President opens up about recent budget cuts

DANIELLA BACIGALUPO AND CHRISTOPHER NECUZE
Beacon Staff

The Beacon met with University President Modesto A. Maidique to talk about the effects of this year’s budget cuts, among other FIU developments.

Q: Will the budget make it more difficult to hire and retain faculty—are there fears they will leave?

A: There are several key jobs a leader has, and one of the most important ones is hope. My goal is to help engender hope, so that we will lose a few but not many. This is going to be another tough year but in 2010, in 2011, we are going to pick up again, so don’t leave me because we had a bad year.

Q: Still, is FIU trying to create new incentives?

A: We can’t just arbitrarily set salary. We are making a proposal to the Faculty Union that includes giving incentives to the faculty members that are doing the best work, but we can’t do that alone. We can only do that with the consent of the Union and the Provost.

Q: How will the College of Medicine help FIU?

A: A medical school attracts research and private dollars like no other university program and therefore makes the whole University more prestigious, more recognized and acts like a rising sea that lifts the whole ship.

Q: How is the College of Medicine going?

A: We were credited faster than any other university that has gone for preliminary accreditation; we hired some folks with 130-140 combined years of experience in medical schools; we have thus far raised about $40 million for the medical school and this year we’ll eclipse that and make it look like child’s play. We expect about 3,000 applications for 40 slots.

Q: What makes our College of Medicine unique?

A: We have created faster than any other university that has gone for preliminary accreditation; we hired some folks with 130-140 combined years of experience in medical schools; we have thus far raised about $40 million for the medical school and this year we’ll eclipse that and make it look like child’s play. We expect about 3,000 applications for 40 slots.

Q: Do you think it was a mistake to allow FIU to run Future House for one 3.5 hours of sunlight can produce energy on-site resulting in zero operational carbon footprint.

Q: Still, the University is doing it’s best to create incentives. A salary increase plan is in the works and will be proposed to the Faculty Senate. Non monetary incentives include rewarding faculty doing the best work by redis-
Florida proposes plan to increase faculty wages

FACULTY, page 1

The Board of Governors has decided to take action and the Florida Legislature has asked for a budget increase of $65,411,094. The money would specifically be used to pay for a 4 percent raise that would be received by faculty members during the next fiscal year, which begins July 1, 2009. This comes after a year with no raises or bonuses.

Universities are given the flexibility to use the money however they choose; however, it must be used to retain existing faculty. The faculty and staff would receive a 4 percent pay raise,” said Bill Edmonds, director of communications for the Board of Governors. “It doesn’t necessarily have to be done across the board, it could be done in some other fashion. We haven’t worked that out yet. The institutions will probably be given some leeway to use that money.”

While the budget increase has not been passed yet, it is the beginning of Florida’s attempt to catch up with the rest of the country. According to statistics given in the excerpt mentioned previously, the State University System would need an additional 1,600 faculty members to reach the national average of the faculty-to-student ratio.

Eight percent of faculty leaves the SUS annually, whether it is for retirement or the result of competing job offers from other universities. “We rank absolutely last in money spent on students and we aren’t close to making it impossible for students with a lower income to pay the tuition,” said John Makemson, a professor in the Biological Sciences department. “I personally like the lowest possible tuition so that economically disadvantaged families can send kids to school.”

“I personally like the lowest possible tuition so that economically disadvantaged families can send kids to school.”

John Makemson, Professor, Biological Sciences department

The problem presents something of a domino effect for the state. If respected professors become a rarity in Florida, students will then disperse and universities will see a drop in attendance. This means less money going to education and to the SUS and eventually, the state itself. Some professors are beginning to see other ways in which this situation may be affecting the future of the state’s current generation.

“We rank absolutely last in money spent in student and tuition,” said John Makemson, a professor in the Biological Sciences department. “I personally like the lowest possible tuition so that economically disadvantaged families can send kids to school. Because of this, we have lots of courses that fill up after the first couple of days of registration making it impossible for students with a lower income to pay the tuition. If we had more faculty and classrooms, this would not be such a terrible situation.”

This is especially evident in the English department. One of the requirements in earning a minor in the subject is taking British or American literature before 1800 while another covers the following period. However, only one class covering this material, British literature before the 1800’s, is available for the Fall 2008 semester.

“At this point, we don’t have specifics,” Edmonds said when asked about the Board’s long-term plans. “But this is a serious issue that the Board is determined to work on for as long as it takes.”

The institutions will probably be given some leeway to use that money however they choose; however, it must be used to retain existing faculty.

NICE TO MEET YOU: Mechanical engineering major, C.J. Calabrese, meets with his school dean, Arif Minnihan during “Meet your Dean” in the Graham Center Ballrooms Aug. 25.

