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NCAA VIOLATIONS
FIU admits athletics’ transgressions

SERGIO BONILLA
Sports Editor

The NCAA Enforcement Staff alleges that FIU lacked institutional control by placing inadequate systems and resources related to advising, monitoring the eligibility of student-athletes, and applying for NCAA financial aid and legislation.

Vice President of Enforce ment David Price sent a “notice of allegations” to University President Modest Amidaque Oct. 1 detailing that the institution violated several bylaws allowing 40 ineligible student-athletes to compete during the 2002-2003 through 2006-2007 academic years. The University investigated and self-reported the transgressions to the NCAA.

“The problem is that FIU lacked the resources, manpower and adequate personnel,” said Athletic Director Pete Garcia.

The University has hired three more compliance officers along with the Student-Athlete Academic Center doubling the number of tutors from seven to 14 along with purchasing new computers this year. Also more opportunities exist for student-athletes to take summer courses. FIU has invested about $250,000 towards improving the SAAC and its resources.

“This is a huge setback for the whole University,” Garcia said. “The only good thing is that we’ve put in the right systems to move forward.”

The NCAA reported that FIU violated bylaws concerning NCAA, page 11

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Mixed martial arts expands fanbase

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Tuition
Legislature to vote on increase

CHARLIE GRAU
Editor in Chief

The Legislature will vote on Oct. 12 whether or not to pass a 5 percent tuition increase for in-state resident students. The increase is being voted on to help offset the $3.7 million reduction that the University has to deal with this academic year.

FIU is slated to lose $7 million in state funding after the Legislature approved to cut $1.1 billion from the overall state budget to make up for a lack of tax revenue it has received.

“We hope this is an indication that they are going to organize and focus more on education,” Warzok said. If the increase is approved, Warzok said that additional funding would go toward student services, hiring additional faculty and financial aid.

The increase in tuition comes amid a debate between the Board of Governors and the Legislature, which has the power to set tuition costs. The BOG joined a lawsuit filed by former Florida governor Bob Graham on whether or not to pass a 5 percent tuition increase survives the governor’s veto, Warzok said that it would generate $2.5 million for the next full year and help offset the $3.7 million reduction that the University has to deal with this academic year.

The technology fee of up to 5 percent of tuition costs would go towards improving technology for students, better access to technology in the classroom and a broader wireless network.

Bill Kazar of The Associated Press contributed to this report.

Accident survivors emphasize boat safety

MARIA CHERCOLES
News Director

While the survivors of last year’s Columbus Day Regatta accident that killed two FIU stu dents are still piecing their lives back together, they returned to the regatta site one year later with a new purpose.

“Need help? Just Light the Way” is the name of the campaign created by the accident survivors, relatives of the victims and their friends to raise awareness about the dangers of the ocean.

This, they believe, will help prevent more accidents such as the one that killed students Monica Burguera and James Noel Pou last year.

“We couldn’t let this happen again, so we thought that by telling other people what happened to us and informing them about boat safety was the best way to prevent it,” said Andres Perez, who survived the accident that took the life of his girlfriend more than four years, Burguera; and his roommate, Noel Pou.

The accident took place when their broken-down rental boat, which was being towed back to shore, was hit from behind by a 35-foot speedboat. Together with Burguera’s family and about 100 volunteers, Perez spent last weekend’s regatta distributing flyers, t-shirts, hats and flashlights at 14 different marinas throughout Miami.

“We went through such a hard time that we don’t want anyone else to go through the same. Saving one life will make the effort worth it,” said Mayra Burguera, the mother of Monica Burguera. A Web site and a Facebook.com group helped spread the word about the campaign, which quickly raised solidarity among the FIU community. The Facebook group reached over 1,000 members in just three days.

Perez, 21, is now trying to reincorporate into his life after having to drop from FIU last Full. The accident left him with a broken hip and pelvis that paralyzed the lower part of his body.

REGATTA, page 3
Carol Damian is an art professor turned super-sleuth. The Art History Professor Carol Damian, recently helped the Immigration and Customs Enforcement and the Broward County Sheriff’s Office identify Peruvian artifacts smuggled into the United States. With a master’s degree in pre-Columbian Andean art and a doctorate in history, Damian became a knowledgeable resource for the two-year investigation that started in 2005. She had been conducting workshops with customs for a long time, helping them to distinguish authentic pieces of art from fakes. So when the ICE needed an expert eye in Peruvian art, they went to Damian.

“The expertise in identifying real art is developed by years of looking,” Damian said. “A scholar learns the specifics of a culture’s aesthetics. Peruvian art, for example, has a characteristic way of representing faces or deities in their art.”

Among the artifacts identified by Damian was a clay vessel that dated back as far as 3,500 B.C. There were also pots, vases, textiles, shrouds and various pieces of jewelry. Most of the artifacts were stolen from museums and galleries in Lima.

The ICE and BSO pursued the smugglers through a series of sting operations. Undercover cops would purchase artifacts from the smugglers and bring them to Damian to examine. “After a while, you get to know what’s right and wrong. The easiest way to identify them is to pick out the flaws. They have obvious flaws in style,” Damian said.

