COMMUNITY MOURNS LOSS

Officer’s death not forgotten

CHRISTINA VEGA
Asst. News Director

Thousands of people filled Pharmed Arena Sept. 18 to pay respect to slain Miami-Dade Police Officer and FIU alumus Jose Somohano.

Somohano, 37, married and father of two, died Sept. 13 after being shot by Shawn Labreet who also injured three officers—one of them an FIU student. Somohano received a degree from FIU in criminal justice. Attendees on the second story of the stadium with only enough room to stand against the railings and looking down into a pit of navy, black, brown, green and white-uniformed officers. According to Maydel Santana-Bravo, director of media relations at FIU, anywhere from 50 to 100 different police agencies from both inside and outside of Florida were in attendance at the service.

In anticipation of the additional 5,000 to 6,000 mourners expected to attend the ceremony, FIU announced the day before that morning classes at University Park would be canceled for the day of the ceremony.

“Drum Corps. ‘It’s just a shame,’” said Frank Moran, a drum player with the Police Pipe and Drum Corps. “This way—and we’ve played too.

Before the ceremony, police officers and color guards lined the sides of the street where the hearse carrying Somohano would pass and bagpipe and drum players practiced under a tree off to the side. Fortunately or unfortunately, we play at all of the police funerals.

Inside, the arena was quiet considering the amount of people present. When it was announced that the Somohano family was nearing, everyone rose to their feet as if doing a somber and deliberate wave seen at sports games. The packed arena fell into complete silence as the officers waited, hats in hand, for the motorcade carrying Somohano to arrive.

Eight people struggled with the weight of Somohano’s American flag covered casket as they pulled it out of the silver and black hearse and made their way inside the arena, followed by the officer’s family and friends. At the command of a shouting officer, everyone present saluted simultaneously as the funeral party processed down the long aisle to the

Everyone fees to be used to renovate Aquatic Center

NICOLE ACOSTA
Asst. News Director

The Biscayne Bay Campus’s Aquatic Center, which originally cost $1.4 million to build, will now undergo an estimated $1.5 million in renovations this Fall, according to an e-mail Victor Citarella, Facilities Management’s associate vice president, sent to The Beacon July 25. Rosa Jones, vice president of Student Affairs, confirmed

the left over activities and services fees from student tuition and had been accumulating over time since the council was not aware of it’s existence until last year.

“If we could assist the University in supporting this University pool, then it’s something that we’re going to look into,”[Arthur “AJ” Meyer] and I want to have a lengthy meeting with Dr. Jones about what we could do because it’s student money,” Hernandez said in a July interview with The Beacon.

Katiana Saintable, BBC-SCG president, was unavailable for comment about the Aquatic Center repairs.

Elias Bardawil, associate director of campus recreation, said the Aquatic Center’s damages were due to natural elements surrounding the facility.

“The Aquatic Center is 25 years old. It runs 24 hours a day, 365 days a year and it is sur-

Student fees to be used to renovate Aquatic Center

AQUATICS, page 4
UP SGC president uses opportunity to make a difference

**VANESSA A. ALVAREZ  **
Staff Writer

It is 8 a.m. on a Wednesday summer morning. Most college students are deep in sleep, but for Marbely Hernandez, University Park Student Government Association president, sleep is simply not an option.

As a peer mentor in last summer’s FIU mentoring program, Hernandez was not just up bright and early, but also ready to contribute as much as she could to the freshmen experience she helped lead. “My purpose as a peer mentor was to be there for the students and give them someone that they could relate to be there for the students and give them advice,” Hernandez said.

Hernandez, who spends most of her time in the SGA office between classes, also helps her parents with their family-run company. “I don’t think people realize how much work my dad, mom and I put in our company,” Hernandez said.

And creating something is exactly what Hernandez’s SGA administration strives to achieve. This year’s SGA has already accomplished three of its 2 goals set for itself this year, and a fourth goal will be up and running sometime this semester. The first in her family to attend college, Hernandez opted to dedicate herself to the students and to improving FIU. Besides becoming involved in SGA, she rushed for the Alpha Xi Delta sorority, where she held the position of scholarship and academic achievement chair. “That’s the thing about Marbely, she is always willing to help,” said Catalina Gonzalez, president of the Alpha Xi Delta sorority.

Outside academics, Hernandez, who dances since the age of four, also participated as both a dancer and Morale Captain for Dance Marathon, the largest on-campus student-run philanthropic event—whose proceeds benefit Miami Children’s Hospital.