University refutes verdict, values new football stadium

MAIDIQUE, page 1

cept money from Pharmed?
A: No. There was a point in the history of Pharmed when they were lauded as the first Hispanic company to go over a billion dollars. They were heroes in the community and I think we might have held out for a higher price, that’s about the only thing. We wouldn’t have gotten it because they went under, that happens. The name, of course, has been withdrawn.

Q: Do you think the University should conduct thorough background checks to preserve our image?
A: I think for that donation—a person who is guilty, you are innocent unless proven guilty.

Q: Won’t there be a change of policy with other donors?
A: Yeah, higher prices.

Q: Can you comment on the discrimination case brought on by Sean St. Louis?
A: We are appealing because we think it’s absolutely unjustified. To come to FIU and say we discriminated, that is almost a joke.

A: Football is a way of saying we have attitude. It’s a major university, we are a university to be reckoned with. Football is the easiest way for FIU to get the word out.

A: If I were in Massachusetts, no. But we are in Florida and in Florida, football is king. It’s our only second year in Division 1-A and when you are 40 years old, you’ll see us beating the best teams in the nation.

Q: So, your decisions with the football team are strategic?
A: Football is a way of saying we have arrived, we are a major university, we are a university to be reckoned with. Football is the easiest way for FIU to get the word out.

A: I’ve told the football coaches, football team and the athletic director—you have to do potential to do good but I don’t want one thing out of line here.
FIU was the only American university invited to participate and represent the United States in the “Future House Village” project. “Future House USA has been a defining moment in [my] life,” said engineering major Denisse Aranada, who worked on the project.

In addition to the power and water efficiency, the house uses ground source—energy used from under the ground—and solar thermal energy. Therefore, it conserves natural resources. With a measurement of 3,200 square feet, the house’s features are made of only nontoxic materials, adhesives and laminates. A recycled aluminum and zinc stone coated roofing system and doors made of wheat straw inner cores for enhanced indoor air quality are some examples of natural materials used to build the house.

When visitors walk through the house’s wheat straw doors, their feet are also greeted by bamboo floor made from recycled wood. These features add to the FHUSA’s outdoors theme, which can be compared to a “hut in the mountain,” said FIU engineering professor and project director Yong Tao.

According to Tao, the interior of the house, despite its modern comfort, is very nature-like with earthy brown colors. “The entire design of FHUSA was inspired by the ancient Chinese practice of Feng-shui where we utilized the laws of both heaven and Earth to create harmony in a living space,” A ranada said. “The art work is done by Frank Floyd who has art work on display as we speak in the Hirshorn Gallery in Washington D.C.”

Various engineering students have volunteered to work in FHUSA. This is a tremendous opportunity for the students, as they get the experience they need for when they graduate and pursue careers as engineers. Aranada explained the opportunity to work on this project has taught her about international relations as well as dealing with business transactions and learning about marketing and public relations. These are all things that are “not really taught in engineering school,” Aranada said.

Tao first began consulting the idea of FHUSA when he was invited to talk at a business forum named “Future Oil.” There, he began discussing the idea of creating a future house that would be the U.S. version of a green house.

The Future House community will be in display between 2007 and 2014 as a platform to inform and educate about the importance of conserving energy. “The purpose of FHUSA is to introduce foreign technology that everybody can learn from and, then expand on it,” Tao said.
Freshmen can meet their peers during luau

DAIANA KUCAWCA
Contributing Writer

Biscayne Bay Campus’ annual Freshman Luau welcomes students to the Fall term with free food, music, art and gifts.

The luau is “designed to welcome new students to the University and Biscayne Bay,” said Rafael Zapata, assistant director of Campus Life.

According to Zapata, “first year students will be able to meet other students, faculty and staff,” while also enjoying good music and food. The event is a tradition at FIU five years in the running.

The luau will take place in Panther Square at BBC on Aug. 28, from 11:30 a.m. to 2 p.m. The event is free and open to the public, but “is really meant for incoming freshmen,” according to Sarah David, office manager for Campus Life at BBC.

According to David, the event will feature many activities such as a caricature artist, T-shirt giveaways and table games. Entertainment will be provided by Travelin’ Max, whom David describes as “a Jimmy Buffet kind of performance.”

On his Web site, the entertainer describes his show as “the ultimate audience participation act.” His act includes giveaways including maracas, hats and leis.

Beer-brewing gives course work a facelift

CHRISTOPHER ADAMS
Contributing Writer

As the old saying goes, “It’s not good to drink before noon,” but FIU is willing to make an exception with home brewing: a new subject starting this past summer, where students learn to brew their own beers.

“We specialize in the home brewing equipment because folks can take it home with them, and they can buy home brewing kits,” said Professor Barry Gump.

According to Gump, it takes the class seven to ten days to brew and bottle a beer.