The ICE made contact with at least one consistent buyer and worked their way closer to the lead smuggler. Eventually, the trail led to Ugo Bagnato, an Italian man in his late 60s, guilty for the theft and sale of 412 artifacts in total.

According to Irvine, the ACM-ICPC is also important because it tests students on qualities that future employers look for. “It’s not so much that I care about the prestige of winning, but I really care about preparing students for top jobs,” Irvine said. You see, that’s one of the things that’s really nice about the competition, it’s a lot of students who do the right things to get the right jobs and that’s the best employers in the country.”

Regardless of the outcome at this year’s regional competition, the FIU students and coaches feel the time will be well spent. “I don’t know about winning the competition, but I think were ready to do a good job,” Consuegra said. “I think its going to be great for our careers and for the honor of the school if we do well in the competition.”

For more information on the ACM-ICPC, visit http://icpc.baylor.edu/icpc/default.htm.

For more information on the FIU team competing this year, visit http://www.cs.fiu.edu/acm/competitionGroup/index.htm.
Molly Orahood had a promising future. Those who knew her well and those who didn’t agree that her presence was all that was needed to cheer up a room. “Molly was an extremely vibrant and happy person,” said Giselle Gutierrez, a Delta Phi Epsilon sister in an October 2006 article in The Beacon. “No matter what was wrong she could lift your spirits.”

Behind her zeal for life was a tragic past: a plane crash that took the lives of both her parents and left her in a coma for over six months. She was able to come back from that tragedy and make a full recovery. Orahood never let her past ruin her life. When she enrolled at FIU she joined Delta Phi Epsilon and quickly became friends with many of the group’s members.

“We met my first year of college,” said Ebe Messanotte, a Delta Phi Epsilon sister who knew Orahood well. “We used to hang out in the Everglades all the time. She always made me laugh.”

Tragedy struck Orahood once again during the 2006 Memorial Day weekend when a drunk driver caused her to have a near-fatal car accident that left her in a coma once more. “I was in shock,” Messanotte said. “I was the first to find out and I thought it wasn’t real.”

With Orahood’s medical expenses rapidly depleting her trust fund, Delta Phi Epsilon founded the Keep S.O.B.E.R. (Subsidizing Others By Expediting Rehabilitation) fund. Its mission is to raise awareness about the consequences of drunk driving and raise funds for people like Orahood.

“The first event the organization held was ‘A Night For Molly’,” said Kenneth Gelok, the president of Pi Kappa Alpha and co-coordinator for the second annual “A Night For Molly.”

According to Gelok, planning for this year’s event was much more organized than last year’s. Initial planning started in August with weekly meetings.

A year ago, Orahood was still in a coma. While today she is awake and receiving physical therapy, “She still doesn’t have all her memories back and does not remember me,” Messanotte said. “It really hurts but there is hope.”

“She has gotten better,” Gelok said. “This year we wanted it to be less about the accident and more about progress and drunk driving awareness.”

The overall theme of “A Night for Molly” has been changed to a more light-hearted one according to Cleo Fernandez the Delta Phi Epsilon coordinator of philanthropy and co-coordinator of the event. “Support for ‘A Night for Molly’ has been great,” Fernandez said. “I’m so grateful to everyone who showed up.”

For more information on the second annual “A Night for Molly” see http://fiu.facebook.com/event.php?eid=1243645443.

“I hope a lot of people show up,” Messanotte said. “It’s not just for Molly, but for everyone who has suffered because of drunk driving.”

BOAT TRAGEDY, page 1

Although doctors told him that he might not be able to walk again, Perez in Miami and later in Puerto Rico helped him recover. Still, he can’t run yet and continues doing therapeutic exercises.

The accident also cost him a part of her heart, Perez said.

However, he said, the injuries is not what hurt him the most.

“The physical damage is not the worst medicine has advanced that I was able to receive the help I needed, but the psychological damage of losing Monica and James is the hardest to overcome,” Perez said.

Perez returned to FIU this Fall to finish the last two years of his bache- lor’s in health sciences and nutrition. He wants to be an orthopedic, he spoke, to “return the favor.”

His family flew from Puerto Rico for the weekend and stood next to him as he distributed flyers to everyone entering the Key Biscayne Crandon Marina.

Joel Cardona, Angel Accornero and Jose Gonzalez, who were also in the accident last year, helped with the “Support for ‘A Night for Molly’” campaign. The rest of the accident survivors are currently in Puerto Rico.

The accident left Cardona, 23, with a broken clavicle and crane and with severe cuts throughout his back, but he agrees with Perez in that the injuries are what matter the least.

“They were very special people. You wouldn’t have over a hundred volunteers working all weekend like this for everyone,” Cardona said.

Despite his injuries, Cardona returned to FIU weeks after the accident and is currently finishing his second year in the architecture master’s program.