The administration wants to create change for SGA, “Hernandez said. “We are very happy with all her choices,” Hernandez said. “She’s an amazing daughter and both her father and I are very proud. She deserves it all.”

After she is done with Law School, Hernandez says she wants to become a lobbyist for higher education and work as a representative for state of Florida. And when referred back to FIU, she says she’d like to leave behind excellence. “I hope to be remembered as a hard worker, an achiever; someone who knows the value of an organization and uses it to the benefit of the student,” she said. “SGA is not Marbely Hernandez, it is everyone who holds each and every position in the student government.”

THE BEACON

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Muslim students invite others to embrace culture

ANDREW LEINS
Staff Writer

Ramadan—the time of the year when Muslims fast for an entire month, eating only after the sun goes down—is celebrated this year from the sunset of Sept. 13 to Oct. 12.

FIU's Muslim Student Association, which gives Muslim students the chance to connect with one another on campus and reach out to the community, has several events planned to celebrate the month.

Members will be meeting for prayers every weekday in the Graham Center, room 343 and will try to meet daily for the breaking of fast at sundown in GC 241.

As well, MSA wants to expand the awareness of Islamic traditions in the FIU community and will be having an event to give non-Muslims a chance to learn more about Islam.

For prayer times and more information available at MSA’s Web site www.msafi u.com.

Daily prayers take place in GC 343.
Sundown breaking of fast takes place daily in GC 241.

Fast–a–Thon will take place Sept 26, 6 p.m., in the GC Ballrooms.

Weekly Jumu’ah prayers take place every Friday at 1:30 p.m. in GC 343.

For prayer times and more information visit, www.msafi u.com.

Artist looks for potential nude models for next art installation

DANIELLA BACIGALUPO
Contributing Writer

A press release has been circulating around the FIU Honors College and Art Department asking students to take their clothes off and stand next to other naked people—in the name of art.

“For me, [being part of it] would all depend. If I didn’t know anyone there and there’s a lot of people doing it then you kind of lose your identity,” Perry Narcisse, an FIU alum majoring in business, said.

Narcisse refers to Spencer Tunick’s latest installation that will take place at the Sagamore Hotel in Miami Beach Oct. 8.

Tunick, the world renowned American installation artist, began photographing nude people since then has stretched the worlds’, but most markedly, American society’s boundaries on nudity and its acceptance.

“To every artist always try to find a uniqueness to their work,” Martin Z. Margulies, a Miami-based philanthropist. The Margulies Collection at the Warehouse photography gallery and owner of various sculptures around the University Park campus, said.

Tunick’s uniqueness comes from the massive number of nude people that compose his artwork: his largest group figured 18,000 people in Mexico City.

Several arrests and a lawsuit from current Senator and Republican presidential candidate Rudy Giuliani, underline the discomfort and censorship tendencies that American society has toward nudity.

Despite the criticism and society’s inhibitions, thousands of people have participated in Tunick’s work with voluntary to stand shirtless in American cities; the appeal seems to originate from the break that Tunick’s art, intentionally or unintentionally, causes in the inclination to associate nudity with sexuality.

“Tunick is a man who wants to be respected with large amounts of people and watching the whole scene. They can be a part of something and then see it materialize in an exhibition,” Tunick said.

To register, students can log onto Tunick’s Web site, http://www.spencertunick.com, and click on the “Miami Installation” link. Participants must be 18 or older and will only be nude for a short period of time. There is no deadline to register, up to publication date.

Memorial at UP remembers officer

So you know...

front of the stage. “I stand before you with a heavy heart,” said Robert Parker, director of the Miami-Dade Police Department, at the opening of the ceremony.

The ceremony continued with many of them Miami-Dade Mayor Carlos Alvarez, who spoke to the law enforcement community as the officer he once was.

“I know that no words will heal your pain,” Alvarez said to the Somohano family. “Not this will ever hurt your father, your husband and your son.”

Alvarez likened Somohano to the hero for his ultimate sacrifice.

“An American hero because he laid down his life for what he believed in,” Alvarez said.

FIU President Modesto Maidique also spoke on behalf of the FIU community.

“FIU is in mourning today because our family has lost one of theirs,” Maidique said.

Maidique also offered MSA’s children full scholarships to help out with the come of age. The crowd gave a standing ovation in response to Maidique’s offer.

Offering scholarships to the children of Officer Jose Somohano is one of the few things we can do as a university community for this grieving family,” Maidique told the Office of Media Relations.