“We go over a number of styles of beer – this summer we brewed four times going over light ales, stouts, porters and India Pale Ales,” Gump said.

Gump was a professor of chemistry and oenology at Fresno State University and California State University, prior to transferring to FIU where he has taught for one year.

“Home brewing is a new subject; the traditional course was brewing sciences. I taught a home brewing class [before] at Fresno State – it was sort of an independent study,” Gump said. “Recently, I received an e-mail stating that I probably was the only one teaching an academic brewing class in all of Florida.”

The class is only offered at the Biscayne Bay Campus, but is open to all majors.

Some students attending the course never knew this class existed, until they heard it from a third party.

“I saw an article in the paper for a class about brewing beer, and it was three credits so I decided to take it,” said George Miliam, a senior liberal arts major. “It is a nice, fun and different class to take.”

Although students do not need to be 21 to take the course, there is a catch.

“Due to the nature of the class and University rules, students need to be of age in order to taste their brews, and sample beers set out for the class and exams,” Gump said.

The class is available this Fall semester on Mondays and Wednesdays, from 2 p.m. until 5 p.m.
Microsoft, Rock the Vote partner for convenience

By Iris Febres
Asst. Opinion Editor

To overlook 12 million people solely because they’re considered gamers — and therefore, probably uninterested in politics — is ludicrous.

Eric Feldman
Opinion Editor

Registration through a console is questionable

Now available at your local GameStop: Race for the White House X.B. As the line blurs further between gaming and reality — I don’t remember if I killed that hooker for real or if it was during a trip to San Andreas — young Americans who previously did not have enough time to put down their controllers between yells of “B.O.O.M! HEADSHOT!” and register for who runs their community and leads their country will now be able to do so directly from an XBox 360, thanks to a collaborative effort between Microsoft and civic activism group Rock the Vote.

It’s not like you couldn’t already sign up for perhaps your most vital civic duty of voting without leaving your house. Registration forms can already be printed from your county’s Supervisor of Elections Web site and mailed in to the office. But I can understand that paying off your monthly XBox LIVE subscription takes priority over the postage. Since voting is indeed so important, I should be happy that it is being made easier to simply pop open a laptop and write an e-mail. So why mail in a form you sat down at a desk and wrote a handwritten letter to a friend?

Perhaps the more important step toward additional convenience, following a trend we see today with evolving technology, is no excuse for apathy.

With online registration and early voting, anyone who uses time as an excuse for forgetting their right to vote simply does not care enough.

A door not shutting on any voter registration drives with these vast resources — this one hopes to sign up 2 million voters — is their focus on youth. It is vital to our democracy to encourage young citizens to play their role in the system.

But where are the voter drives on the AOL message boards for “Funky Fifths?” Could this have anything to do with the ideological views of the youth crowd? A recent report on the Web site for the Young Democrats of America, http://yda.org, young people support Democrats by a margin of 2 to 1. There are other concerns about political motives behind the XBox drive as well.

“This collaboration is truly a double-edged sword,” said Andre Jaumot, a junior majoring in finance. “This XBox drive can also be used as a means to directly influence our youthful demographics toward bipartisanship. Personally I feel that multi-partisan governments are the best examples of a democratic nation.”

I am not so mentioned that I see Microsoft’s Political Action Committee Web site states that it supports “bipartisan” causes.

So, vote, or don’t. But be aware of your own decisions, and don’t make it necessary to show a registration form down your throat.

Democrats should feel like a tooth extraction.

Contact Iris Febres at iris.febres@fi usm.com

GAME TIME

With a pending election around the corner, efforts are being made to grab voters using the Xbox 360

Contact Eric Feldman at eric.feldman@fi usm.com

August 27, 2008

www.fi usm.com
First impressions may happen sooner than you think

"Vodka and a zanex, a girl's best friends."

A student recently posted this as her status on her Facebook this past week, thinking only her friends would be able to see it. Frequently updated statuses may be commonly shared with close friends and acquaintances, but how about your mother or, even worse, a recruiter for your ideal internship or job? Personal information students are posting on the web could be giving them a bad reputation and even blacklisting them from a dream job.

According to The New York Times, many companies that recruit on college campuses have long been using search engines like Google and Yahoo! to conduct background checks on college students looking for internships and entry level jobs. But now, recruiters are taking it to the next level by looking up applicants on popular social networking sites like Facebook, MySpace, Xanga and Friendster. Students often post inappropriate photographs and inappropriate comments about drinking, drug use and sexual activity on what they assume is their private page. "It's an invasion of privacy, I understand that companies are looking to find more information on you as an individual and, by looking at your profile, you definitely able to obtain things that they would have never gotten through interviews or a normal background check," Tina Adebob, a senior and hopeful employment seeker said.