“What drove my decision not to leave school was that I believed that continuing my studies and life was the best way I could cope with my recovery rather than staying at home thinking about what happened,” Cardona said.

Perez and Cardona received psychological counseling to help them reincorporate into their lives, and Cardona said the accident did have a certain affect on academics, but added that FIU has been very sensitive to the situation by sending cards, letters and even calling the victims and families involved.

Perez feels good to be back in FIU and added that now that he is taking all the classes he dropped last Fall, the same professors who sent him letters last year recognized him and have been helpful.

“Looking back at it, it’s so hard,” Perez said. “I’m here, fighting,” Perez said.

The Burguera family is now trying to start a foundation to change the water safety rules. The campaign was already affective this year, Perez said.

Contrary to last year, no jet skis were allowed in the area this time. Also, a number of people were arrested Saturday night for drunk boating.

“Seeing so many of us volunteering, the golf guards are realizing the size of the problem and now are enforcing more the rules,” Perez said.

Opposite to what one would assume, Perez and Cardona still enjoy the ocean and admire boats. While distributing flyers, they couldn’t take their eyes away from some of the luxurious boats entering the marina.

Perez said he returned to the acci- dent site after recuperating to throw flowers in the water. “It’s like a car accident. Those things happen and it doesn’t mean you won’t ride a car again. You have to understand it could happen to anyone, anywhere,” Perez said.

A earlier version of this story ran online Oct. 8 in our Web site www.beaconnewspaper.com.
SGC reveals budget report updates, changes

LUCY OROZCO
Contributing Writer

The Student Government Councils at the University Park and Biscayne Bay campuses changed how they handle their yearly budget reports. An evaluation was being made on the budget process and whether or not the funds being dispersed were productive.

Andrade, SGC-BBC Vice President, said: “It is our duty to ensure that the money we allocate is utilized properly.”

Andrade said: “Both Sergio LBaba Bolanos and Jonathan Doozan, the SGC comptrollers, have been very instrumental in overseeing this year’s expenditures. Furthermore, Student Government is looking into ways to evaluate this year’s allocations, so that we can better prepare for budget time.”

Andrade said that SGA has devised a new and more detailed event audit form called the Conference Closure Report, in which organizations are required to answer questions detailing an overview of the conference, and how it is beneficial to students.

Jonathan Doozan, SGC-BBC’s comptroller, has researched how other state and national universities budget their money to improve student services.

University students currently pay an activities and services fee of $10.52 per credit hour.

This money is given to both University Park and the Biscayne Bay Campus’ SGC to disburse accordingly.

Most students don’t know that they are being taxed, and therefore don’t know what their money is being used for,” Doozan said. That means that the way the money has been disbursed might not be adhering to actual student concerns.

SGC’s A&S revenue for the 2007-2008 school year is $10,047,841 according to the Student Government Association’s Budget Report.

SGC promotes student involvement in the budget process; all of the University-wide Budget Committee meetings are open to the public.

“Students should definitely be more involved in the budgeting process,” said Katiana Saintable, SGC-BBC president. “We should let our voices be heard in votes and when SGA has seminars, town hall meetings and even our general meetings, it is important to attend and participate.”

Andrade also stressed the importance of student attendance at upcoming budgeting meetings to be aware of where their money is going.

“Students have the right to know where the funds are going,” Andrade said.

FASA preps students for business

MARIELA ROSELL, PR Representative for FASA

“Today in Miami, it takes more than just cultivating your artistic voice, but also cultivating your business sense…”

After University operating expenses, $2,448,049 were left to split between University Park and BBC. Here’s how some of that money will be spent:

The BBC and the Broward Pines Center were given $643,492.

Student Programming Council was allocated $240,000, whereas the Student Organizations Council was allocated $42,000. For SGC’s General Fund, $36,000 was allocated, and $22,920 was given to Panther Power.

Multicultural Programs and Services was given $18,000 for the annual Martin Luther King Jr. Commemorative Celebration, including the MLK Breakfast and MLK Youth Forum; the Scholarship Awarding Global Excellence fundraising reception that assists students with tuition costs; and programming for the Lesbian Gay Bisexual Transsexual community.

The 2008-2009 Miss FIU Scholarship Pageant will receive $2,800 in funding.

Reserved for special projects will be $34,000. All info is from SGA’s 2007-2008 Budget Report.

So you know…

FASA preps students for business

Mariela Rossel, PR Representative for FASA

“Today in Miami, it takes more than just cultivating your artistic voice, but also cultivating your business sense…”

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DOWN WITH THE KING

Harsh working conditions taint Florida tomatoes

ERIC FELDMAN
Staff Writer

Workers have not received any compensation for the increased cost of living in 30 years, and in order to make minimum wage, workers would hypothetically have to pick more than two tons of tomatoes on a daily basis.

Representatives of the CIW, who are also workers in the tomato fields of Immokalee, were recently invited as guest speakers by FIU and spent more than an hour speaking to Honors College students, in English and Spanish, regarding the conditions they endure on a daily basis–except for days that they are not lucky enough to find any work.