Lieutenant Denise Bernhardt delivered an intimate, yet bitter-sweet, account of what it was like to know Somohano. He described as extremely meticulous—ever organizing his action figures by rank and file—and said he had a “soft spot” for old ladies when interviewing witnesses.

“When I finish sharing a little about him, you will be jealous you didn’t know him,” Bernard said.

When Bernard asked that anyone who knew, loved or respected Somohano to stand up, the entire crowd rose to their feet and applauded in support.

“FAMILY GREIF: The family of Miami-Dade Officer Somohano looks on the memorial service that took place at UP.

A montage tribute followed, to the tune “Bad Boys” from the television show Cops, a song Somohano loved.

The casket was then lowered out in the same way it came in, with bagpipes and salutes, and cars lined up for the funeral procession to the Caballeros-Rivero Woodlawn Cemetery where a service continued.

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Purist overcomes city, high school to find calling

SERGIO BONILLA
Sports Editor

While arguing before the United States Supreme Court, the City of Hialeah presented several reasons to ban priest Ernesto Pichardo’s religion, Lukumi–Yoruba, also known as Cuban santeria.

The city tried to prove the reli-
gen’s animal sac-
cific ritual was an unnecessary cruelty to animals, a hazard to public health and psychologically traumatic to children.

A unanimous decision in favor of the Church of the Lukumi Babalu Aye in 1993 allowing humane animal sacrifices.

“We live in a Judeo-Christian society where Jesus was the ultimate, last sacrifice,” Pichardo said. “Religious perception associates Cuban santeria with Africa, then primitive people, then tribal and evil people.”

During the trial, Pichardo presented the Humane Slaughter Act of 1958, which requires that animals being sacrificed die instantly, to the U.S. Supreme Court.

“This proved the animal offerings involved in Cuban santeria were instantaneous deaths and not cruel and unusual.”

“[Most Americans] live in rural America, take the lives of animals everyday,” Pichardo said.

According to The Florida Fish and Wild-
life Conservation Commission, people are required to obtain a hunting license.

He stood before the courts and spoke about the religion he has practiced since he was ordained at 16, when he witnessed his first animal offering.

Pichardo now imparts his knowledge to students at the Biscayne Bay Campus as he teaches about santeria in his Transnational Perspectives class.

“I invite students to learn about our treatment of animals [which is in compartments: for food, for the environment that is connected to God],” Pichardo said.

He uses his experiences to repeat what he has explained to thousands of people for more than 20 years: santeria is not a savage diabolical religion.

“It’s a faith that believes in one God, sub-deities with creative attributes, ancestor and nature worship with no hell or devil,” Pichardo said.

“Animal offerings seem to be the integral part of our faith, but it is the least thing that we do.”

Akin Ogundiran, African New World Studies director, is responsible for convincing the longtime practitioner and scholar of santeria to teach at FIU.

“For him to bring that experience, history with reli-
ger, with the First Amend-
ment case and with his unique perspective is amazing,” Ogundiran said.

Pichardo came to the United States as a Cuban exile at the age of six. He spent 10 years in the public school system until he was expelled for missing 30 days of school following his official ordina-
tion into the priesthood.

“Sango, a Yoruba divinity, chose him to be ordained before birth.”

“My ordination was some-
ting that had been destined going back to my mother’s pregnancy; it was already foretold,” Pichardo said. “At the age of 16, I encountered Cuban santeria to be some-
thing real and true to me.”

The majority of the absences were not a result of his ordination, but because, according to Pichardo, the assistant principal of Hialeah High School used him as an informant to blow the whis-
tle on his fellow classmates regarding drug deals and any other activity against school policy.

“I never did get it; I shouldn’t have been yanked out of a classroom and given an ‘F’ for the day,” Pichardo said.

Following his expulsion, he concentrated on his reli-
gious training in a program at the University of Miami and what was then Miami-Dade Community College.

Pichardo later used his training years to protect the religion.

Fellow santeria priest Jesus Suarez defended Cuban san-
teria during the First Amend-
ment trial with Pichardo.

Suarez recalls the trial as a moment when Pichardo used some of his defining characteristics as a professor and person.

“He has the extraordinary ability to keep cool,” Suarez said.

Currently, Pichardo is not scheduled to return next year, but Ogundiran hopes to con-
vince him otherwise.

Bay’s salt air, water led to Aquatics Center damages

AQUATICS, page 1

The Facilities Management Con-
struction and repair of the Aquac-
tics Center required a large amount of discrepancies, including structural damages. That required the intervention of the FIU’s Build-
ing Official (a unit within FMD’s organiza-
tion), to close the facility until repairs are completed,” Citarella said via e-mail.

