Center analyzes otherworldly specimens

HEMA PERSAUD
Contributing Writer

Hundreds of students work walk over the Primera Casa stairs every day not even imagining that a few feet below, scientists are using complex equipment to analyze a sample of various samples.

A sign warns passers-by about radiation from the Primera Casa stairs every day not even imagining that a few feet below, scientists are using complex equipment to analyze a sample of various samples.

Since 2001, this National Science Foundation-funded center has provided and located.

Maloney said. "We were only partially successful in that we were not set up to do a thorough examination, but we were able to image some parts of a few specimens discovered in the fur," Maloney said. Microanalysis is a form of experimentation performed at the center, a process where structures too small for the human eye can be seen.

What FCAEM offers for me is ideal -- instrumentation I can use in both my research and my courses ... but doesn't come hand in hand with the headaches of "owning it."

Florida and throughout the nation. In the past, FCAEM has done a variety of research including assisting in the research of the geology of a rock from Mars.

Barbara Maloney, the center's research engineer support specialist, also recently examined the fur of a dead dog's remains that traveled from Argentina. "We were only partially successful in that we were not set up to do a thorough examination, but we were able to image some parts of a few specimens discovered in the fur," Maloney said. Microanalysis is a form of experimentation performed at the center, a process where structures too small for the human eye can be seen.

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FIU scores high marks in Princeton Review

The FIU School of Computer and Information Science is living up to the "international" part of its name. FIU announced Oct. 15 that it received a $2.3 million grant from the National Science Foundation's Partnership for International Research and Education program.

The five-year grant will allow CIS students and faculty to travel to do collaborative research at top universities in Mexico, Spain, Argentina, China, India, Japan and France.

The grant will also give students and faculty the chance to work at IBM International Research Labs and the supercomputing center in Barcelona, to create a Global Living Laboratory for Cyber-Infrastructure Application Enabling.

The grant will also offer more opportunities to minority students at FIU.

A recent national survey by the Computing Research Association showed that only 158 minority students at FIU.

The FIU College of Business has made history, ranked second and fourth, for Minority Students.

The College of Business placed fourth in the review's Top 10 ranking for Greatest Opportunity for Minority Students.

FIU's College of Law held its own, being included for the second year in the Review's "Best 290 Business Schools for 2008" by the Princeton Review.

The College of law ranked second, and fourth, for the diversity of its faculty and for the best environment for minorities, respectively.

Rankings were decided over three years through surveys from students and faculty members.

For more information and to view the Princeton Review, visit www.princetonreview.com.

-so Compiled by Christina Veiga-

BIOLoGIST стУДIE стS ALGAE EFFECTS

Kathleen Rein, a chemistry and biology professor, has been working in the field of marine toxicology for over six years.

She discovered that the National Institute of Health Sciences was looking for a minority institution to pair with the University of Miami to conduct research in her field of expertise.

She submitted a proposal to the National Institute of Health Sciences.

As a result, FIU worked with the University of Miami and their Freshwater Biomedical Sciences Center to conduct the research.

The progress of the research led other institutions to fund an additional $4 million.

"About six to eight institutions received the grant in 2001, we were the only one that was renewed," Rein said. "We were really successful in our program."

Due to the success of those initial research projects Rein was once again awarded the ARCH grant, this time double in size at $5 million.

Rein said that the grant would be used to research two areas.

The first one being the study of naturally-occurring algae such as "red tide," a type of algal bloom commonly found in the Gulf of Mexico.

For example, researchers will study how the human body processes the algae when exposed to it.

Many people are exposed to potentially dangerous algae during recreation or through drinking water.

Marine and freshwater algae will be the focus of the research.

"In Florida especially, these organisms flourish in our subtropical climate. As our population grows, we will turn more to surface water, which can have many risky organisms," Rein said.

This area of research will be hosted in the Toxic Algae Culture Core located in Owla Ehan, room 316, which is a major resource for physician and supplier for a large number of investigators and chemical companies of microorganisms that can cause harmful effects to human cells.

We also look at how these trace metals react with human cells.

The second core facility, Trace Metal Facility Core, located in the Chemistry and Physics building, room 373, is currently undergoing renovations.

FIU and UM ARCH researchers will use the site and other collaborators to study the trace metals in environmental and biological systems.

For more information about the FIU ARCH program, visit their Web site at http://arch.fiu.edu.

For more information on the NIEHS see http://www.niehs.nih.gov.

So you know...

HARMFUL ALGAE AND WHAT IT CAN DO TO YOU

Freshwater or marine algae can produce algal toxins that can cause harm if ingested. Among marine algae dinoflagellates are the most usual blooms or outbreaks of "red tide."

