Maidique discusses FIU’s future

Christina Vega
Marcelo Gorenstein
Beacon Staff

FLU is facing the best of times and the worst of times according to University President Modesto Maidique.

In his annual Town Hall Meetings on earlier this week, Maidique laid out the positive and the difficulties facing FIU in coming years.

First the good news: Among other things, Maidique cited preliminary accreditation for the FIU College of Medicine, record passing rates on the Statewide Florida Bar Exam and a 20 percent increase in student applications as good signs that FIU is heading in the right direction.

“I think it’s the best of times because we have the best leadership team that we have ever had and it is second to none in the state,” Maidique said.

News was not as good for other areas of the University. Most notably, Maidique warned the crowds at both University Park and Biscayne Bay Campus of the devastating effects the latest round of budget cuts could have.

“It is the worst of times because the budget threat that lies out there is incommensurable to the worst we have suffered in the past,” Maidique said.

The president presented six areas the University will focus on to ensure the positive continues to outweigh the negative at FIU.

“As sad as it might seem, the first strategic imperative is to preserve the University to basically survive these cuts without damaging [its] integrity,” Maidique said.

The current and pending budget cuts are the result of lower than expected tax revenue collected by state. According to the House Senate Budget Comparison, FIU will need to identify a minimum budget cut of $9.4 million of its $234 million recurring state appropriation. The cuts can go as high as 10 percent — a $23 million reduction for FIU.

The aftermath of measures to manage the budget cuts are already being felt at Florida public institutions. Late last year, the Florida Board of Governors, the governing body of FIU, will focus on to ensure the University to basically survive these cuts without damaging [its] integrity.

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Newsflash

Club Takes Time for Abused, Neglected and Drug Exposed Students

FIUCARES, a pre-health student organization, is searching for volunteers from various majors to help the club fulfill its mission of supporting under served communities in Miami-Dade County.

Upcoming events include assisting with food service for the homeless at Miami Rescue Mission on March 8 from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. and volunteering care and time to abused, neglected and drug exposed children at His House Children’s Home on March 15.

Currently, until March 14, a His House Donation Drive is taking place to collect necessities for the orphanage. The list of supplies needed and the donation drop-off site is located in the Engineering and Computer Science building, room 484.

To participate in any of the club events, an application and one-time $15 fee must be turned in at ECS 484.

Any questions can be directed to fiucares@fiu.edu.

Dance ‘til You Drop

The art form of Orisha Music and Dance will be presented as part of a larger discussion on social issues such as race, gender, ethnicity, culture and religion on March 8 in the Wolfe Center Ballrooms on Biscayne Bay Campus.

"Orisha Music and Dance: Discourses of Modernity and Transnationalism," is sponsored by FIU’s African New World Studies, Latin American and Caribbean Center and the Department of Dance, in collaboration with community groups led by Oba Ernesto Pichardo, president of the Church of Lukumi Babalu Aye, and Honorary Fellow of African New World Studies.

The day-long event begins at 9:30 a.m. and ends at 8:30 p.m. The event will close with a reception at 5:30 p.m. with a live performance by Los Herederos.

Attendance is free. For more information, visit www.fi.edu/~africana or contact Rosa Henriquez, program coordinator, African New World Studies at africana@fiu.edu, or (305) 919-5521/4264.

Event to Honor Jewish Women Features Dessert Buffet, Open Bar, Prizes and More

“An Evening of Giving and Winning,” will take place on March 17 featuring a Chinese auction, dairy dessert buffet, recording artists and an open bar.

Co-sponsored by Chabad at FIU and Chabad at the University of Miami, the event is a tribute to Jewish women for their work in the community and at home.

Prizes to be auctioned off include a trip for two to Israel, a Precious elliptical, diamond jewelry and more. Singer and recording artist Rivkah will perform at the event.

Tickets to the fundraiser are $36 for women and $18 for students. A $20 raffle ticket is included with the entrance fee.

Interested students may view a complete list of prizes or participate in the auction online at www.CampusAuction.org.

To RSVP or for more information, call (305) 226-5533, or e-mail Sashie@chabadfiu.com.

Ashley Baker, teaching assistant

I suppose I speak for everyone when I say it’s one of the most rewarding experiences.

The FIU Big Band, meets Monday through Thursday, and practices together an average of five hours per week, which counts as a one-credit course.

Performers with specific instruments within the band also practice together in sections.

“Imagine all the time and effort these guys put in, not only to make every rehearsal, but performances,” Lussier said.