These structural damages made the Aq-
“Construction and repair of the Aquatics Center required a large amount of discrepancies, including structural damages. That required the intervention of the FIU’s Building Official (a unit within FMD’s organization), to close the facility until repairs are completed,” Citarella said via e-mail.

These structural damages made the Aquatic Center’s filtration system, plumbing and spilling, or the expansion and subsequent cracking of the support within the facility, Bardawil said.

“The picture has been fairly bleak in a sense that the figures and the initial estimates that we have gotten are significant because the pool is several years old. Due to the nature of the construction and because of how the pool’s con-
structed, it’s pillars and where it’s sitting, there appears to be a need for significant repairs,” Jones said.

Citarella said the Aquatic Center will be repaired and not demol-
ished and rebuilt due to economic reasons.

“It would be significantly more expensive to demolish the existing facility and construct a new similar facility at an estimated cost of $2.7 million. It is cheaper to repair and upgrade to ‘like-new condition’ the existing facility for about a little more than one half of that amount,” he said.

The Facilities Management Construction and repair of the Aquatic Center’s filtration system, plumbing and spilling, or the expansion and subsequent cracking of the support within the facility, Bardawil said.

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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

There are traitors among us

FIU vs. University of Miami... You would think FIU students would support and take pride in their school. But this seems too much to ask when playing a nationally recognized school such as UM.

Now while I cannot provide any direct proof, there have been many rumours and I have been told by many people that at this past Saturday’s game, there were many FIU students dressed and actively supporting the opposition and can be seen in the many pictures taken at the pre-game tailgates. Furthermore, I have been informed that many of these pictures of traitors are of our, otherwise very loyal, Greek community at FIU.

Regardless of whom these traitors are they should be ashamed of their actions. To me these actions are of cowards who are some losers and do not deserve to be part of our institution and if ever found these individuals should be publicly denounced. Those of us who have worked hard to help develop the University and contribute to its spirit, feel let down and I suggest that if you know any of these traitors you should make it public.

By doing this we can purge the filthy traitors from our University and begin again with students who are truly Golden Panthers.

Joe Vazquez
Alumnus, 2007
Political Science

Show breaches legal boundaries

ERIC FELDMAN
Contributing Writer

The issue of child predators has been continually addressed in the media over the past few years, and law enforcement agencies have been focusing on the Internet to find pedophiles using the Web in hopes of soliciting sex from minors. By posing as children, officers arrange to meet with predators who are subsequently arrested.

These sting operations have been very profitable to outlets such as NBC who regularly air them on the investigative series “To Catch a Predator.”

Some students from the Miami area probably remember WSVN-7 meteorologist Bill Kamal, who was arrested for meeting a fictional “young boy” he met via the Internet. Many parents became alarmed when the Broward Sheriffs Office launched a Web site where one could search for registered sex offenders in their area, and The New York Times recently reported that various agencies are using the popular website Craigslist.org in order to weed out individuals soliciting sex.

All of the fear caused by the aforementioned have acted as a catalyst for “Dateline” NBC to begin its own operations. How can I call these “perverts” innocent? Because at the time of the airing of the show they have not been convicted in a court of law.

In addition to the moral boundaries possibly violated by NBC, officials who participate with the show may be shooting themselves in the foot when it comes to protecting children.

Accoding to WFAA, a news affiliate based in Texas near where one episode was based, the district attorney will not even prosecute the 23 men arrested on the show due to concerns over whether the arrests were even legal due to them being orchestrated by private companies who are earning a profit from the operations.

NBC may want you to think that they are doing a public service by exposing criminals but they are really only humiliating the potentially innocent, and possibly sending actual threats back onto the street because their shoddy work can’t even get a conviction.

The most important lesson here is do not buy into the paranoia sold to you without investigating for yourself.

The media is an expert at taking advantage of insecurities and they will continue to do so as long as there is a buck to be had.

Every situation, no matter how straightforward it may seem, leaves room for intellectual dis- courage and shows that Hansen’s aims to undermine this through sensationalism.

FIU students are above this cognitive level and should be able to tackle social problems through logic and reason rather than fear mongering propaganda.

WHAT DO YOU THINK?

Should the University have been closed on such short notice?

• Yes – The fallen Miami-Dade police officer deserved a ceremony to mourn his death.

• Yes - I need the day off to catch up on sleep and homework, but wasted it when my friends invited me to the beach.

• I Don’t Care - I don’t have any classes University Park anyways...