Students were told that, even though the work week for Immokalee workers can total up to 70 hours, they do not receive overtime pay. Their pay is determined by chips given to them by overseers who collect the tomatoes into a truck for each bucket turned in.

They are also not paid for the time they spend in the morning waiting for the dew to melt off of the produce or when the overseer does not believe that the bucket of tomatoes is filled high enough.

Social activism has never been my forte–with the overwhelming number of global injustices making it impossible to live a completely guilt-free life. But as I sat in the audience, a mere few feet away from the local workers who are directly responsible for providing the food I buy right here on campus, I felt that this was an issue that I could, and should, help to expose.

So, you’re in the middle of the highway, driving at approximately 75 miles per hour, when all of a sudden you hear that familiar ring-tones resonating through the car. Your cell phone is right beside you and all you have to do is reach for it with one hand, the same hand that you make the left lane change with and that you use to drive. So, what do you do?

It is a fact that some individuals choose to text while driving. According to the article “Should driving while texting be a crime?” published in the Wall Street Journal, driving while texting is now considered the modern version of the so-called “distracted driving.”

In fact, a study conducted by the state of Arizona in 2007, found that 73 percent of drivers use cell phones, in addition to this, 20 percent text while driving. More specifically, according to a Zogby Poll 66 percent of people between ages 18 to 24 text while driving.

Texting while driving is a $101 fine for texting while driving. But this is merely a secondary offense, which means that the driver has to be pulled over in order to be penalized. By now, the no-texting-while-driving law has been officially passed in Washington. But other states, like New York, California and Florida are considering its implementation. Also in Oregon, pending bills suggest fines of up to $720 for texting or holding a cell phone to the ear while driving.

The implementation of anti-texting laws will make a tangible difference in preventing drivers from flagrantly endangering not only their own lives but the lives of others. It is a sad reality that a significant portion of the drivers traveling on our streets will only practice caution when they are obligated to do so.
 Indie musicians find home in local venues, MySpace

ELYSE COLEMAN
Contributing Writer

Underground music, once akin to a rite of passage for musicians looking to debut into the mainstream, has since become something of its own genre. Such music, which typically has a cult following instead of mass appeal, is not usually seen on MTV or heard on radio stations, but instead on college radio programs and MySpace.

Bands and groups are actually proud of this obscurity, but this type of music isn’t as obscure as one might think, especially in South Florida.

Miami has a large number of independent groups. MySpace Music has 491 bands registered in Miami-Dade that are labeled as “Indie,” or independent from the mainstream. Included among them is Leading the Heroes (www.mySPACE.com/leadingtheHEROES).

“They’ve been together 18 months,” said senior Andrew Julian, a close friend of drummer Nick Day. “If I had to compare it to anything, it’d say it sounds like how alterna-rock is heard in today’s mainstream. The only way I could describe it was Judas Priest meets 60s rock with a sound slightly reminiscent of The Who.

“Their music is really great, and I don’t think that’s where it should be. Now we have “indie music” being what it is, but underground music has been around for a while,” said Castillo.

“They’re proud of one of the premier MMA fighting leagues, the Ultimate Fighting Championship. ‘I love UFC. It’s one of the only things I would watch on TV,’” he said.

The Ultimate Fighting Championship took the highest pay-per-view ratings overall, overshadowing boxing events and the World Wrestling Entertainment.

“In an MMA fight, anything can happen. They can take it to the ground, they can stand or out of nowhere someone can get caught with a flying kick,” Miller said.

DAVID SHAW
Contributing Writer

Many people wouldn’t consider getting punched in the face an exciting weekend activity, but mixed martial artist competitor and student Travis Miller proves to be an exception.

“I’m high school, I wrestled and played football. I don’t think any of those come close to Mixed Martial Arts,” Miller said. He gets some hits in, too.

Mixed Martial Arts (MMA), a combat sport involving techniques such as submissions and grappling, allows any fighting style that is in the boundaries of the competitor’s rules, which might include boxing, judo and karate. The sport has gained tremendous popularity over the past years, and its impact has reached many students around campus.

Student Greg Cohen is a big MMA fan. Although he currently does not participate in martial arts, he’s proud of one of the premier MMA fighting leagues, the Ultimate Fighting Championship:

“I love UFC. It’s one of the only things I would watch on TV,” he said.

The Ultimate Fighting Championship took the highest pay-per-view ratings overall, overshadowing boxing events and the World Wrestling Entertainment.

“In an MMA fight, anything can happen. They can take it to the ground, they can stand or out of nowhere someone can get caught with a flying kick,” Miller said.

Underground music isn’t free of controversy, however.

There has been a growing concern about the pride that has surrounded underground music as of late.

To some fans such as junior Peter Castillo, it appears that now more bands are attempting to benefit from the increased awareness of independent music, contradicting the whole meaning of being “underground.”

“Underground music itself is used to be all about being different from the mainstream,” said Castillo.