What one does in one's private life may be private, but once it's posted to the web and becomes public, it is surrendered to the public for judgement. Companies in general care about public image and do not want any liabilities. No matter what the protest may be, companies are going to continue collecting information on future employees, as well as their current employees, as protection on their investment.

If your personal profile isn’t following with a company’s value system then you might be out of luck for a job. "I’ve always tried to keep both my Myspace and my Facebook clean in general," said Mariel Aleman, a senior and current Ocean Drive Magazine intern.

Business Week recently reported that your online reputation is more important than your word-of-mouth reputation, with that said it’s time for students to start cleaning up their profiles and here are some guidelines for where to start:

- Change your privacy settings to filter who is able to see your profile. Options can include just your friends to an entire network such as your college.
- Remove any pictures where you are clearly intoxicated or under the influence of drugs, as well as any picture where anyone possesses a beer funnel or being.
- Understand the site’s privacy policy and privacy settings. Consider the strength of assurances given about privacy and security on the sites you visit, and the conditions of acceptance. You might find that you are being asked to consent to wider commercial uses of your information.
- Remove any pictures of being Naked, half naked or almost naked. This also includes people surrounding you in the picture.
- Leave any groups that promote illegal activities, are politically incorrect or are in any way inappropriate or degrading.
- Get rid of all things previously mentioned in your special interest and quotes area.
- Don’t write any blogs or notes mentioning any of the above activities.
- Don’t assume that anything you post online is completely private or limited to certain groups, or that the passwords you set up cannot be accessed through inadequate software protection. Even basic information, such as an address, birthday, photo or mobile number can be coupled with other public information, enabling someone to steal your identity.
- Lastly, use common sense and start using the internet in your own benefit and gain. You’re more likely to be rewarded than denied during your next interview.

"I strongly feel that who I am in my personal life, is very different than who I am in a business setting. "It almost feels like these employers are stalking whatever happened to just calling your references?" Adebob said.
Panther Camp helps students cope with first-year jitters

KASSANDRA POOL
Staff Writer

There may not be a book for dummies or a crash course on how to survive college, but for incoming freshmen, there’s Panther Camp.

Founded in 2006 as an attempt to help freshmen have a smoother transition from high school to college, PC has expanded over the last two years.

What began with one camp for 25 incoming students has grown into two camps for a total of 125 incoming freshmen at each camp.

Up until the day of, students don’t really know what to expect. The only knowledge they have of PC is the hype given during orientation during the Get a Life segment.

Incoming freshman Andrew Gill is excited to meet new people and make friends at camp.

“It’s a big college and you are coming in as a freshman, you don’t know a lot of people. It’s nice to recognize a face in the crowd when school starts, that way you don’t feel so alone,” Gill said.

Over the course of seven to eight months, the 20 facilitators selected for the 2008 year have been rigorously training and planning to ensure the success of each camp.

PC facilitator, Scott Tenerio, a junior and political science major, looks forward to the outcome of their hard work at the end of the camp.

“Knowing that I made a difference in someone’s life — that is my guidance [to continue], knowing that I influenced them to change and gave them [the] experience of a lifetime,” he said.

Once students arrived at the camp they are broken off into groups, each containing about 10 to 12 students who are paired up with their two facilitators.

From water sports to team building activities, from ice breakers and FIU cheer songs to making smores, the facilitators have created the three day camp to not only motivate the students, but to create and build upon their school pride.

Just like any other camp, PC has their secrets that only those who attend camp know about, such as the acronym P.R.I.D.E. that was created by the 2006 facilitators.

This year both panther camps took place at Lake Worth, Florida. The first session took place Aug. 6 - 9 and the second camp took place Aug. 21 - 23. Students who went to PC paid $50 to attend and were able select the date they preferred according to space and availability.

A long with the $50 fee, students who signed up were also given a free, one year membership to the Student Alumni Association.

Some of the sponsors this year include S.A.A., the Residence Hall Association and Campus Life.

Sophomores and Facilitators Ruben Diaz-Neda and Ivana Harris can both agree that one of the most rewarding aspects is seeing how much the campers enjoy the camp and seeing them evolve into leaders on campus.

For incoming freshmen and marketing major Jason Caceres, the experience of attending PC has left him with tremendous amount of school pride and the motivation to get involved on campus.

“I went in knowing two people, but left [the camp] knowing 300,” Caceres said.
What I like most about my job is that the field of ITS is relatively new in Miami-Dade County. Everyday you come into work, there is always something new and exciting to work on, such as travel times, ramp metering, express lanes and the Florida 511 system.

Manuel Fontan
FIU Alumnus

As a consultant, I like that I get to work on a lot of different projects,” Mitchell said. Civil engineers are always working with different clients with different ideas. Mitchell enjoys taking these jobs on and seeing what he can do with them. Civil engineering projects take lots of time to work on. Those looking for a 9-to-5 job won’t find it in the civil engineering world. “It’s not a traditional job as far as hours are concerned. You’re working for whoever your client is and it all depends on how much they want you working,” Mitchell said.