• No - I woke up late, rushed to class for no reason only to find out that class had been cancelled.

Cast your vote at www.beaconnewspaper.com

Send us your letters

Letters to the Editor must be dropped off at GC 210 at University Park, WUC 124 at the Biscayne Bay Campus or sent to beaconopinion@yahoo.com. Letters must adhere to a maximum of 300 words. Letters must include or be in the near future and hope that through these efforts our students get to enjoy a close relationship of friendship and respect.

Go Panthers and Go Canes!

Letter from SGC-UP

President Marbely Hernandez to University of Miami SGA President Danny Carbajal
**THEATRE**

**PREVIEW**

Department showcases rock musical

**LUCIA SASTRE**

Contributing Writer

This season, the FIU Theater Department has scheduled several plays that, according to Phillip Church, associate theatre professor, will be relevant to students living in this idle saturation of society.

"It is important to note that we live in a world portrayed by violence and materialism. These productions are released in order to remind us of that fault, and perhaps change them as time moves on," Church said.

After returning from the war, Tommy’s father who is currently working on the production “Elektricidad.” "Many of the members’ schedules are so hectic and their long nights consume many of the well-known musical, which has won the Oute award," said Wayne Robinson, who is currently working on the production “Electrification.” "As Bees in Honey Drown," which is a comedy dealing with the quest to fame and fortune.

"I think we all need to laugh once in a while. School definitely gets you stressed out with all the classes and having an outlet like this play is definitely alleviating," said Marian Carrasquel, a sophomore and frequent FIU theatre attendee.

This hilarious comedy by Douglas Carter Beane, which has won the Outer Hour’s “Tommy” production will be held at the Wertheim Performing Arts Center Oct. 15–28.

This Fall, students can also expect to see the play "As Bees in Honey Drown," which is a comedy dealing with the quest to fame and fortune.

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FINANCIAL AID FACTS

- 85% of students received their aid within 3 days of disbursement
- 32% more students completed their FAFSA by the March 1st priority deadline
- Over 10,000 refunds have been sent as of 9/10/07

ARE YOU ONE OF THEM?

Learn how you can be!

Please Join Us

9.25.07 @ 10am
UP-GL 100b
AND
BBC-WUC 100 (via Teleconference)
Blogging makes late-breaking news available faster

ELSIE COLEMAN
Contributing Writer

With the ability to be updated much faster than print and broadcast news, the blog, a site that serves as an online journal, is becoming increasingly popular among writers and news junkies alike.

Technorati, a blog search engine, is currently tracking more than 104 million blogs and estimates that 175,000 blogs are created each day and updated over 1.6 million times a day.

LiveJournal, a popular blogging site, reports 1.7 million active accounts with a majority of users between the ages of 16 and 23, 19 being the peak age.

Independent online news journals received national attention in 1998 when Matt Drudge, proprietor of The Drudge Report, was the first to report on the President Bill Clinton-Monica Lewinsky scandal. However, it wasn’t until the Sept.11 terrorist attacks that blogging really came into the public eye.

“After 9/11, the Bush administra-
tion made it very clear to watch what you say,” said professor Allan Richards, who teaches a course on online journalism. “And they were very careful as evidenced by the newspapers at the time. If journalists couldn’t write something on the Internet, [how-ever], they would write something on their blog sites.”

On Aug. 17, celebrity gossip blogger Mario Armando Lavande- ria Jr., aka Perez Hilton, posted a rumor that dictator Fidel Castro had died, followed by two posts on Aug. 25. Lavanderria falsely confirmed that Castro was dead. The entries spread like wildfire on the Internet, creating hysteria in South Florida.

“Perez Hilton is not a jour-nalist. He’s a blogger,” said Leslie Gray Streeter, a writer for the Palm Beach Post who writes the entertain-ment blog, The Pop Shop. “The difference is that he doesn’t have a journal-istic background. As a critic, my opinions are based on things that are factual. I can’t put up unsubstantiated rumors on my blog.”

Lavanderria has yet to apologize or retract his state-ments and the entries can still be seen on perezhilton.com. Personal blogs are also not without controversy either.

Currently, Meefedia lists more than 15,000. However, blogging doesn’t owe its rising popularity to blogg- ing as much as it does to podcasts and the Apple iPod. According to Wired magazine, blogging began its rise to popular- ity with the video iPod.

Podcasts were initially audio-only recordings of professional or amateur broadcasts created to be downloaded to the iPod, though an iPod is not required to listen to them.

Once the video iPod was released, podcasts began to turn to videos as well.