"Red tide" can have disastrous effects on the ecosystem. All forms of wildlife can be killed by coming into direct contact with the toxic clumps of algae. People can also become sick and sometimes die from digesting plants or animals that have been affected by "red tide" or by coming in direct contact.

For more information on algae visit http://www.fiu.edu/~reiink/research
Club facilitates professional bonds

UCEL, page 1

With many prominent local entrepreneurs coming in the future.

At least one event will be devoted to the general public each semester, according to Concepcion, with most of the other events held exclusively for UCEL members. Future events the club has in the works include a golf tournament with many of the aforementioned entrepreneurs participating, playing golf with aspiring business people and members of UCEL.

“It is a great opportunity for networking in the business world,” Concepcion said.

Many of FIU’s students are commuter students who only go to school and return home, says Al-Abdullah, who wants to change that.

Hidden lab uses sophisticated equipment for studies

FCAEM, page 1

FCAEM has two unique instruments. One of these instruments is the scanning electron microscope, known as SEM.

The SEM, which is a high magnification microscope, gives high-quality data, but doesn’t come hand-in-hand with the headaches of “owning” it yourself,” Ryan said.

However, this comes with a price, which is determined by the type of industry - academic or commercial - and the day of the month.

“FIU is an up and coming university of its class in Florida,” Sen said.

FCAEM is currently looking to expand its area in PC 50 and in Viertes Haus, where they are currently located.

The club’s first event will be Student Government Association’s “Marketing Yourself” forum co-sponsored by UCEL, which will be held on Nov. 5 in the Graham Center, room 243.

Though the club will only be co-sponsoring the event, UCEL is planning to take over sponsorship of all its future events.

“FIU is an up and coming school itself. UCEL is going to build the reputation of FIU. It’ll open students’ eyes to what’s available in the business world,” Al-Abdullah said.

For more information, contact Conception by phone at 305-342-1472, or email him at haconception@gmail.com, or contact Al-Abdullah at 305-794-8579, or by email at a_abdullah24@yahoo.com.
Students learn to think clean and go green

Green resource fair promotes environmental consciousness

EDDITH SEVILLA
BBC Managing Editor

In an effort to help students be environmentally friendly, the Wolfe University Center Go Green Committee held a green resource fair on Oct. 16 at Biscayne College to perform and watch local talent in the WUC's Go Green fair, which took place Oct. 16.

The two biggest complaints I have heard amongst students attempting a vegetarian lifestyle is the cost and the usually less and overpriced health food spots, try making their lives more green and environmentally friendly.

Different vendors from the community and the University presented ways in which students can become more environmentally friendly.

"We're trying to get students to become aware of recycling, reusing and reducing waste. Mainly we're focusing on recycling," said Maria Marasigan, a graduate student and teacher's assistant of the Ecological Society of South Florida class being taught at BCC.

Marasigan and the students in her class are creating a proposal to present to the University's administration that would include the benefits of recycling, the costs to contract companies for recycling pick-ups and a map of high-traffic areas that could be key locations for recycling bins.

"We're trying to help [the administration] in their planning by providing them with information to help them meet their goals," Marasigan said.

Organizations such as Kopali Organic, Waste and Water management, Outdoors Adventure Klub, Urban Environment League Friends of the Everglades and Campus Ministry presented different environmental friendly resources.

Kopali Organic offered organic foods, face creams and shampoos as alternatives to regular items, while Waste and Water management offered efficient ways to use tap water and tips on how to conserve water. The South Florida Community Services offered carpooling, transit services and the Emergency ride home Program, in which students who carpool, bike, or use transit are eligible for free taxi rides in the event of an emergency, as other transportation options.

"It's all about getting students to think that being environmentally friendly can be fun and still have the same qualities as regular everyday products," Trautenberg said.

During the resource fair, the WUC Go Green committee announced the winners of the Go Green Student Art contest, which kicked off Sept. 10. Nickson Lubin, a freshman majoring in environmental studies, won second place for his drawing, which presented a polluted environment and a healthy habitat.

"I want the viewers to be able to understand that they need to make a wise decision knowing that they are the main source of the problem or the solution," Lubin said.

Lubin received a $30 gift certificate to the campus' cafeteria.

The first place winner, Freya Evangelista who was not present, will receive a $50 bookstore gift certificate.

Despite the green initiatives, there are students who are already going green.

"I just started recycling. Now at this place that I moved into, they give you the [option] of recycling rather than taking it somewhere else," said Jazmin Campos, a junior majoring in international business.