Mitchell has taken some collegiate skills he learned at FIU with him into his everyday job. The analyzing and problem solving skills he learned in his engineering classes also come in handy. “Just knowing how to manage your time, your responsibility, yourself, helps a lot,” Mitchell said.

Mitchell hopes what he learns at his current job will help him with what he someday hopes to be: a city or county manager. “It’s basically the mayor’s right-hand man. He makes sure the mayor carries out his promises,” Mitchell said.

ITS Project Manager Manuel Fontan is a 2004 FIU graduate. After graduation, Fontan worked at the Florida Department of Transportation as a P.E. Trainee. The job required learning about all of the different elements of transportation engineering. One of them was Intelligent Transportation System, so when Fontan saw an opening at the ITS field of the Department of Transportation, he applied. “What I like most about my job is that the field of ITS is relatively new in Miami-Dade County. Everyday you come into work, there is always something new and exciting to work on, such as travel times, ramp metering, express lanes and the Florida 511 system,” Fontan said.

Fontan is currently studying for his Master’s degree at FIU and plans on continuing to study there once he gets it. “There are plenty of other areas which I feel I may assist with my daily job duties,” Fontan said.

His studies help him everyday at work, thanks to two important lessons he remembers day after day. “The most important things I learned in FIU, which have helped me succeed in my career, are ‘learning how to learn’ and ‘the ability to adapt to change’,” Fontan said.

The most important thing to Fontan though is to continue providing exceptional service to motorists in Miami-Dade and Monroe Counties. “I am responsible for the operations of the center (planning, budgeting, procedures development, operations strategies and implementation), including the operators that manned the center and the Road Rangers,” Rodriguez said.

It sounds like a lot to deal with but the 2001 graduate—who also earned a Masters in 2003—finds it very rewarding to have such an impact on drivers in Miami-Dade and Monroe Counties. “Hopefully … drivers could experience less congestion on the various highways managed,” Rodriguez said.

Rodriguez believes the Masters program highly enhanced his knowledge of civil engineering. “FIU gave me a great foundation in order for me to be able to perform many of my daily duties,” Rodriguez said.

As far as the future is concerned, Rodriguez hopes to continue to gain knowledge and experience, as well as take advantage of the various opportunities at the Florida Department of Transportation. The ITS section might have three FIU alumni working closely together but it’s not the only place. The Department of Transportation has many former Golden Panthers working behind its doors.

“Traffic Operations at the Department of Transportation is full of FIU graduates. Really, FIU engineering has lots of people working all over the county,” Mitchell said.

The RIAA (Recording Industry Association of America) and other organizations do!

The RIAA and other production companies are suing individuals including Students and settling violations at $200-$3000 per violation, meaning that a single full CD of illegal downloads could result in a lawsuit with the minimum settlement amount for 10 illegal downloads for the total of $30,000. There have been many cases that result in higher totals. To date, FIU has received subpoenas demanding information on 32 FIU students for possible RIAA lawsuits.

Downloading and Illegal file sharing from the FIU network will also land you in the Office of Student Conduct. Generally the following sanctions are assigned, depending on the violation, to the individuals found responsible: Conduct Probation for one semester, the student is not in good standing with the university, Ethics and Personal Decision Making Workshop, Reflection paper after the workshop, Loss of privileges or access to the internet for a short period of time (until you meet with Office of Student Conduct)

Illegal Downloading is Stealing!! Don’t do it! It can cost you money and more!!! You are responsible for what happens on your computer!

security.fiu.edu/misuse
On Aug. 15 at the Culture Room, Chicago pop-punk band The Hush Sound took some time after a show to talk to The Beacon.

The Beacon: Can you tell us a little bit about the band?

Gretta Salpeter: Well, Bob and I met when I was 12 and he was 15. We became friends and started to write music. Then Chris [Faller], our bass player, came in. That’s when we became a band. A couple of years later, we recorded an album on our own and put it online.

Ryan [Ross] from Panic! at the Disco stumbled upon it and sent it over to Pete Wentz of Fall Out Boy. He quickly signed us to Fueled By Ramen and we began a series of extensive cross country tours. During half of the last tour we almost broke up as a band.

We didn’t see it going anywhere for some reason, then we did a headlining tour and it was absolutely amazing. The crowds were very responsive.

We figured we had something really special in our hands, so we decided to stay together. We finished our tour and hit the studio and now we’re finally on the road with a really fun record in our hands.

The Beacon: Tell us more about [the band’s latest] album [Goodbye Blues]. It’s your third one and the sound has indeed evolved but you can still hear traces of old Hush Sound.