Each student in the band also takes the core class needed for graduation, as well as music theory and the jazz program’s requirements.

Many band members have other obligations to meet, such as jobs outside of school.

"It's a challenge, but it's why we do what we do. We all want to play. It's why we have chosen our field," Lussier said.

Although the band is compensated for some of their performances, the money goes toward music scholarships.

To raise money to attend the festival, the Big Band is selling its own CD, recorded live last year at the Arturo Sandoval Jazz Club in Miami Beach.

To prepare for all their performances, the band meets Monday through Thursday, and practices together an average of five hours per week, which counts as a one-credit course.

Performers with specific instruments within the band also practice together in sections.

“The FIU Big Band provides students with exceptional time organizational skills that allows them to have a glimpse of real-world situations.

“If they want to be professional musicians, they have to be willing to work very, very hard,” Lussier said.

I suppose I speak for everyone when I say it’s one of the most rewarding experiences.

The FIU Big Band performs more than any other ensemble from FIU. They will perform at FIU’s Concert Hall on March 12 with Jim Snidero, a jazz musician from New York. They will also perform in FIU’s Concert Hall on April 16 with Sandoval.

For more information contact Lussier at samlussiermusic@yahoo.com or call 305-348-2442.

Jazz Performers Find Fulfillment, Opportunities with Fellow Artists

Corrections

In the issue dated Mar 3, 2008, the photo on page five should have credited Nathan Valentine as the photographer.

The Beacon will gladly change any errors. Call our UP office at 305-348-2709 or BCC at 305-919-4722.

Applications available at The Beacon (GC 210)

* Applications due Friday, March 14, 4p.m.
* Turn in a copy of your resume
* Relevant experience desired

Drop-off applications in GC 210 or call 305-348-2709 for more information

The Beacon – March 6, 2008

www.fi.usm.com
Maidique tries to balance progress amidst budget cuts

MAIDIQUE, page 1

The president knows it’s his legacy.”

The goal is now to reach top 15 status by the time FIU turns 50 in 2015. Increasing school spirit is another facet of Maidique’s plan. He plans to do so by growing FIU’s athletics programs and Greek life, as well as building more dorms and providing more student activities.

The last goal presented is to preserve the University to basically survive these cuts without damaging [its] integrity.

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Modesto Maidique, University President

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Growing FIU’s athletic programs and Greek life, as well as building more dorms and providing more student activities.

The last goal presented is to preserve the University to basically survive these cuts without damaging [its] integrity.
Guns pose extra risks to students' safety

**Ben F. Badger Jr.**
Asst. News Director

Guns – I’m not a huge fan of them. They just lead to senseless violence and death, but the saying is “guns don’t kill people, people kill people.”

While it’s a perfectly nice saying, I didn’t realize people could turn into little metal projectiles shred a person’s insides after being launched at a couple hundred miles per hour.

Regardless of my disdain for them, the Second Amendment essentially guarantees the right to own guns. Thankfully, they are banned on college campuses across the country, with Utah being the only exception.

But after the recent string of school shootings, that are no longer limited to the country, it’s fairly clear that a life or serious bodily injury must be at risk before a concealed weapon can be used, or even displayed, and that anyone using a weapon in an unwarranted way would be punishable within the law. Citizens must also be able to demonstrate “competency with a firearm” prior to being issued a license.

The impulse to ban guns from campus also stems from the misconception that it being legal to carry a handgun equates to being legal to use a handgun.

The Web site for the Florida agency responsible for licensing citizens to carry a concealed weapon makes it expressly clear that a life or serious bodily injury must be at risk before a concealed weapon can be used, or even displayed, and that anyone using a weapon in an unwarranted way would be punishable within the law. Citizens must also be able to demonstrate “competency with a firearm” prior to being issued a license.

**Eric M. Feldman**
Asst. Opinion Editor

It’s a good feeling to know that no one is walking around school packing heat, thanks to the on-campus gun bans that exist for most colleges and universities in the nation, including Virginia Tech and Northern Illinois University.

If a lightening up of the ban would have an effect on potential mass shootings is a complex and emotional debate, but it is fairly clear that a ban cannot keep the guns which people intend to use for harm out of a campus, or any other area where a ban is in effect.

Whether or not you own a gun (and it is a respectable decision to keep them out of your home, especially if children are present), you would probably not put a sticker on your window saying “This Home Not Protected by Firearms.”

On-campus bans announce that those with malicious or psychotic intents, who may well not care about dying in the process, will at least not meet much resistance in carrying out their chaotic task.