"One person can't change the world, but what I do can affect my surroundings and that's what counts."

Vegetarians, others, find sanctuary at Garden of Eatin’

YEZI GIRALDO
Contributing Writer

While there’s no movement more proactive for our generation than health, it’s over priced and sometimes tasteless food that keeps meat eating students stickin’ to chicken…till now. In the crevices of Miami sits a tiny unsung hero to vegetarian cuisine.

The Garden of Eatin’ is a small restaurant and juice bar refreshingly different from your everyday vegetarian joint.

Hidden amongst mom-and-pop shops on Martin Luther King Blvd., the island-like restaurant shines with the proudly painted red, gold, and green colors of Africa with walls decorated with illustrations of Haile Slesie I of Ethiopia and his queen.

The 3-year young eatery serves a range of animal-free, dairy-free, and even while sugar-free snacks, such as black-eyed pea soup and soy fish with spinach.

The food is prepared from the restaurant’s surrounding gardens filled with vegetables and ingredients such as pumpkin and lemongrass. These items celebrate flavor without the need of animal products.

As for the juice bar, it consists of a few drinks that are homemade like the spicy ginger root drink or the sweet brown sugar lemonade.

The two biggest complaints I have heard amongst students attempting a vegetarian lifestyle is the cost and the usually unflattering, flavorless food options. The Garden of Eatin’ is a restaurant where you can feed two people under seven dollars.

The food is high in quality, quantity, and affordability. You just order that day’s special: Small $5 dish or large $7 dish. The generous portions and prices set you up to try an assortment of rice and beans, pasta and tofu, soy fish, veggies, and the menu continues on, varying each day with the chef’s taste buds.

People come to partake not only in the diverse dining but to enjoy the entertainment as well.

Students may encounter a variety of occurrences, such as meeting the DJ as he mixes Island music, catch sight of a random pet chicken in the gardens, or he mixes Island music, catch sight of a random pet chicken in the gardens, or chat with some friendly neighbors. Outdoors sits a small, wooden staged area where some of the many events are held throughout the week.

Students come from Miami-Dade College to live with a little seasoning and coconut milk.

All meals for in restaurant reviews are paid for by The Beacon or individual writers.
The high price of eating from our vending machines

VERONICA TRUEBA
Contributing Writer

“Our reputation, quality prompt friendly service, commitment to excellence, and strong financial resources has enabled us to experience consistent growth in a highly competitive marketplace,” claims DiLoreto & Sons Web site, the purveyor of our very familiar and lately, not that effective, vending machines.

But while our vending machine service is supposed to take pride in so called excellent service and commitment to the client, a lot of students at FIU seem to think otherwise.

“I was on my way to class and I was starving. I didn’t have time to go to the cafeteria so I thought I’d just catch something from one of the vending machines,” said sophomore Tania Santiago, “But they’re not going to get what claims DiLoreto & Sons Web site, student housing areas and recreational facilities.” Moreover, the products on some of the machines can even be purchased with a Panther Card, which can be helpful to a lot of students. That is, if they actually work.

“I used to hang around the dorms a lot at first, I always had the same problem with the vending machines,” said sophomore Tony Gutierrez. “But then from time to time the machines would swallow my money and not give anything back, that’s when I decided to start getting my food in a nearby Publix and not take any chances.”

At the moment, the trouble with the vending machines is not entirely clear.

After calling the Customer Service line of DiLoreto & Sons, one is informed that, “Machines taking in the money and not vending is the company’s most common problem”, according to customer assistant Stacey Rodriguez. However, when she was asked what she thought the problem might be, she replied that she did not know and that a University representative would have to contact the company in order to have a technician look at the problem.

In the meantime, students have an alternative to just sitting around waiting for the machines to be repaired. According to another customer assistant at DiLoreto hotline, Patricia, “students or University representatives should call 1-800-432-0626 extension 268, in order to get their money back.”

There are also refund banks on both FIU campuses. According to FIU regulations, “If you experience any problems with the vending machines or have any suggestions, please contact Business Services, DC 100, at (305) 348-2187, Monday through Friday, 8:30 a.m. to 5 p.m."

According to Business Services representative Ingrid Trapp, “Whenever there are problems with the vending machines, each department lets us know and we instantly report the problem to the vending provider.” However, some students keep complaining that the vending machines consistently steal their money.

Students like freshman Jamal Garcia complain after several exasperated attempts to get a soda or something else from one of the FIU vending machines, “I cannot believe this is happening again, I have already had problems with these machines and I’m telling you, I’m not going to be buying stuff from them again.”