Salpeter: Well, the record is still pop music. [It’s] still kind of whimsical and imaginative, but it has its roots in the history of American pop music. When I was writing I was listening to a lot of early jazz and blues, it has an American feel to it, very folk.

Chris Faller: With this album we’ve kind of simplified [the sound] a little. [We’ve] brought it down to the bare minimum, to the essentials, and kind of built it back up again [and] we are very much proud of [it].

Salpeter: This is our first adult record, we matured very much. With the first two albums I feel like we were babies, [like we] didn’t know what we were doing, still trying to figure out what kind of music we wanted to make and now we finally got it down.

The Beacon: This is not your first time in South Florida. The last time you came I believe was with Fall Out Boy. How do you like South Florida thus far?

Faller: Well, aside from today’s humidity, Florida has actually been really good to us. I mean, a lot of bands come down here and don’t do as well for some reason. I guess it’s the culture of the region. It’s also got to do with the genre I believe, but for some reason (we have) been welcomed here, we’ve always had very awesome and responsive fans.

The Beacon: Your tour is about to wrap up in one more week. How has it been for you guys? Any good experiences or stories you’d like to share?

Salpeter: Oh yeah, so far we’ve really enjoyed it. All the bands on the bill have been awesome. The lifestyle however has been one of the most challenging. Our tour bus isn’t exactly the most comfortable place to inhabit, [laughs] but we’ve liked seeing the fans every night and getting on stage. [We are] kind of sad it’s almost over.

The Beacon: Speaking of the fans, how have they reacted to the new and improved Hush Sound?

Faller: Oh, we’ve had some crazy, well crazy I guess not the right word, over enthusiastic fan encounters in the past, but this time around it looks like they’ve chilled out a bit. They’ve more relaxed and a lot sweeter.

Salpeter: We’ve got the greatest people as fans. We recently got a dinosaur shaped cake with our name on it. It was great.

The Beacon: Do you have any request for treats while on the road?

Gretta: Yes. We love fresh fruit and veggies, so if anyone wants to bring us those we’ll thank you with kisses.

The Beacon: Good to know for the next time you comeback to town. What’s in store for The Hush Sound in the future? Coming back anytime soon?

Chris: Well, we’re going overseas to Japan with The Academy Is ... and we’re very excited. Then we’re coming back and doing a few dates with One Republic back in the states.

Gretta: Afer that we’re pretty much taking over the world. It seems like a lot in a short time, but we can’t wait.

Read the rest of the interview online at FIUSM.com.
Delivering FIU sports to your door, radio and computer

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Lady Golden Panthers seek turnaround in ‘08

As for what FIU needed after Everton Edwards ended his 22 year tenure as the women's soccer coach, it was exactly what FIU needed after Everton Edwards ended his 22 year tenure as the women's soccer coach. It was moving them in a new direction and adding new energy," Chestnutt said.

Chestnutt said the coaching staff was second on the team in 2008. "I'm really excited about the new coaching change. We have a lot of experience and credentials to assist in preparing the freshmen for their upcoming contests."

Chestnutt said, "I'm really excited about the new coaching change. We have a lot of experience and credentials to assist in preparing the freshmen for their upcoming contests."

Pappas was second on the team in points, goals, and assists. She started in 26 of 17 matches and scored the team’s first goal of the season versus the University of North Florida on Aug. 31.

Returning forward Claudia Cardenas should once again be a key factor in the Golden Panther offense as she led the team last season with six goals.

Utilizing her speed to start the FIU attack, senior forward Maria Guadron returns to open up the FIU offense. To retain the defensive aggression from last season, the Golden Panthers bring back senior Kiah Rigby and junior Amy Jackson.

Jackson dominated on defense and scored one goal in her first start of the season against Florida Gulf Coast on Sept. 2 of last year.

Rigby started in 15 games and was a crucial part in back-to-back shutouts against Louisiana at Monroe on Oct. 12 and Louisiana-Lafayette on Oct. 14.

With such talent from both rook-ies and veterans, the coaching staff has set their expectations high. "We are much faster than we have been in past seasons and an overall stronger team," Chestnutt said.

This speed and agility will be a huge factor in the Atlantic Sun Conference last season. The Golden Panthers hosted Florida Gulf Coast University on Sunday, August 24.

The Eagles 2-0 lead early in the first half led to a loss of momentum for the Golden Panthers defense, which allowed the Eagles to move into halftime with a comfortable 3-0 lead.

Though FIU missed on two early scoring opportunities by Marina Pappas and Miriam Mercado, the Golden Panthers left the Eagles scoreless in the second half.

Sophomore Claudia Cardenas scored in the 65th minute off of a perfect assist from freshman Jessica Gambill. Pappas then scored off of a loose ball in the 90th minute.

The Eagles walked away with the 3-2 victory. The Golden Panthers will be back in action as they travel across town to the University of Miami on Aug. 29 and then host the University of Buffalo on Aug. 31.