“I see [blogging] continuing to grow,” said David Hoole, pro-prietor of future-center blog Evolution Shift. “I myself will be starting to do some video before the year is out. I believe that podcasts have become more image-driven as a culture, [and] 2005 - 2007 will be looked at as the explosive initial age of the blogosphere.”

I can say with certainty that had I not found the right medication to remedy the problem, I would most likely not have even made it to college.

Some of the more awkward aspects of my life, however, have been the interactions I have had with my family members, many of whom are also afflicted with ADHD.

“One of the moments I dread the most is having to sit in the passenger seat of my father's car, hoping and praying he knows where he's going and what his surroundings are like.

I remember instances where my dad would spend a whole 20 seconds stopped at a traffic light, unaware that it had changed from red to green.

Other times, he would fall asleep while driving and have to shake his head spasmodi-
cally to regain his focus.

I realize this is a perfect example of what happens to an individual suffering from a severe case of ADHD.

He often tells me in the time we spend together that he could never quite focus on his studies or on his business ventures to pay attention to my mind wandering.

He always emphasizes the importance of me continuing my studies, and I could see why.

For my father, work was the only way to expend the incessant energy he possessed.

"I had my first job by the time I was ten-years-old," he told me.

To this day, my dad works feverishly – despite being 60-years-old – in construc-
tion, a line of work that would normally break men his age.

My aunt also suffers from the very same problems that haunt my father, only worse. She has totaled more cars than even the most persistent drunkard out there.

I remember a time where she was going into the freezer to get some ice cubes and she instead pulled out a frozen chicken.

She then proceeded to bash the chicken repeatedly on the counter-top before realizing what it was.

These experiences illustrate just how much of an impact ADHD has had on my life and my loved ones.

People who say that the whole ADHD "phenomenon" is just the latest in the medical sciences to create a disorder that does not exist annoy me. I have lived the majority of my life wondering why I was never able to realize my academic potential, why I could never channel my talents, my energies, into something pro ductive.

It was because there was something in the way, something beyond my grasp that just kept panning me into a million dif-ferent directions.

For much of my life, I felt as if my destiny was beyond my control; I was a victim of my impulse.

When I found the right medication and the right mind set, my life changed for the better and I am now able to pursue my dream of becoming a psychiatrist, helping individuals in situations similar to my own.

ADHD is real, but just like any other obstacle I’ve encountered throughout my life, I have gradually come to learn that it is not insurmountable – it can be overcome, just like anything else – all you need is persistence.
Adaptation of Greek play brings Sophocles to L.A.

Critics Circle Award and an Obie Award, will be performed from Nov. 8-18.

Another production, “Electricidad” is set to be performed in the Spring semester.

Based on playwright Luis Alfaro’s creation, the work is derived from classic tales of vengeance by Sophocles and Euripides featuring the character of Electra, but updated and set in the barrios of East Los Angeles.

“This play deals with family issues, history, fate and revenge,” Robinson said, who is the director of this show. “It portrays a sense of life and death as almost being around the corner; a quest for survival.”

Some students, such as sophomore Tania Santiago, are already excited about witnessing the play unfold on stage because of the Hispanic-theme surrounding it.

“I can’t wait to see this play, not only because I’m Hispanic, but because it’s very cultural based, and it shows the crude reality of our world,” Santiago said.

Performance times are Thursday, Friday, Saturday nights at 8 p.m. and Sunday afternoons at 2 p.m.

Tickets for the musicals are $18 for general admission and $15 for FIU students & alumni.

Tickets for the other shows are $12 for general admission and $10 for FIU students & alumni. All shows take place on the University Park Campus in the Wertheim Performing Arts Center Theatre.

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perfect example of kicking a “coffin corner” punt which happens when a kicker aims for the corner of the field rather than just kick- ing the ball out of the end zone.

UM did most of its damage with its passing game, which was capped off by an 80-yard touchdown pass from Kyle Wright to Lance Leggett in the third quarter. Passing was also a problem when FIU was on offense as Younger only completed six passes. After the game, head coach Mario Cristobal was quick to address the need to improve the passing game.

“IT THINK WE DO A BETTER JOB OF throwing the football when we have to,” Cristobal said. “I mean, our running game has definitely picked up. Our quarterback showed that when he does have to run with the football he can do that. Our offensive line held up relatively well against a team that can really rush the passer.”

Linebacker Ronny Goodell said the Jayhawks defense was forming pretty well against some strong teams, but they will need to become more consistent against the board if they want to become a winning team.