There seems to be no legal basis for suspending the constitutionally given right to bear arms, even for those with concealed-carry permits, within the boundaries of campuses.

Mass shootings are not the only things being a complex and emotional debate, but it is fairly clear that a ban cannot keep the guns which people intend to use for harm out of a campus.

Therefore, law enforcement professionals would be the first responders to emergencies on campus, and the only ones using lethal force to do so.

FIU has exhibited great strides in preparing the campus for emergencies, including beginning to install emergency telephones in every classroom. However, a Beacon editorial revealed that on some shifts, Public Safety can have as little as two officers on duty, raising questions about their ability to respond to an incident, be it a terrorism-scale attack or an under-the-radar abduction or sexual assault.

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The Web site for the Florida agency responsible for licensing citizens to carry a concealed weapon makes it expressly clear that a life or serious bodily injury must be at risk before a concealed weapon can be used, or even displayed, and that anyone using a weapon in an unwarranted way would be punishable within the law. Citizens must also be able to demonstrate “competency with a firearm” prior to being issued a license.

These caveats dispel the worry that weapons on campus would result in a firefight amongst inexperienced gun handlers.

Guns are not the great solution to campus violence. It is possible that in the area where a violent event breaks out, that either no other student or faculty member will be armed (which should be a great relief to proponents of the ban), or that anyone who is concealing a weapon will not feel comfortable enough in the situation to intervene.

The Second Amendment itself prescribes that the rights provided by it “shall not be infringed,” and no argument can be made that a person wanting to defend his or her self while on campus by carrying a firearm in an otherwise legal fashion is actually making said campus less safe. It is fairly clear that a ban cannot keep the guns which people intend to use for harm out of a campus.

**WHAT DO YOU THINK?**

Should a steadfast ban on guns be implemented on all campuses?

- Yes – Guns pose a more serious threat and are ultimately unnecessary with Public Safety on Campus.
- No – Student’s have a constitutional right to bear arms, and should be able to defend themselves.

Cast your vote at www.fiusm.com

**Erin M. Feldman can be reached at Erin.Feldman@fiusm.com**
DANGEROUS DRINKS

Popular energy drinks could prove hazardous

ELYSE COLEMAN
Staff Writer

Junior Mercy Jimenez rushed to the back of PantherStop where the beverages are kept. She picked up two drinks, a can of Rockstar and a Rockstar Juiced Mango.

“I don’t always drink Rockstar,” she said. “I also like Red Bull and Enviga.”

After grabbing her drinks, Jimenez walked hurriedly around the store picking up snacks before making her way to the register.

“I only drink these on school days, not on weekends,” she said. “I need them so I can stay awake and focus while I study.”

Malagon is a sales clerk at PantherStop.

“We constantly have to refill the Red Bulls,” he said.

Red Bull’s Web site provides a list of benefits, claiming that it “improves performance, increases concentration and reaction speed, increases endurance and stimulates metabolism.”

“I used to be completely addicted to Red Bulls,” said Orane Carney, a junior. “At the time I was working three jobs while going to school.”

One energy beverage, Enviga, even claims to promote weight loss. A press release issued by The Coca-Cola Company on Oct. 11, 2006 describes it as “proven to burn calories.”

“I heard if you drink three cans of Enviga a day you’ll lose weight, so I started drinking it,” said Natasha Caplan, a junior. “It’s good if it’s cold but downright painful if it’s warm. You kind of money by allowing everyone to work when and where they can effectively without losing their minds trying to match up impossible class schedules to meet up.

Use www.groups.google.com to start a discussion forum for tossing ideas back and forth among your group as well as keeping each other updated with your project.

Together you can start a virtual notebook at www.notebook.google.com to keep collect research together and later share the writing load by using the handy virtual word processor at www.docs.google.com.

To access Google’s services, you’ll first need to sign up for an account using your current email address at the Web site.
Energy drinks a popular, possibly dangerous option

Drinks available at both campuses

Energy drinks at the Biscayne Bay store, which has the largest variety. They are also available at the Breeze-PantherStop contains the largest variety of energy drinks on University Park. According to statistics from two neighboring soda machines, the food court and the bookstore, which has the largest variety.

Drinks available at both campuses include varieties of Red Bull, Rockstar, NOS and Vault. At The Door. According to Nov. 2007 Reuters article, the high levels of caffeine in tauine, one of the active ingredients in energy drinks, the seizures stopped.

