ability to grow and evolve as artists, while still staying true to their roots.

“Funeral” is a must-listen for fans of indie rock and for anyone who loves great music. The album is available now on most major music retailers.
Multicultural programs aim to unite minority students

BEN F. BADGER
Staff Writer

Once known as Minority Student Services, the Multicultural Programs and Services office – located on the University Park campus in the Graham Center, room 216 and on the Biscayne Bay campus in the Wolfe University Center, room 253 – aims to offer help to non-mainstream or “minority” students in various academic areas.

Tutoring is one of MPAS’ most important functions, offering tutoring in uncommon areas where students may sometimes have difficulty finding a tutor, such as calculus and organic chemistry, according to Jeffrey McNamee, the MPAS associate director.

“We take care of the subjects you normally don’t see,” McNamee said.

Students interested in becoming tutors through MPAS should complete the tutor application on the MPAS website and submit it with their SASS report or transcript to Jeannette Cruz, the MPAS associate director, in GC 265.

According to McNamee, most of the MPAS tutors are upperclassmen. MPAS also has two computer labs for student use located in GC 216 and 265.

Other than tutoring, MPAS also provides several scholarships such as the MPAS and Golden Drum Scholarships. Both scholarships revolve around high academic performance at FIU as well as in high school.

The two can be renewed for four years at FIU.

MPAS Scholarship grants $1,000 toward tuition a semester and Golden Drum Scholarship grants $1250 a semester. Applications are available on the MPAS website.

MPAS also funds one other scholarship for transfer and international students, the Sage Scholarship.

“They don’t have a lot of opportunities for scholarship,” McNamee said. “And $500 can be a lot of money for a transfer or international student.”

A silent auction will be held March 29 at the WUC ballroom at 6 p.m. to raise funds for the Sage Scholarship. The scholarship is in its fourth year of operation.

Tutoring and scholarships are not all MPAS has to offer.

The office also provides advising for various student organizations such as the Black Student Union and On Point Poetry.

“Our advisor [Sonya Robinson] is very supportive,” said Mara Moline, the president of On Point Poetry. “We sit down and come up with ideas and she also helps me with my own ideas. The MPAS office is a family-oriented place.”

With the ever-growing, diverse population at FIU, MPAS has created new departments over its lifetime. The newest addition to the MPAS office is the Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, Queer and Ally (LGBTQA) office. Only in its second semester of operation, Graduate Assistant A.J. Costa runs the office.

“We collect and provide resources for our LGBTQA students,” Costa said. “The LGBTQA office is planning two big events for this semester.”

The Day of Silence will be held April 10 from 12 p.m. to 6 p.m. in the GC Pit. During the event students pledge not to speak at all to bring awareness to the oppression that LGBTQA individuals are forced to endure.

Following the Day of Silence will be the Breaking the Silence Ceremony and Celebration in the Housing Quad. At that time, students who pledged to remain silent will be able to speak and join in on the party.

“Providing programs, events and education for the LGBTQA and straight students is very important,” Costa said.

Students with questions or concerns about LGBTQA issues, can speak to Costa privately in her office or via e-mail. (Costa can be reached at lgbt@fiu.edu)

All communications with Costa are confidential.

While the free tutoring is aimed at tutoring “non-mainstream” students, no FIU student will be turned away.

The MPAS tutoring office is located in GC 267 and students can schedule tutoring appointments by stopping by the office or calling 305-348-4109. (Office hours and a complete list of available tutoring as well as a complete calendar of events is available online at http://www.fiu.edu/mpas)
Dolphins offense needs overhaul to be successful

The defense will be fine for next season and a shakeup of personnel is what the offense needs to play at the same level the defense has for years.

Miami also heads into the NFL Draft with the most selections they’ve had in a long time.

And even though the team has not seen much success in the draft this decade, the more you play, the more chances you have to win – as old casino logic goes.

In the NFL, teams can go from abysmal to prototypical in one or two seasons, sometimes with very little changes, which is obviously what the Dolphins are trying to do.

Considering that the Dolphins are still trying to stockpile picks, it may be possible that the Dolphins might want to acquire a higher pick in the draft – they currently hold the No. 9 pick.