LEADING CLOSER: Kerion Stewart, center, looks to win the 100 meters final, in front of Sheri-Ann Brooks, left, and Sheronne Simpson, right, during the Jamaican National Track and Field Championships and Olympic qualifier, in Kingston, Saturday, June 28, 2008.

SPORTS

Volleyball receives preseason accolades

The Golden Panthers opened the season on Aug. 29-30 at the Big Orange Bash at Clemson. They will continue onto the Middle Tennessee Invitational from Sept. 4-6, after which, they will return home to host a tournament for the first time since 2008, the FIU Invitational. Home games are at 6 p.m. Sept. 26, Troy Sept. 27, Denver Oct. 10, and North Texas Oct 12th.

After a road trip, the home schedule continues with conference matches against Old Dominion, Louisiana-Monroe and Louisiana-Lafayette (Oct. 31, Nov. 1, and Nov. 2nd). The last chance fans have to see the team at home is Nov. 7 with Middle Tennessee and Wester-Kentucky coming to town.

Coach Tomic has a positive out-look for this season, using last sea-son and a learning experience looking ahead to bigger and better things. "Overall, the whole attitude of the team is very positive and think they are committed to the process. Things need to be done to get the NCAA's this year ...

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ANNOUNCEMENTS

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Men’s soccer needs more scoring

BIG THREE, page 12

Returning to help assist the offense, and create some consistency are sophomore forward Cabas and junior forward/midfielder Caporali.

Cabas showed considerable talent in his freshman campaign, when adjusting the col-lege game. He placed second on the team with five goals scored, and three assists.

Cabas seems poised for a breakout after his stellar play in the post-season, where he scored two key goals.

Caporali netted four goals last season, teaming up with Guerra and Cabas to provide the bulk of the offense for the Golden Panthers last season.

The defense, which was the strong suit of the team last season will be without both Ainsley Deer and Raoul Voss, who both graduated.

Eketebe hopes the defense will be bolstered by the addition of two new recruits, freshman Brian Carvahal and junior transfer Dane Smith.

Seniors Phill Fisher and Corey Kendall will be counted on heavily to be adequate stop-gaps and junior Kyle Emerson could con-trIBUTE as well, although he has been hampered by a leg injury.

The team is kicking off the season against a formidable North Carolina squad on Aug. 29, and then faces the defending national champi-ons in Wake Forest on Aug. 31.

There remains little doubt that the thoughts on the hearts and minds of the Golden Panther soccer team is to exceed the accomplishments of last year’s surprising season, while proving the team’s regular season record in the process.

us. Sabrina is a very talented athlete who has a lot of room to grow. It’s amazing how fast she has learned her volleyball skills and I was surprised when I found out that she has only been playing for three years.”

The depth of talent on the back row will increase the competition for playing time. Vying for that playing time are seniors Vanessa Romero and Marlon Drumova, and freshmen Nina Colon and Rachael Fernandez. “It will be interesting, there will be a lot of competition and everything is up for grabs,” Tomic said.

The schedule does not consist of any easy stretches. Before conference play begins, the Lady Golden Panthers will match up against seven teams who reached the NCAA tournament last year.

The highlight of the schedule will be November 20-22, when FIU hosts the Sun Belt Conference Championship at FIU arena.

The Lady Golden Panthers opened the season on Aug. 29-30 at the Big Orange Bash at Clemson. They will continue onto the Middle Tennessee Invitational from Sept. 4-6, after which, they will return home to host a tournament for the first time since 2008, the FIU Invitational. Home games are at 6 p.m. Sept. 26, Troy Sept. 27, Denver Oct. 10, and North Texas Oct 12th.

After a road trip, the home schedule continues with conference matches against Old Dominion, Louisiana-Monroe and Louisiana-Lafayette (Oct. 31, Nov. 1, and Nov. 2nd). The last chance fans have to see the team at home is Nov. 7 with Middle Tennessee and Western Kentucky coming to town.

Coach Tomic has a positive outlook for this season, using last season and a learning experience looking ahead to bigger and better things. “Overall, the whole attitude of the team is very positive and think they are committed to the process. Things need to be done to get the NCAA's this year ...
Recruits add depth to veteran team

**MEN’S SOCCER**

**NEW ADDITIONS**

Coming out of last season, we saw the areas that needed improvement and we addressed those areas with our new players.

**Thomas Chestnutt**

**Head coach**

Broward County’s 2007 Player of the Year and two-time All-Broward 5A-6A First Team selection, Juan Guerra, was the sparkplug for the Golden Panthers offense last season, scoring a team-leading eight goals and chipping in three assists.

Eketebi seemed to find himself in a perfect situation when his time as a freshman, and he was one of only four players to start in all 17 contests.