“But it’s now come to be its own genre, and there are too many labels that you can’t even imitate a lot of underground acts,” he adds.
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Seinfeld creates buzz with interview

BUSY BEE: Comedian Jerry Seinfeld voices Barry B. Benson, a bee who uses the human race for stealing money from his fellow bees, in The Bee Movie. Seinfeld appeared at Miami Beach to promote the film, which will be released on Nov. 2 nationwide.

Shannon Fallon
Staff Writer

A frizzy-haired Jerry Seinfeld stepped onto the red carpet of the Lincoln Road Regal Cinemas in Miami Beach sporting a casual, wrinkled white button down tucked neatly into pair of dark jeans.

With 50 Cent blasting through the stereo and a cluster of journalists waiting, the former sitcom star joked about how beautiful the former sitcom star, but what made you transition over to animation? A: It was really the film itself. Visually, it is so stunning to me and so interesting. If I could take those images and put a different kind of comedy into it, I thought it would be a great combination.

I didn’t know for sure, but I thought it’d be fun to try and I really wanted to do something different. If I were going to get involved in a big project, it would have to be something new and different so it would be exciting.

Q: How did you modify your comedy to appeal toward a more family-oriented audience? A: I didn’t. I feel if it’s done right, it cuts across age lines, culture lines and ethnic lines; I just find that it works. “Seinfeld,” we wrote whatever we thought was funny, and I had senior citizens, kids and Brazilians approach me about the show.

We didn’t write it for them, but they still loved it. You got to love what you do and whoever likes it, likes it.

Q: You have an outstanding cast lined up for the movie. How was it collaborating with an assortment of comedians? A: It was okay (laughs). These were people I always wanted to work with and whose talent I just really have tremendous respect for.

I was very exciting to have someone like Renee Zellweger and tell her that I wanted something done like this and that, to then have her do it. It’s unbelievable, it’s fantastic.

Q: What projects do you have lined up next? A: I don’t know. I don’t see any, but I never plan anything and I didn’t plan this. I just kind wait for things to hit me.

I have young kids, and I’m 53. To other people, it might just be another one of those cartoon movies, but for me and for [director] Steve Hickner and for others who worked on it, it stops your life. I’m looking for a little more normal life. I’m not looking for anything new.

T he truly honest, like Britney Spears. She may not be one of my favorite singers now that I am 23, but she definitely was in my top three when I was a teenager. She was cool, hot and I liked her music – she was a star.

There is something about our idols that make them very special in our lives. Aside from enjoying the music, we sometimes end up caring for the person as a long time friend.

This happened to me with Britney Spears. I listen, see and read horrible things about her every day and I feel that it sucks and is a sad truth.

Underneath all the wild events that have appeared in the tabloids, there is a woman in a critical health condition; of all her problems, the one that is most important to her health. I believe that if she was healthy, then she could get her life back together.

Many different sources have accused her of alcohol and drug abuse. The judge that took over the temporary custody of her two toddlers declared her a habitual user of drugs and alcohol and ordered regular testing, according to a New York Times article titled “Britney’s Loss, Their Gain.” Britney has failed at rehab three times already. Losing the custody of her kids and shaving her head for no reason are not signs of a mentally stable individual - the heavy partying and consumption of addicting substances doesn’t help her deteriorating health.

But even though her level of performance has gone down enormously, there is some hope. The singer has a hit number one single download on iTunes for “Gimme More,” which sold more than 179,000 copies in its first week on sale on digital services. For me, such success was earned because of the wrong reasons – the obscure desire that drives people to watch and listen to Britney embarrass herself.

Like other famous celebrities, Britney is suffering the effects of growing up in the media spotlight.

All these actions are a product of being introduced to the media world at such an early age and not having support and guidance throughout all these years; important health factors such as emotional support and social support seem to be missing from her life.

Britney was a young girl that sold herself sexually through very sexy and tight clothing, producing highly seductive and sensual videos and kissing Madonna publicly.

What Britney needs now is support. This support can only come from the people that love her: family, friends and fans. Even though the media has taken a destructive tone, many artists and singers have already expressed their support, such as Taylor O’Neal, Kanye West and pianist and singer Tori Amos, according to the New York Times piece.

I think that Britney should attempt rehab again and try to end her addiction problems, which are truly detrimental to her current state. Like an old friend of hers, I wish her the best, and like an old fan, I hope that through the support she is getting, she recovers her career.
Honor society offers opportunities for psychology students to excel in major

For those pursuing a degree in psychology, joining FIU’s chapter of Psi Chi, the national honor society in psychology, is one way to network with others and improve leadership skills.

“It is really a great opportunity for psychology majors or minors to enhance their college experience,” said Kimberly Gray, vice president of Psi Chi. “Not only will they be provided with great tools to become more competitive graduate school applicants, but they will also have the opportunity to network with other students.”

The national society was founded in 1929 for the purposes of encouraging, stimulating and maintaining excellence in scholarship, and advancing the science of psychology, according to the Psi Chi website; FIU’s chapter of Psi Chi, visit www.psinu.org.