To make a bold prediction, the Dolphins are going to trade up to the No. 3 or No. 4 spot and select Georgia Tech super freak wide receiver Calvin Johnson.

That would make total sense for a team desperately seeking a second receiving threat to complement Chris Chambers.

And who wouldn’t want a 6-foot-4, 239 lb. player with a 4.39 second 40-yard dash run?

Even though that move may be a bit of a long shot, it makes a lot of sense and could make this off-season a success for the Dolphins.

And nothing the Dolphins have done this off-season seems to be doing any of that.

FLORIDA INTERNATIONAL UNIVERSITY; BISCAYNE BAY CAMPUS

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Giovanonni combines athleticism with academics

She wanted to be able to have the opportunity to be able to continue swimming and going to school, and in her home country that would not be possible since soccer is by far the most popular sport. Other sports took a “backseat,” so she would not have the privilege or the opportunity to get an education and be an athlete, since accommodations were only made for soccer athletes.

Despite Sara’s contributions to the Italian National Team, it was still all about soccer.

Giovanonni’s experience with the Italian National Team gives credence to her continuing improving performance throughout her swimming career.

Last season on Feb. 25, 2006, she set a school record time of 1:05.81 in the 100 breaststroke.

The next day, she set the record for the 200 breaststroke with a time of 2:17.40 and subsequently made the NCAA “B” Standard time.

She would go on to beat her record in the 100 breaststroke with a time of 1:04.99 and her record in the 200 breaststroke by nearly two seconds, touching the wall at 2:15.68, which also made the NCAA “B” Standard.

Finally this season leading up to the NCAA Swimming and Diving Championships in Minneapolis, she posted a 3rd place at the 5K and also a mile runner.

This season she broke her previous personal record in the mile with a time of 5:07.94 – good for second all-time at FIU – at the Stephen O’Connell Center in Gainesville.

While running the 5K event at the 2007 Husky Classic in Seattle, Reategui achieved her biggest accomplishment in her career at the moment.

At the start of the 2007 season, Reategui was the first FIU swimmer to be invited to the NCAA Swimming and Diving Championships.

She started to improve her time at the 5K and also as a mile runner.

This attitude is also evident in her academics as the industrial engineering major has maintained a 4.0 GPA during her stay at FIU.

As for her love of swimming Giovanonni said, “When I am swimming I feel free. Sometimes I may have some flashbacks of things that happened in my life, but most of all I feel free when I swim. I feel like I am discovering myself. It is just

for herself.

“The team was struggling in country cross, but by the end of the year the team was getting better. We were having better times as a team and as individuals,” she said.

Reategui ran the mile for the Golden Panthers, posting the team’s top time of 5:14.28 and placing fifth at the Gator Invitational on Sept. 16, 2006.

This great achievement gave her the trust she really needed from the coach and parents’ house, and lost focus in her academic and personal life.

It was a hard time for her but one thing was for sure, she never quit.

She posted her personal-best time of 18:08.91 in the 5000 meters (5K), good for a 31st place at the Auburn Invitational on Sept. 30.

“In a hard time, but you know, everyone told me ‘We believe in you.’ My boyfriend helped me a lot, and gave me back the confidence that I needed. Here at FIU, all my teammates are a family, we are all a family, and we take care of each other, in and out of the track,” Reategui said. “I love my teammates and the FIU staff.”

At the end of the 2006 season, Reategui had a lot of things going on in her life.

Family issues were affecting her grades and her concentration in track. She had to move out of her parents’ house, and lost focus in her academic and personal life.

It was a hard time for her but one thing was for sure, she never quit.

She posted her personal-best time of 18:08.91 in the 5000 meters (5K), good for a 31st place at the Auburn Invitational on Sept. 30.

“It was a hard time, but you know, everyone told me ‘We believe in you.’ My boyfriend helped me a lot, and gave me back the confidence that I needed. Here at FIU, all my teammates are a family, we are all a family, and we take care of each other, in and out of the track,” Reategui said. “I love my teammates and the FIU staff.”
Runner always had sight on finish line

CHRISTIAN GUILLE Contributing Writer

It was at the age of 12 when junior track and field athlete Paola Reategui first got interested in boxing. Considered by many as a violent and predominantly masculine sport, Reategui ignored all the stereotypes and continued her newfound passion with the support of her parents.