So, for now, FIU students who rely on vending machines for their daily meals, have limited alternatives, they can either wait and hope they get repaired; take a chance and hope the machines will vend when they put their money in their machines or, finally, having their money swallowed by the machine and then calling one of the refund lines, hoping and praying that they will return their money.

The parents of Coon’s attack victims need to realize their part in this— it’s not just the ‘loner’ who needs to be locked up, sometimes it takes an equally unstable person to bully someone the way Coon was bullied.

If Coon hadn’t gone through beatings and taunting on a daily basis, would he have been driven to his breaking point? From a logical standpoint, probably not.

While Coon is by no stretch of the imagination a sane or stable person, he was a victim of circumstance: his psyche shattered by years of obvious trauma, his classmates shunned and pummeled him, and the one beacon of hope and protection, the SuccessTech Academy, wanted nothing to do with him.

How is it that schools of thousands, one eccentric student can be observed, but in a school of 240, the one with a staggering and visible mental illness goes unnoticed.
FETISHISM DEFINED:
Fetishism falls into the category of paraphilias, also known as sexual deviations or perversions. It’s defined in the Diagnostic and Statistical Manual of Mental Disorders-IV Edition as sexual urges or behaviors associated with non-living objects that are necessary for arousal.

According to Marilyn Volker, adjunct professor of psychology, a fetish can take the form of an object, image, part of the body or activity. This object of fetishism then becomes necessary for someone to have sexual desire, orgasm or stay in a relationship. Sometimes, the person will masturbate while holding, smelling, rubbing or fantasizing about the object; other people will struggle with urges or desires but will not act on them.

Paraphilias are far more common in men than in women, with the ratio being about 20 males to one female, though it is not understood why.

WHAT’S YOUR PLEASURE?
 Anything is fair game to develop into a fetish. Fetishes with body parts are fairly common: hair, feet or legs. Some fetishes are particular to a culture or society, such as large breasts in North American cultures.

“Some people in different countries think we are weird – and if we were born or raised in those countries – I imagine we would be thinking the same thing for focusing so much on breasts,” Volker said.

Other times fetishes can take the form of a sound or particular act – dirty talk or role playing perhaps, according to Volker.

But the most common fetishes are object fetishes, with some more common ones including women’s underwear, bras, stockings or shoes.

According to www.discover-health.com, it is unknown how common fetishes are because paraphiliacs rarely get treatment for their disorder because it would mean giving up something immensely pleasurable.

According to Volker, some fetishes can be the result of specific relationships between a child and parent. Freudian examples would be a child with an abusive parent becoming a sadist or masochist, or a child who experienced invasive potty training developing a love for anal sex.

Other instances that Volker says can lead to the development to fetishes are post traumatic rape victims needing rape fantasies to orgasm or veterans with post traumatic war experiences developing violent fetishes.

Fetishism can also result from conditioning in adolescence if an object becomes associated with masturbation.

“When it gets in the way of going to work, etc, it is good to go to someone who is not going to be judgmental but is going to be helpful in sorting out all the variables and then help reframe the person’s fantasies or activities,” Volker said.

Graduate student Rosa Ortiz believes fetishes could interfere with daily functions and relationships.

“Maybe if it gets out of hand, then the partner will initiate getting help,” Ortiz said.

According to Liane Dornheim, a psychologist at University Psychological Counseling Services, says fetishists usually only seek treatment when their partner cannot handle the obsession, or when the fetish gets the person into trouble with the law.

WHEN FETISHISM BECOMES A PROBLEM
Fetishism becomes a problem when a person cannot become aroused without the desired fetish.

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skills when their emotions rage "do not have good coping who engage in actions of road gist Liane Dornhiem, people According to FIU psycholo- levels of stress and pressure. are likely to be under high today's society. the daily stresses of living in mutes to and from work and traffic congestion, long com- road rage can be caused by traffic congestion, long com- tos to and from work and the daily stresses of living in today's society. People with road rage are likely to be under high levels of stress and pressure. According to FIU psycholo- gist Liane Dornhiem, people who engage in actions of road rage "do not have good coping skills [when] their emotions turn to anger." Irritated driv- ers practice hostile aggressive thinking, looking for revenge which can lead to risky driv- ing. Actions of impulsiveness and anxiety can be triggered from a number of stress- ful environments like home, school, the office, or merely just a bad day, which can lead to destructive driving. Raven Morales is a hard working junior. She attends a full load of classes throughout the week and spends much of her time either in the library or in her office. "I can't be late in the morn- ings and if I am, there's hell to pay," she said. "So you can say I turn a little vicious on the road. If I know I'm going to be late, I do whatever it is I have to do in order to be on time. So if cutting someone off or tailgating in order to miss the red light will get me to school on time, then I'll do it." If you share in Moroles' sentiments, follow some of these cognitive and relaxation techniques to calmly and safely arrive at your destination.