With Duke winning on Sept. 15, FIU now has the longest active losing streak in division I-A football with 15 consecutive losses. Hopefully this pathetic stat will serve to motivate the team to have a very short stay on this record list.

On a positive note, the Golden Panthers did not have any players suspended indefinitely after this meeting with UM.

The players behaved as if NFL commissioner Goodell would handle any misconduct and it led to a clean game on the field. However, there were numerous fights in the stands and some fans were arrested. It is unclear whether FIU and UM will play next year. Hopefully, the conduct of the teams on Saturday showed that they can play a clean game.

Without a doubt the fans would love to have another backyard bowl. Because several players and coaches on both teams have played and coached together in other teams in the past, it’s always extra special when cross-town teams play against each other.

For example, Randy Shannon coached against his son Xavier and against Cristo- bal, his former teammate. Several siblings were arm in arm on opposite sidelines like UM’s Kenny Phillips and FIU’s Al-Dib. Also, FIU’s Lloyd Moss is the brother of former hurricanes Santana and Simeon Moss.

FIU has gone into every game this season as a major underdog. Many makers thinking the team will be beaten by large margins every game. However, in FIU’s last two games, the odds-makers have been proven wrong as FIU has managed to keep its games close.

KANSAS NOTEBOOK

Darren Collette
Staff Writer

Following last week’s loss to the University of Miami, FIU will hope to rebound against yet another tough out of conference opponent, the Uni- versity of Kansas Jayhawks.

So far this season, Kansas has burst out of the gate to a 3-0 start, winning all of its games by a com- bined 139 points. The Kansas team is led by quarter- back Todd Reesing, who has passed his JUCO career total in only three games.

The Jayhawks also have a for- midable defense that has only allowed 20 points all season.

In order to win, FIU will need to shut down Reesing’s passing attack and find a way to score on the Jay- hawks defense. Amod Ned gained 87 rushing yards against UM and will look to put up more big numbers against Kansas.

“We just have to execute better and practice; that’s about it,” Ned said following the UM game. “We have to come together as a whole unit and execute better. That’s all it is, execution.”

Quarterback Wayne Younger will need to use his feet and arm equally well to compete with Reesing offensively.

FIU’s next three games against Kansas and Sun Belt Conference rivals Middle Tennessee State and Troy all feature teams with high scor- ing offenses, so the defense will need to make a statement.

In FIU’s last two games, the defense has played well when faced with misconduct. However, both of those offenses relied mainly on their running games, unlike Penn State who passed for almost 300 yards as FIU suffered its worst loss ever in the season opener.

It will all come down to passing at Kansas. The Golden Panthers will need to shut down the Jayhawk’s passing game and get their passing game in sync if they are to pull the upset at Kansas.

Women’s Soccer Notebook

Golden Panthers attempt to build on first victory

Sergio Bonilla
Sports Editor

After packing up its first win of the season at home, the women’s soccer team (1-1-1) conti- nues its home stand against the Murray State Racers (3-3-0) and Stetson University Hatters (2-2-1) Sept. 21 and 23, respectively.

The team will have a whole week to recover, but they will have only one day of rest between the two games. Due to the team’s style of play, the Golden Panthers have to make sure not to wear themselves down in the first game against the Racers’ offensive power.

The Racers embarrassed the Baccala- ne team squad with a 9-0 shutout Sept. 16, that included three goals from freshman midfielder Laken Dirks. She uses her speed to find open shots and she was the Kentucky State Champion in the 100 meter hurdles in 2005 and 2006.

Golden Panthers junior midfielder Maria Gudelton won Binghamton University Bearscat and will look to neutralize Dirks’ speed with her quickness and stamina.

Despite the Racers’ offensive prowess, they have been shut out three times this season. The Golden Panthers found success against Bingham- ton by not being overzealous and playing conservatively on defense. If they gamble by attempting to get more steals against the Racers, it will create more opportunities for scorers like Dirks.

The Hatters are coming off a 3-0 win against Tennessee Tech Sept. 16 as freshman goalkeeper Andrea Gravaglia recorded her first collegiate shutout. The Golden Panthers will have a tough test against the Racers’ offensive output.

Many like the Racers, the Hatters have one main offensive scoring threat, senior forward Sarah Stock. She has scored half the team’s goals this season and has done it by using her ball handling skills and shooting accuracy.

FIU defenders and team captains Kristin Hurst and Kia Rigby will be instrumental in containing Stock.