A year later during an early morning jog, Reategui was challenged by her mother to run along a few runners up the hill. This challenge changed her life forever.

Just after her run up that hill, Paola joined the local running club, “Miami Runners.”

Later, she joined the track and field team at G. Holmes Braddock Senior High School. This decision marked the beginning of her career as a track and field athlete.

“I decided that what I liked most was running,” Reategui said. “Thanks to boxing and the support of my parents, I said to myself, ‘I am going to do this for the rest of my life.’ And that was what I did in school.”

Reategui injured her leg just two weeks before the state championships, but her desire to compete didn’t diminish. She ran the last two races of her high school career, finishing 11th in the 1-mile run and 12th in the 2-mile.

“It was so frustrating,” she said. “You know it’s your last year and you know you want to do your best. And someone telling me that I cannot go to the state championships was very heartbreaking.”

Her track and field career began with the “miler” (1-mile run) and by the end of her senior year, she was doubtful of running her last state competitions for Braddock.

After graduation, various universities offered Reategui scholarships, but FIU’s offer was what she was really looking for.

Reategui started to run officially for FIU’s track and field team last year. She was placed as a distance runner after her times in the mile were not that competitive.

She saw this rejection as a challenge and started working hard in practices. Day by day, Reategui improved her 1-mile time and asked assistant coach Carlos Salvat if she was able to become a mile runner once again. It took some time to convince him, but Reategui, page 11

Swimmer invited to major championship

CLAUDE PHANOR Contributing Writer

FIU sophomore swimmer Sara Giovanni has been having an excellent season. She is the first swimmer at FIU’s swimming and diving program to reach the NCAA Championships. She touched the wall in 2:14.38 to improve her previous school record of 2:14.81.

It was awesome. There was a strong media presence, cameras flashing everywhere, lights, it was amazing and somewhat overwhelming, but I was just very happy to be there.

“I was not used to coming from Miami, but it was great.” She is the first swimmer being at the NCAA Championships is a tremendous accomplishment as a sophomore. This is a huge stepping stone for our program.”

Sara Giovanni, page 11

Dolphins are not making smart moves this off-season

With the NFL draft looming ever so closely and free agency fully underway, Miami Dolphins fans are wondering what the heck their team is doing.

Even though the Dolphins have shown they are willing to spend whatever it takes to win, they seem to be spending in the wrong areas of need.

Don’t get me wrong – adding former Pittsburgh Steelers linebacker Joey Porter should definitely make the defensive front even stronger, but the Dolphins’ linebacker core is one the team’s strongest suits.

New head coach Cam Cameron, brought in for his talented offensive scheming, seems to be getting rid of last year’s most productive players.

Randi McMichael, despite developing a severe case of butter fingers last year, is still one of the best tight ends in football.

Yet he was replaced by a guy you’ve probably never heard of before – David Martin (yeah, exactly, Who?).

Martin is considered a good route runner and pass catcher. But how is that an upgrade from the most productive tight end in Dolphins history?

The team also traded fan-favorite and perennial over-achiever Wes Welker.

By trading away Welker – to the division rival New England Patriots no less – the Dolphins lost their most productive receiver from last season and their best return man in one fell swoop.

Even though the Dolphins have given up too much, Welker is more reliable than the draft picks – a second and seventh rounder – that may take a long time to develop.

Also, there is no question the Dolphins’ offensive line is in dire need of help, yet they’ve made no noise and have actually worsened in that front by losing players such as guard Lenio Davies.

It is at this point in the off-season where Dolphin fans are vulnerable, because they have to put full trust in their new leader.

They hope he know what he’s doing, regardless how attached fans have become to certain players like Welker and McMichael.

DOLPHINS, page 10

“Sara was phenomenal,” coach Noemi Zaharia said. “She did great, but her just to pursue growing interest in swimming.”

GIOVANNI, page 11