Get up. If your class starts at 9 a.m. and FIU is 30 min- utes away from home, do not leave your home at 8:30 a.m; leave earlier to avoid the frus- tations of traffic and being late. Laura Davis, a junior and resident of Coral Gables, lives by this rule.

"I have to leave extra early in the morning so I give myself time to get to school and to find parking without being annoyed," Davis said. Dornhiem suggests that when feelings of anger begin to rise, people should take slow, deep breaths and count down from 20 or even 30 depending on how high the anger level is. Deep breathing helps relieve tension in the muscles while lowering your heart rate.

Listen to music that is soothing. You don't have to listen to Kenny G, but any music that leaves you calm and happy can help you avoid descending into anger. Avoid the kind of music you listen to that gets your adrenaline pumping. Talk radio shows are popu- lar for morning commutes that feature great discussions that are both entertaining and fun. Sarah Morgan, a sopho- more, does not take traffic problems personally. She became infuriated when she was cut off by a white Must- ang and chased after it. She now regrets her course of action. "I felt like an idiot when I went to give her the finger and realized it was my neighbor," she said.

DON'T FROWN

‘My Life! Experience’ will return in two weeks.

Thanks for reading The Beacon.
Preparing members for life in the business world is the main goal for Future Business Leaders of America-Phi Beta Lambda. Currently, FBLA-PBL is the largest non-profit national organization and includes more than 12,000 students and 1000 advisors in 500 campuses. At FIU, the organization has 17 active members and 37 potential members.

The club seeks to promote networking among the business community as well as opportunities to improve one’s skills such as public speaking.

Christina Rodriguez, FBLA-PBL secretary and a finance major, said that when she heard that FIU was going to have an FBLA chapter, she knew she wanted to become a part of it.

“I was a part of FBLA throughout most of my high school career, it is truly a special club for me,” she said. “When I was presented with the idea of being a part of FBLA at FIU, I instantly jumped onboard to become part of it.”

According to FBLA-PBL President Abdel Perera, the organization is the collegiate level of the national organization and is often mistaken for a greek organization.

“There is a big misconception that Phi Beta Lambda is a fraternity, it’s not.” Perera said.

For Lilian Dennis, executive vice president, the networking opportunity of meeting people from all over the world is what she likes the most about the organization.

“We travel, develop business and social skills and get recognized if we win at conferences,” Dennis said. “We also meet other students and share common experiences. There, we also get connections.”

Each year, the state and national levels of FBLA-PBL choose a philanthropy theme to promote community services.

“This year we will work with the Susan G. Komen Fight for Breast Cancer Walk and American Veterans,” Perera said.

Perera added that the organization expects to compete in early February at the organization’s district levels in different competitions such as public speaking, business ethics, community service and international business.

He also said that the members who place the first place at the district level will then compete at the state level against schools such as the University of Florida, Florida State University and the University of Miami.

“Students should look at this organization as an arena to implement what they have learned in the classroom and get rewarded for their educational endeavors,” Perera said.

Dennis said that FBLA-PBL is especially important for students who are considering being business leaders in the future because every student needs a base in business for anything.

Students can become part of this organization as long as long as a 2.0 GPA is maintained and payment for the state and national dues of $30 is received.

The organization believes that there are business standards in every field, so it does not limit membership based on one’s major.

“I am a political science and international relations double major and I have been involved in this organization since my ninth grade of high school,” Perera said. “The organization is open to every minor, major or certificate program. [It’s open] to anyone.”

The organization does not have an assigned office for potential members to visit, but membership is open to students at all campuses and officers can be contacted at www.fbla-pbl.org.

“Being in an institution geared by fraternities and sororities most of the time restrict the ability of most students at FIU to get involved,” Perera said. “FBLA-PBL would allow those students who are left out to come out, support and represent FIU at the local, state and national level.”

Aside from the GPA and dues requirements, potential members need to have a go-getter mentality and be ready for competition.

“[FBLA] has given me the opportunity to grow not only professionally, but socially as well,” Dennis said.
MEN’S SOCCER

On the strength of Sophomore Juan Guerra’s two goals, the men’s soccer team (2-8-2, 2-2-0 Conference-USA) took its second straight victory of the season in a 2-1, double overtime thriller over conference rivals Alabama-Birmingham (5-6-1, 0-3-0) Oct. 13 in Birmingham, Ala.