“Energy drinks won’t harm most people, but you shouldn’t drink them if you’re exercising or if you’re prone to seizures or have a heart arrhythmia,” said Marraccini. “However, it’s not proven that they give you a real energy boost. That may just be a perceived rush from the caffeine.”

According to statistics from a vending machine in the Graham Center examined on Feb. 19, over 4,300 cans, or around $8,600 worth of Rockstar, both the sugar-free and regular varieties, have been sold.

Statistics from two neighboring soda machines show that combined sales for 12 oz. cans and 20 oz. bottles of the carbonated energy drink Vault amount to approximately $20,000. PantherStop contains the largest variety of energy drinks on University Park. They are also available at the Breeze-way Café and in vending machines. Energy drinks at the Biscayne Bay Campus are also available in vending machines, the food court and the bookstore, which has the largest variety.

Drinks available at both campuses include varieties of Red Bull, Rockstar, Full Throttle, NOS and Vault.
Future looks bright despite slow start to season

Thomas expects perfection from his players and even though the team is doing well offensively, he is not going to become complacent. Thomas will always look for improvement.

After some shaky outings from FIU starting pitchers against USC, the staff bounced back well against Wagner.

Facing a tough opponent to begin the Sun Belt Conference play will be a good barometer for Thomas who admittedly has not seen many Sun Belt teams in action.

However, unless the team’s relief pitching improves miraculously, not much should be expected from this team in transition.

The outlook in the locker room will remain high, though, especially for the future of the program as many people, including Athletic Director Pete Garcia, have put their faith in Thomas to turn the program into the powerhouse it should be considering it’s located in a hotbed of high school baseball prospects.

It’s a tough task, considering the foundation Thomas was given.

However, it seems he’s up for the challenge because he’s very confident, and he knows what he’s doing. The rest of us will have to hope and see.

Are you unable to fall asleep before midnight? Do you have difficulty waking up in the morning? You may suffer from Delayed Phase Sleep Syndrome

If you have had this problem for more than 3 months, you may be eligible to participate in a research study.

You may qualify if you:

1. are 18 years or older
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Study participants will receive study-related examinations & investigational medications at no cost. Study participants will also be compensated for time and travel.

For more information contact: 1-877-455-5757
After being swept by USC to open the season, then taking three of four games against Wagner, a new era in FIU baseball begins and I don’t see us being there.

Teams of years past were known for losing to top-tier opponents and hopelessly getting beat by teams from up north. This year is starting off no differently.

New manager Henry “Turtle” Thomas shouldn’t be expected to turn things around immediately, especially with a team that has one glaring weakness: lack of pitching depth.

After years of poor recruiting and a lack of a real pitching coach since the 2004 season, Thomas and his staff are left with just 10 pitchers, most of whom lack Division I experience, which they can’t be blamed for.

Through the season’s first nine games, the staff has allowed at least nine runs in each of its five losses and in one of the team’s wins.

This is a bad season to lack pitching depth, considering the college baseball season is now shorter than it was in years past. For example, last season started on Feb. 3, and this season started Feb. 22.

That’s three fewer weeks of rest for the pitchers — and every player on the team for that matter.

With a shorter season, relief pitching becomes increasingly important. The negatives on this team can easily be blamed on the previous coaching staff, led by former coach Dave Cox, who manned the program for 28 years prior to Thomas.

Fortunately for Thomas, his players can be credited to him. The team already looks better defensively and players are admittedly more confident.

Things to come — and every player on the team for that matter.

Senior hurler Allen embraces role of ace

Chris Allen knew he was going to be the team’s No. 1 starter before the season started.

He also knew that as a senior and transfer from Clemson, he would be depended on to win many games for the Golden Panthers in his final collegiate season.

After landing only 3.2 innings and allowing ten runs (six earned) and taking his first loss of the season, Allen (1-1) responded with an impressive performance in his second start against Wagner, for his first win of the season.

“I felt pretty good; it was great to get back out there,” Allen said. “I couldn’t wait since my last start to get back out there and put to work some of the things that I worked on during the week.”

In his first game, Allen was throwing the ball up in the strike zone, which led to USC’s offensive barrage.

“The difference was location. I was more down in the zone and got a lot more ground ball outs,” Allen said. “Steve [Stropp] called a great game behind the dish, and Felipe [Suanes] helped me make a couple of big game adjustments that really helped me out.”

Once the Golden Panthers begin conference play, there will be added pressure for him to pitch deeper into games. The team’s shaky bullpen contributes to Allen’s responsibilities as the Golden Panthers’ ace.

Allen is a key part of the starting rotation which also includes sophomore Corey Poliziano and fellow senior Steven Stewart.