According to the main branch, Psi Chi serves two major goals: to provide students academic recognition and to nurture that recognition by offering services and programs to its members that foster development.

“Being a member of Psi Chi has really assisted me in how to be a better candidate for graduate school,” said Stephanie Dominguez, community service chair. “I’ve discovered that I’m more tolerant, more tenacious and more steadfast than I could ever have imagined.”

Meetings are held every other Monday at 12:30 p.m. in Graham Center room 150.

Gray commented that in addition to the monthly meeting, weekly events for members are planned. Attending these events gives Psi Chi members points that determine their level of participation in the society. Members must meet a minimum number of points to maintain their membership.

In October, four events are being planned: “Everything You Wanted to Know About Psychology” on Oct. 9, “Fun in the Sun” Oct. 13, “GRE Practice Test” Oct. 20 and “His House Donation Drive” Oct. 29.

The times and locations for the events are to be announced.

“Psi Chi offers unique opportunities to socialize with students and become involved with the community,” Maspons said.

Psi Chi members can also participate in the Greek Wide Academic Assistance Program every Sunday from 10 a.m. to 7 p.m. in the Learning Center located in Primera Casa room 247.

The program offers Greeks and other honor societies help with schoolwork. For more information on the Psi Chi chapter of Psi Chi, visit their website at www.fiu.edu/psi-chi and for information on the national society, visit www.psic.org.

Like everything in life, the Psi Chi experience is what you make of it,” Gray said.

MMA overpowers wrestling, boxing in TV ratings

Miller trained for more than five years at the Freestyle Fighting Academy, located across the street from University Park’s east entrance. Its Web site, www.floridaeastcoast.com, boasts itself as a world class gym and hosts fighters who are currently having successful careers in professional MMA circuits.

“When I got started in MMA, it was 2002 before the sport got big. Back then, you’d say you’re in Mixed Martial Arts and people would be like, ‘oh you’re in the WWE or [some other wrestling league].’ Now you say you’re in MMA and people understand,” Miller said.

MMA is not just an all-out fight, however.

“The thing with fighting is that no one wants to see an actual fight. It’s brutal. MMA is more entertaining. It’s more fun to watch, more commercial,” said Edelberto Hernandez, a junior who has a background in wrestling.

The initial UFC had very few rules. According to www.grapplesarts.com, the only rules were no eye gouging, biting and fishhooking.

It was only just before the UFC was bought by Zuffa Inc., an American sports production company, that the sport has developed many of the rules and forms that are popular in today’s MMA.

Some fans such as Miller, however, don’t agree with certain competition regulations.

“I’m not exactly for all those regulations. I can understand some rules: no headlocks, no eye gouging, no punches to the groin. [But] in almost all matches, if you’re standing, you can’t strike a downed opponent with elbows or knees; in can’t even punch them sometimes,” Miller said. Currently, MMA is in a state of flux. Different leagues exist, but some are being dissolved or united.

Earlier this year, PRIDE was purchased by the UFC, which is owned by casino moguls Lorenzo and Frank Fertitta.

The mergers and dissolutions, though, are not an issue for fans such as Miller, who follows the sport regardless and incorporates MMA into his training.

“I hope to train as long as my body lets me,” Miller said. For more information on the combat sport, visit ufc.com and www.sherdog.com.
SPORTS

WOMEN’S SOCCER

Looking for their first win in four tries in the Sun Belt Conference this season, the Golden Panthers Women’s Soccer took on the Pioneers of Denver University on October 7 at University Park.

In what would prove to be a defensive struggle, the Golden Panthers continued their sloppy play, and shot themselves in the foot early when senior defender Kristin Hurst put the ball into the FIU goal for and own goal during the 14th minute.

This score was all the Pioneers would need, as the Golden Panther offense failed to muster up much of an attack.

The team managed just 2 shots on goal during the entire match, from sophomore midfielder Marina Pappas and junior midfielder Amy Jackson.

Both shots on goal came during the same span of time, as Pappas launched a free kick that bounced off the crossbar during the 74th minute. Jackson controlled the rebound and fired a shot that was turned away by the DU goalkeeper.

Senior goalkeeper Madeline Gannon had a strong game, saving 5 shots before allowing 2 goals in the final 3 minutes to sink the Golden Panthers for good.

Pappas missed another scoring opportunity in the 72nd when she had a wide open net and the opportunity to tie the game up, but missed the wide right.

The loss dropped the team to 2-6-1 overall and 0-4 in the Sun Belt. With just 8 games left in the season, there is not much time to turn the season around, but with 7 games still remaining against conference foes, the season isn’t nearly over yet.

The Golden Panthers next game will be on October 12 against the Louisiana-Monroe Warhawks at University Park.

CROSS COUNTRY

On October 6, the Golden Panther cross country team took part in the 12th annual Disney World Cross Country Classic in Kissimmee, FL.

The best performer for the women’s team was Senior Paola Reategui, who finished 12th out of 44 and 7 seconds ahead of all 11 other schools from the state of Florida that competed.