Hurst’s and Rigby’s defense shut down Binghamton after scoring in the first five minutes. The Racers blocked scoring lanes and shut down Binghamton’s time of possession.

FIU coach Thomas Chestnutt finally relieved the pressure of obtaining the first win of the season last week and will look to continue his winning ways against three offensive clubs.
AS AN AMERICAN

YOU CAN MAKE A COMMITMENT.

FULFILL A COMMITMENT.

BREAK A COMMITMENT.

THERE ARE BIG COMMITMENTS.

SMALL COMMITMENTS.

COMMITMENTS YOU NEVER

WANTED TO MAKE IN THE FIRST PLACE.

YOU CAN EITHER FEAR COMMITMENT

OR EMBRACE IT.

AS AN AMERICAN AND
A MARINE CORPS OFFICER

YOUR COMMITMENT WILL IMPACT

THE FUTURE OF THIS NATION.

FEW CAN BE MARINES.
EVEN FEWER CAN LEAD THEM.
CAN YOU?
**NO FIGHT, NO WIN**

The Golden Panthers faced two disadvantages throughout the game. The Spartans not only outshot FIU 25-16 but at the 68th minute, Michigan's Matt Schmidt netted the game's lone tally.

**New assistant looks to help shape team for future**

In addition to working at UALR, he was also the interim head coach at Moberly Area Community College where he led the team to a 15-12 record during his coaching tenure at his alma-mater of Nebraska, he was an integral part of the coaching staff that guided the Cornhusker team to their very first NCAA tournament appearance.

**Losing streak extends to five as team drops two in Michigan**

After that it was all downhill for the Golden Panthers as they trailed 3-0 at the half. A Michigan mistake led to an own goal 88 seconds later with a goal by Cameron Mich.

Michigan would add another score at the 88th minute to put the game at 5-1 and even more out of reach.

The Golden Panthers return home Sept. 21 against the University of Illinois-Chicago, a McIntyre home Sept. 21 against the University of Illinois-Chicago.

**STUMBLING:** Junior tailback A'Mod Ned lunges forwards as the UM defense tries to bring him down during the Golden Panthers 23-9 loss to the Hurricanes on Sept. 15. Ned amassed more than half of the team's rushing yards as he picked up 87 of their 159 yards on the ground. For the full game story, go to Beaconnewspaper.com

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**MEN'S BASKETBALL**

**SERGIO BONILLA**

Sports Editor

Men's basketball coach Sergio Rouco announced Kevin Fricke as the newest member of the Golden Panthers coaching staff Sept. 14.

Fricke has been coaching against FIU as an assistant coach for the University of Nebraska.

During his coaching tenure at his alma-mater of Nebraska, he was an assistant coach Beau Archibald, who left the team in the offseason to take an assistant coaching position at his alma mater, the University of Connecticut.

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**MEN'S SOCCER**

**LUCA MESSINA**

Contributing Writer

The Golden Panthers (0-5-1) dropped two consecutive road games for the second time this season. In what is now a five-game losing streak, FIU lost to No. 18 Michigan Wolverines (6-0) and Michigan State (5-0) Sept. 14 and 16, respectively, at the Michigan State loss proved to be insignificant as the University of Michigan pounded the Golden Panthers.

In addition to working at UALR, he was also the interim head coach at Moberly Area Community College where he led the team to a 15-12 record despite taking the job two weeks prior to the 1994-95 season opener.

Fricke has also worked at Texas Christian University and the University of Nebraska.

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**MICHIGAN ST. 1, FIU 0**

In what was a defensive struggle, FIU played Michigan State very competitively despite an insignificant offensive effort.

Junior goalkeeper Kyle Thomas made eight saves and kept the Golden Panthers in the game until second overtime when the Spartans finally broke through.

At the 104th minute, MSU's Raushan McKenzie netted a shot that was just out of the reach of Thomas' hands, scoring the game's lone tally.

The Golden Panthers faced two disadvantages throughout the game.

The Spartans not only outshot FIU 25-16 but at the 68th minute, junior defender Corey Kendall received a red card, which hurt FIU late at a crucial juncture of the game.

The Spartans are now 5-0 for the first time since 2004 and third time in 31 years under head coach Jim Baum.

**MICHIGAN 5, FIU 1**

The encouraging vibes from the Michigan State loss proved to be insignificant as the University of Michigan pounded the Golden Panthers.

Sophomore goalkeeper Michael Anderson replaced Thomas and was overwhelmed by the Wolverines' offense.

FIU couldn't compete early as Michigan's Matt Schmidt netted a header three minutes into the game.

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