Every team that succeeds needs a bona fide ace, and if Chris Allen can fulfill that role, FIU will have one main component needed to succeed, as they begin the conference games which count the most.

BIG CONTRIBUTORS

Senior Raimy Fuentes and sophomore Tyler Townsend have continued to be the most effective hitters early on in the season. After the series against Wagner, Fuentes was the leading team with a .471 average with one home run and 16 RBI.

Townsend holds the fourth best average on the team with a .343, but has flashed the power from last year as he has four home runs and 16 RBI in nine games.

UP NEXT

The Golden Panthers head to Alabama for a three-game series against the Troy Trojans in the opening series of Sun Belt Conference play.

It will be their first away series after opening with an 11-game home stand to start the season.

BASEBALL SERIES: FIU 3, WAGNER 1

SLUGGING AWAY

Golden Panthers’ offense scores 51 runs during series

LUCA MESSINA Staff Writer

The Florida International (4-5) rebounded from a disappointing 13-1 loss to Florida Gulf Coast University on Feb. 26 by taking three of the four games from the Wagner Seahawks (1-3) Feb. 29 thru March 2 at University Park Stadium.

“Every time out I think you relax a little bit more,” coach Henry “Turtle” Thomas said. “Some of these guys are getting their third or fourth time out there which is good. The more times you take the hill, the better you feel about things.”

If not for the bullpen’s late collapse in the third game of the series, FIU would have swept the Seahawks as they blew an 11-6 lead en route to a 13-11 loss.

“We’re still trying to figure it out. Five days from now we’ll be playing conference games,” Thomas said. “We’ll find out a little bit more about those guys in the next couple of days.”

The Golden Panthers’ offense was active as FIU scored 51 runs while also belting six home runs.

FIU 10, WAGNER 2
Senior and No. 1 starter Chris Allen rebounded from a poor start on opening day as he pitched seven innings allowing two runs (none earned) in his first win of the season. He allowed five hits while striking out eight.

After trailing 2-0 early on, FIU responded by scoring 10 unanswered runs.

Junior catcher Steven Stropp led the FIU offense as he went 3-for-4 with a solo home run, two RBIs, and two runs scored. Senior right fielder Raimy Fuentes went 3-for-4 with three RBIs.

FIU 22, WAGNER 4
The FIU offense exploded in the first game of a day-night doubleheader at University Park, as the Golden Panthers scored 22 runs on 19 hits.

Senior Corey Poliziano also rebounded from a poor first start against USC in the opening series by pitching a solid 5.2 innings. He allowed four earned on five hits, all of which came in the sixth inning. He also struck out eight and walked two. Senior Carlos Martinez earned the save after pitching 3.1 innings of scoreless relief.

The Golden Panthers led 11-0 by the fourth inning and never kept it close. Ryan Mollica led the way going 3-for-5 with a grand slam and six RBIs. Senior John Peikia and freshman Anthony Hoza also went deep for FIU.

WAGNER 13, FIU 11
What looked like a definite win for FIU turned into an ugly loss as the Golden Panthers dropped the second game of the doubleheader.

After holding an 11-2 advantage through three innings, the Golden Panthers’ bullpen blew an 11-6 lead in the top of the ninth inning by allowing seven runs in the inning.

Sophomore Brian Santana held the Seahawks to six runs until he allowed four runs to cut the Wagner deficit to 11-10. Sophomore reliever Evan Ellison (0-1) surrendered three earned runs and failed to record an out in taking the loss.

Senior Eric Hortmann started for FIU and pitched four innings. He allowed five runs, one of which was earned, and had a strikeout and a walk. Sophomore Tyler Townsend and senior Jorge Castillo both hit two-run homers for the Golden Panthers in the first inning to give FIU an early 5-1 lead.

FIU 8, WAGNER 3
The Golden Panthers responded well to a late inning meltdown in the previous game by overcoming a 2-1 deficit, and the bullpen pitched 3.2 innings of shutdown baseball. Starter Jorge Ramos (1-0) pitched 5.1 innings in allowing three runs on seven hits. He struck out six and walked three.

“Ramos pitched well on Tuesday and felt like he deserved to get back out there,” Thomas said.

Kyle Preshong, Jorge Marban and Daniel DeSimone all pitched in relief for FIU. Freshman Javier Stopp went 2-2-for and with two RBIs.

BASEBALL NOTEBOOK

PUMPED: The Golden Panthers celebrate after a big win. FIU is now 4-5.