The Blazers took the lead on a mental mistake by the Golden Panthers, who allowed a header off a throw-in slip past the goalie in the 30th minute for a 1-0 UAB lead.

The Blazers would hold the lead for the next 52 minutes as neither team managed any real scoring threats despite recording four shots a piece.

Then, as time was running out, Guerra slipped past a defender and fired a shot into the bottom left corner of the goal to tie the game with eight minutes left in regulation.

In overtime, the Golden Panthers out shot the Blazers 6-0 but the tie remained until the last minute of overtime when Guerra again took command of the ball and took a shot that deflected off of the opposing goalkeeper’s hands and into the net for his second goal of the match.

Guerra’s two goals tied him for most by a single player in a game this season. Guerra also scored two goals against Illinois-Chicago earlier this. Also, freshman forward Steven Jair Cabas scored two against the University of Central Florida.

His performance earned him Conference-USA Offensive Player of the Week honors and the win moved the Golden Panthers into second place in the conference.

WOMEN’S SWIMMING

Beginning just it’s fifth season of NCAA competition, the FIU swimming team took on its cross-town rivals, the University of Miami, Oct. 12 at Coral Gables Norman Whitten Student Union Pool.

Despite strong performances from returning leaders junior Sara Giovanonni, senior diver Lindsay Lowell and co-captain Meredith Tisch, the team dropped 9-of-12 events during the meet and fell to 0-1 on the season.

The Golden Panthers’ next meet will be on Oct. 20 at 11:00 am at Tamiami Park.

-Compiled by Chris Towers

OFFENSIVE SPARK: Junior forward Juan Guerra eludes defenders. Guerra scored two goals as the Golden Panthers defeated the University of Alabama Birmingham 2-1. His goals earned him Conference-USA Offensive Player of The Week Honors for the week of October 16.

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.
Few undefeated teams remain in college football

ANDREW BAGNATO  AP Wire

Kansas, Hawaii, Arizona State. Ohio State, Boston College, South Florida.

Sounds like the field at the Maui Invitational. They are, in reality, the remaining unbeatens in major college football.

It’s mid-October, and six of 119 teams have navigated their way to a perfect record in this stormiest of college football seasons. They’re a combined 40-0.

But it’s too early for any of those teams to book their flights to the National Championship game.

We expect perfection from the top-ranked Buckeyes, who have become a monotonous victory machine under Jim Tressel, notwithstanding their embarrassing loss to Florida in the Bowl Championship Series title game last January.

That’s twice-beaten Florida this season, by the way.

But what do the six unbeatens have in common, aside from unbeaten records?

Time zones ... no.

 Tradition ... no. South Florida moved to the Big East then plucked the Bulls away from the Mid-American Conference. The Eagles, remember, fled the Big East to join the Atlantic Coast Conference. The Big East then plucked the Bulls away from Conference USA.

Tranghese chuckled at the suggestion that they might meet in New Orleans.

“Wouldn’t that be something?” he said.

“There’s a long way to go.”

On top: South Florida fans carry quarterback Matt Grothe off the field following the Bulls’ upset victory over West Virginia that vaulted them near the top of the college rankings.

And if that’s not hard enough, the Buckeyes take on resurgent Michigan in Ann Arbor on Nov. 17. Arizona State plays at No. 7 Oregon on Nov. 3. One look at that list makes you wonder if anyone can go unbeaten.

What if South Florida and Boston College are the only survivors? They’re already No. 2 and No. 3 in the BCS standings, so they won’t need much help to move up.

The Eagles, remember, fied the Big East to join the Atlantic Coast Conference. The Big East then plucked the Bulls away from Conference USA.

ON TOP: South Florida fans carry quarterback Matt Grothe off the field following the Bulls’ upset victory over West Virginia that vaulted them near the top of the college rankings.

“Those half-dozen teams are all part of a very interesting mix,” said Tressel.

“Those half-dozen teams have a lot of history between them. Some might be invincible — but not for long.”

The Buckeyes may or may not win the national title. After whipping Youngstown State, Akron and Kent State, they’re a lock for state honors.

But we shouldn’t mock perfection. Salute these half-dozen teams for what they’ve achieved so far - bowl eligibility, or close to it.

Tressel knows how hard it is to go unbeaten a season. His 2002 team went 14-0, surviving numerous scares on its way to the Fiesta Bowl, where it had still more scares before defeating Miami for the national title.