The Disney World Classic represented the largest field FIU will compete in this season, with 85 schools and 693 athletes participating.

The next meet the Golden Panthers will compete in will be the Stetson Invitational on October 11 in DeLand, Florida.

NEW COACHES

Athletic director Pete Garcia announced on October 8 that he had finished the search for head coaches with the hirings of Carlos Casely as the women’s tennis head coach and Eric Campbell as the cross country/track and field head coach.

Garcia didn’t have to go far to find Casely, who served as the top assistant coach during the team’s last 5 seasons, which included 3 straight Sun Belt Conference championships in the last 3 years and appearances in the NCAA tournament.

The tennis team has been one of the few consistently successful programs at the school over the last few years, with 5 appearances in the NCAA tournament over the last 7 years.

They finished last season with a 19-5 record and a No. 30 national ranking.

Campbell was a track and field star in high school at Miami Northwestern High during the 90’s, and was a national champion in the triple jump in 1996.

He joined the FIU cross country/track and field coaching staff prior to the 2005 season, and worked as an assistant during that time.

He worked with numerous talented athletes and was credited with helping Naim Yisrael and Donita Harmon become Sun Belt champions, and in the case of Harmon, a participant in the NCAA Outdoor Track and Field Championships last season.

Both of these coaches will look to help their up and coming programs continue their rises to prominence on the national scale.

Compiled by Chris Towers

So you know...

During the 2004-05 through 2006-07 academic years, the NCAA alleges that FIU incorrectly applied NCAA financial aid legislation; the following teams exceeded NCAA financial aid limits as follows:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Sport</th>
<th>Academic Year</th>
<th>Excess</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Men’s soccer</td>
<td>2005-06</td>
<td>.51</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>2006-07</td>
<td>.90</td>
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<tr>
<td>Women’s soccer</td>
<td>2004-05</td>
<td>1.02</td>
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<td></td>
<td>2005-06</td>
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<tr>
<td>Women’s golf</td>
<td>2005-06</td>
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This allegation provides the foundation for a charge of a lack of institutional control.

Volleyball streak ends with back to back road losses

RENAルド SMITH  Staff Writer

With her team riding high on a nine-game win streak, women’s volleyball coach Danijela Tomic heightened intensity in practice in an attempt to keep the team focused.

Unfortunately, her efforts proved to be no match for human nature, as the Golden Panthers dropped both of their games on the road against Sun Belt Conference foes North Texas and Denver Oct. 5 and 6, respectively.

“I was very upset after these two losses because I didn’t think we competed the way we should have,” Tomic said. “Nobody likes to lose, but there is a difference when you lose because the other team is better and when you lose because you didn’t leave everything you have out on the court. I don’t think any of us felt like we played our best after those games.”

UNIT 3, FIU 0

North Texas (6-13, 2-3) delivered a near-flawless performance, making easy work of the Golden Panthers in a 3-0 (30-25, 30-26, 30-35) win. Sophomore All-American Yarimar Rosa led four Golden Panthers in double figures with her 15-kill, 11-dig performance, but it wasn’t nearly enough on a magical day of sorts for North Texas.

Finishing the game at a .402 clip, the Texans notched its seventh-best hitting percentage in school history, making just seven attack errors over the duration of the match. The Golden Panthers played well, finishing the match with a .303 hitting percentage but they simply could not stop North Texas on the other end of the court.

One bright spot was senior Anita Szymanska, who complemented Rosa with 12 kills on a scorching .476 hitting clip. Sophomore Olga Vergan and freshman Ines Medved had ten kills each.

According to Tomic, it was poor communication that led to the streak ending.

“Against North Texas, I thought our pass- ing really broke down and that’s why we didn’t have a good game, they said. “They had a perfect match and there was just no way we could stop them. They had their best match of the year against us.”

DENVER 3, FIU 1

Two days later, the taste of disappointment grew greater after Denver pulled off a 3-1 (30-32, 30-22, 30-23, 30-20) shocker. The Golden Panthers seemed poised and focused, after pulling off a tough 32-30 first set win, but once Denver adjusted its game plan, the Golden Panthers failed to respond for the remainder of the match.

Once again, Rosa led the team with 21 kills and 15 digs in the loss. Medved reached double-figure kills for the second time in as many games with 11 and senior setter Keila Oliveira distributed 47 assists. Alyssa Hampton highlighted Denver’s offense with 20 kills and 16 digs. Kim Muller added 19 kills and Holly Bensin did her part with 13 kills in the upset win for Denver.

Despite the two tough losses, Tomic said she is still optimistic about the rest of the season.

“We have to learn from this,” she said. “We have to turn this experience into something good. We played two very good teams but we didn’t respond and play up to our potential. Whoever we play is going to bring their best game against us so we have to be on the defense always.

“I would rather take two losses now than to take it in November in the tournament.”

One bright spot for the Golden Panthers (11-4, 6-2 SBC), will play arguably the two most important games of the regular season when they take on conference rivals Western Kentucky and Middle Tennessee at Pharmed Arena on Oct. 12 and 13, respectively.