“It’s extremely hard,” Tressel said on the Oct. 16 Big Ten coaches teleconference. “It doesn’t happen very often. Sometimes the ball bounces your way and sometimes it doesn’t.”

Sometimes the official calls pass interference in the end zone, and sometimes they don’t. That one went the Buckeyes’ way in the Fiesta.

“To go through with winning all your games obviously is the most difficult thing there is,” Tressel said.

In this loony autumn, just winning is difficult. Every team in The Associated Press preseason Top 10 has lost. (Ohio State opened at No. 11).

So congratulations to the Buckeyes, Jayhawks, Sun Devils, Eagles, Bulls and Warriors. And take a good look at them now, because their ranks may thin in the next few weeks.

Five of the unbeatens are about to face rugged road tests.

Only Hawaii gets a hall pass - and the way the Hawgs go, they might meet in New Orleans.

“One of our things is that you never know,” said Big Ten commissioner Mike Tranghese.

“It’s a very difficult thing. Sometimes things are going to go against you. And sometimes they’re going to go for you.”

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This week’s unbeatens:

1. Ohio State 7-0 .857
2. South Florida 6-0 .833
3. Cincinnati 6-1 .833
4. Alabama 6-1 .833
5. Oklahoma 6-1 .857
6. South Carolina 6-1 .857
7. Kentucky 6-1 .857
8. Arizona State 7-0 .857
9. West Virginia 5-1 .857
10. Oregon 5-1 .857
11. Virginia Tech 6-1 .857
12. California 5-1 .857
13. Kansas 5-0 .833
14. Southern Cal 5-1 .833
15. Florida 4-2 .833
16. Missouri 5-1 .833
17. Auburn 5-2 .714
18. Hawaii 7-0 .833
19. Virginia 6-1 .857
20. Georgia 5-2 .667
21. Tennessee 4-2 .714
22. Texas 5-2 .714
23. Cincinnati 6-1 .857
24. Texas Tech 6-1 .857
25. Michigan 5-2 .714

*All records up to date as of Oct. 12

Talent, coaching, parity and forgiving schedules. Or maybe “forgiving” is too kind.

The NCAA ranks schedules in a variety of ways, but the most telling is based on a team’s previous opponents. By that measure, South Florida’s schedule ranks 12th.

Among the other unbeatens, the next-toughest schedule belongs to Ohio State at No. 72. Arizona State ranks 84th, Boston College 92nd, Kansas 100th.

Hawaii has played the easiest schedule so far, according to the NCAA, and the Warriors had to go into overtime to beat Louisville Tech and Sun Jose State.

No. 2 South Florida can hang its hat on wins over Auburn (on the Plains) and West Virginia. The other five don’t have a suitable framework for framing victory among them.

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MEN’S SOCCER, page 12

Winning against conference opponents keeps season alive

DARREN COLLETTE
Staff Writer

The 0-6 football team will take on the University of Louisiana-Monroe Warhawks (1-5) Oct. 20 at Malone Stadium in Monroe, La. The Golden Panthers are coming off their first bye week of the season and will be looking to get their first win of the season.

In three home games at the Orange Bowl this season FIU has given up 83 points and scored 32. However, on the road, FIU has given up 161 points and only scored nine in its first three away games. The nine points FIU has managed to score have all been on special teams plays.

FIU will be coming in off its first bye week this season, giving the team extra time to prepare for Louisiana-Monroe.

“Having the bye week we have an extra week to watch film, so number one we work on improving yourselves and certain techniques and whatnot,” said coach Mario Cristobal. “But we also add or sprinkle their defense and offensive schemes in our practice, so we can start getting used to seeing those looks.”

Louisiana-Monroe has one of the strongest running games in the college football, averaging over 200 yards per game on the ground. Leading the ground game is senior running back Calvin Dawson, who ranks 10th in the nation with 735 rushing yards this season. Despite its record, Louisiana-Monroe is a tough team that will be hard to beat, mostly because of the amount of yards it can gain on the ground.

Against Troy FIU had its best offensive output of the season scoring two touchdowns and a field goal for a total of 16 points. Quarterback Wayne Younger passed for a career-high 248 yards to go along with 35 yards rushing for 283 total yards. Even if FIU did lose to Troy, Younger finally seemed to prove himself as a starter and quieted any talk of a quarterback controversy. To get a win against Louisiana-Monroe, FIU will need to stop the run and make sure to continue improving its offense, which finally seemed to click against Troy.

This game will be the first of three consecutive road games. After that, FIU will play its final three games of the season at the Orange Bowl, including what could be the final football game ever played at the historic season in the season finale against North Texas Dec. 2.
Losing streak reaches four games as Golden Panthers fall at home

RENEALDO SMITH  Staff Writer

After an 11-2 start, everybody in the Golden Panther camp looked forward to the season ending in championship glory. Just one week later, that vision has been distorted a bit and prominence seems further away than anyone imagined.

With all eyes on them in Pharmed Arena, the women's volleyball team stumbled Oct. 12 and 13 in matches against the Western Kentucky Hilltoppers and the Middle Tennessee Blue Raiders - the two teams FIU split the conference title with last season.

Engulfed in a four-game slide, All-American power hitter Yari-ma Rosa is frustrated by inconsistency and anxious for her team to get back on the right track.

"I am really disappointed because we can get better," said Rosa. "We are still going up and down and up and down and I think we can do better. I don't know what is going on that has us still in the same path... We really want to stop this rally of losing so we will fight."

WK 3, FIU 1

The Hilltopper trio of Jenna Gideon, Brittany Bowen and junior All-American Megan Arabright was simply unstoppable en route to a 3-1 (30-26, 23-30, 30-26, 30-19) win on Oct. 12.

After dropping the first set, the Golden Panthers responded by hitting at a match-best .400 clip in the second game, forcing nine Hilltopper attack errors in the process.

Unfortunately, that success was short-lived. The Golden Panthers committed a dismal 18 service errors and their defense fell apart down the stretch when it mattered most.

"Western played well, but we made so many unforced errors that we could not compete with such a good team," said Tomic. "We were not disciplined in what we were doing at all. I told the team that the team that makes the least unforced errors will win and that is exactly what happened."

Excluding the second set, where seniors Anita Szymanska and Mina Spasojevic combined for nine kills, Rosa was the only constant for the Golden Panthers. She opened the game notching seven kills and four digs.

That passionate play continued until the very end as she compiled a match-best 21 kills and 12 digs.

Sophomore Olga Vergun was the only other Golden Panther in double-figure kills with 17, while Spasojevic finished with eight in the loss.

Gideon led a balanced attack for the Hilltoppers with 15 kills as Arabright and Bowen pounded 13 each.

After the game, Golden Pan-ther coach Danijela Tomic gave credit.

"Defensively we couldn't stop their middles," she said. "We knew that their middles were the go-to players and we prepared for that. They have an All-American on the other side and I think why she is All-American."

MT 3, FIU 0

A date with Middle Tennessee Oct. 13 only added to a weekend of anguish for the Golden Pan-thers. The Blue Raiders looked every bit like the defending Sun Belt Conference champions as they cruised to an easy 3-0 (30-16, 30-24, 30-19) win.

This time around, Rosa was the only Golden Panther in double-digit kills with 15. MTSU Freshman Izabela Kozon had a match high 16 kills, while All-American power hitter Ashley Adams complimented her with 14 kills in the win.

Tomic said the same factor that led to her team's downfall over the weekend has been haunting all season.

"We have to find a way to play more consistent," she said. "That has been my concern since the beginning of the season, that we cannot keep the focus. As a coaching staff we have to figure out how to make them play more consistent throughout the match.

I just want us to compete. We always teach compete to the last point. I never want us to give up. I want us to leave everything that we have on the court."

The Golden Panthers will look to be more consistent and get back on the winning track this Oct. 19 against Arkansas State at Pharmed Arena.

Men's soccer team turns around season at perfect time

The men's soccer season is alive. The once flailing team has won its last two games following a ten-game winless drought.

When the Golden Panthers were struggling, their first victory was becoming an unnat-tural dream. Now that the dream was realized, all other obstacles are easier to overcome. They knocked down their first obstacle on the road against UAB, overcoming a 1-0 deficit with eight minutes left in regulations to force overtime and then win in the second overtime.

These last two victories improved the Golden Panthers' record to 2-8-2 on the season and, most importantly, their Conference USA record to an even 2-2-0. The way FIU won those two games indicates the team is deter-mined to salvage the season.

Down with eight minutes left, the Golden Panthers team that played during the first ten games would've never been able to tie the game. This new team was reluctant to return to its losing ways. The team then refused to make its first win a meaningless aberration. It wanted to make it a habit and use it as fuel for the rest of the season against the rest of its conference foes.

The Golden Panthers also needed to win for their first year coach, Munga Eketebi. The team then refused to make its first win a meaningless aberration. It wanted to make it a habit and use it as fuel for the rest of the season against the rest of its conference foes.

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