CLASSIFIEDS

JOBS

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JOIN OUR STAFF!

The BEACON is always looking for talented and reliable individuals to join the staff. If you have an interest in writing, photography or even grammar, don’t be shy. Stop by one of our offices located in GC 210 and WUC 124.
The NCAA also requests all information on other possible violations discovered by the institution as result of its findings. Some of the records include enrollment dates of student-athletes at FIU and any other two or four-year institution and the reasons behind the NCAA violations. FIU must provide a detailed description of any corrective or disciplinary actions against current and former athletics department staff members.

The NCAA Committee on Infractions may decide to terminate the employment of all staff members who knowingly engaged in or condoned a major violation.

"It was my intention to violate the rules of compliance," Garcia said. The NCAA Committee on Infractions is set to review the response through an in-person hearing Feb. 15, 2008 and Feb. 16, 2008. The NCAA will notify Maidique of the official hearing date where he is required to attend.

Select University representatives including Garcia, Faculty Athletics Representative Stephen Fain and Sun Belt Conference Associate Commissioner Rick Mello who served as athletic director from June 2000 through February 2008 are also mandated to attend the hearing. The bulk of the violations occurred while Mello served as athletic director. He declined to comment on the matter.

"Presently, the allegations are major violations but the University may send evidence within the written response to reduce the allegations to secondary violations," said Garcia. Self-disclosure is considered when determining the penalties issued. Every sport except tennis and softball was involved in at least one allegation.

Student-athletes who are or were determined to be ineligible through the self-disclosure process are required to withdraw from the University immediately. Student-athletes who are or were determined to be ineligible through the NCAA’s initial findings may be eligible for reinstatement if the NCAA finds they are not the cause of the violation.

The NCAA also requires the University to provide a financial aid reimbursement plan for those student-athletes who were or are determined to be ineligible through the self-disclosure process. The plan will be determined and approved by the NCAA Committee on Infractions.

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MIDSEASON REPORT

Season's first half concludes with nation’s longest losing streak

For a team that failed to win a single game last year, high expectations were set forth for the 2007 FIU football team. The hiring of athletic director Pete Garcia and head coach Mario Cristobal, along with a complete overhaul of the coaching staff and a new stadium looming overhead, culminated in more than a few unjust predictions for the season.

Although the record, along with the scores in each game, speak for themselves, several important factors played into what has so far been a disaster of a season as we reach its midpoint.

First and foremost is the sheer difficulty of the schedule leading up to conference play. Not only are the University of Miami and Penn State two national stalwarts whose success has been well documented throughout the past decades, but Maryland is receiving national exposure with its upset of No. 10 Rutgers. Kansas, meanwhile, is 5-0 and took out a Top-25 team in Kansas State.

While few expected a win during these first four matches, it is the two most recent games against Sun Belt Conference rivals Middle Tennessee and Troy that are reason for panic leading into the second half of the season.

The Golden Panthers were overwhelmed against the Blue Raiders Sept. 29, giving up 47 points in the first half alone. A glimmer of hope appeared against Troy, the defending conference champions, as the team put together its finest drive of the season in the first quarter and finished with its first rushing touchdown of the year. From there, unfortunately, the team reassumed its typical role, losing the game 34-16.

That being said, the team still has a chance at redemption, as every game here on out save for Arkansas presents what should be a competitive game for the Golden Panthers.

Before they are picked to win any games, however, they will need to demonstrate cohesiveness on offense and an ability to score points, be it from turnovers, scoring drives or special teams.

The team will also have to maintain its performance throughout the game and not in sporadic spots, which is an obvious quality of a bad team.

With that said, let's evaluate every position as we reach the midpoint of the season.

QUARTERBACK

Give head coach Cristobal credit for sticking to his guns and not benching redshirt freshman Wayne Younger despite extended periods of rough patches and the worst ranked offense in Division I-A football.

While his decision-making at times has been questionable, his athleticism has kept many broken plays alive and even created opportunities that would not have been possible with the other quarterbacks.

Younger is the right fit for the rest of the season as the offensive line is the team’s biggest question mark and the other quarterbacks do not have the mobility needed to be successful with such insufficient protection.

RUNNING BACKS

While Julian Reams stood out during training camp, his success in practice has failed to translate to the games as he has yet to have any notable carries. Part of the problem stems from being hit in the backfield within moments of being handed the ball, and it is extremely difficult to be a play maker when there are not even small holes to run through. A’mod Ned has been almost heroic in his efforts to simply get back to the line of scrimmage most plays, and one can’t help but wonder how good he could be given the opportunity to create plays. He is the most talented player on the offense and needs to touch the ball at least 20 to 25 times a game.

WIDE RECEIVER

While deep at the position, the lack of any real game breaker has plagued this squad from the start.

Calling for Change: Frustrated Golden Panthers fans show their support for sophomore backup quarterback Paul McColl to see more playing time with homemade signs during the loss to Troy.