Balensiifre was setting when FIU upset Missouri at the end of the season and in the conference tournament. She was setting when FIU upset Missouri last season, and Tomic seems to have confidence in her. "We got some time as a freshman, and we will look to her more this year," Chestnutt said.

**Women’s soccer has all the key ingredients needed for a winning season with 12 new promising recruits and a handful of solid veterans.**

Though the team ended its 2007 season with only three wins, the new additions will be instrumental in putting together a fresh start and improved results.

“Coming out of last season, we saw the areas that needed improvement and we addressed those areas with our new players in the offseason and for the most part, we were excited, even when we were losing.”

Chestnutt came to FIU from Fresno State, where he served as an assistant coach. His repeated trips to the NCAA Tournament, committed recruiting, and conference titles were expected.

**JOSE MARTINEZ**

**Staff Writer**

One of the biggest surprises in the world of collegiate sports last season was the unforeseeable turn of events that led to the FIU Golden Panthers (5-13-2) making an appearance in the Conference USA Tournament finals.

They defeated No. 5 ranked Southern Methodist University in the tournament opener (by a score of 3-2) behind the offensive outbursts by the “Big Three.”

Forwards Juan Guerra, Steven Galas and Christian Capoletti also upset Marshall University, 3-2 in overtime to reach the conference finals, where they lost to No. 9 ranked Tulsa in a devastating fashion (by a score of 3-2), in spite of holding the lead, and controlling the game, until the final five minutes.

First-year head coach Thomas Chestnutt announced that Perry would be joining the 2008 recruiting class, which was ranked third in the Sun Belt Conference by Soccer Buz.

Perry joins seven freshmen and two transfers who are practicing hard to fill the void of the six seniors who completed their tenure at FIU last season.

Playing an integral part of the FIU attack last season was midfielders Francesca Chong, Chong was one of only four players to start in all 17 contests.

Right alongside Chang was goalkeeper Madeline Gannon who also started every contest. Due to the two seniors, the Golden Panthers were thrust into the conference title game.

The FIU women’s volleyball team enters the 2008 season with high expectations.

The starters are returning to a squad that was one win away from qualifying for NCAA tournament and posted a 19-8 overall record.

Two-time All-American Yarimar Rosa and first team All-Sun Belt Conference selection Olga Vergun help bolster the strength of the team, outside hitter.

Head Coach Daniella Tomic is entering her fourth season at the helm, has led the revival of the squad, taking them from a three win season in 2004, to 24 wins two seasons later, and getting into the Sun Belt Conference Championship match the last two seasons. With better performance, comes increased expectations. "I felt we could have done better (last year) Coach Tomic said. "Our goal is to make the NCAA’s every year, and I believe our returners feel the same way.

Coach Tomic feels the team has worked hard during the offseason, and has a positive outlook toward the outcome of this season." [The team] worked really hard on getting stronger in the weight room, better conditioning, and sharpening their skills; focusing on the details. Overall, everyone has gotten better." In addition to Rosa and Vergun, sophomore Ines Medved, and senior transfer Isadora Rangel add depth and strength to the already strong outside hitter position.

Medved averaged 2.33 kills a game in conference play and ranked fourth on the team in both regular season play. Coach Tomic reflecting on what Rangel brings to the team. "Isadora will add depth to the outside hitter position, she is very physical, has a big arm, and is an experienced player who knows the game. She has good size and will help up blocking."

The outside hitter position can now be utilized to its full potential if there are players to set them up. Returning Sophomore Natalia Valentin and new transfer Ashley Bakenske from the University of M issouri-Rolla, are going to take over as the team’s setters.

Valentin’s unexpected development started as a freshman, getting major minutes towards the end of the season and in the conference tournament. She was setting when FIU upset Missouri last season, and Tomic seems to have confidence in her. "We got some time as a freshman, and we will look to her more this year," Balensiifre said. "If Natalia … they will be a good combination."

Returning Junior Gaby James will team up with new comer Andrea Lakovic and local recruit Sabrina Gonzalez to see the majority of the time at the middle blocker position. Tomic noted on her expectations of the middle blockers. "Gaby was another who really improved a lot over the spring, in practice she was sort of a utility player for us … now she is focusing just on playing middle and that will make a difference. A ndrea will make an immediate impact; she is the type of middle I’ve been looking to add … she should be a great addition.

"Our goal is to make the NCAA’s every year, and I believe our returners feel the same way.

A new face is poised to join Guerra, and bring some flare to the offense, namely junior transfer Ricardo Ximenes, who was named the Conference USA Preseason Offensive Player of the Year this season, and was named to the Preseason All-Conference USA team.

Guerra was the spark plug for the Golden Panther offense last season, scoring a team-leading eight goals, and assisting on two more. Guerra’s eight goals and seven assists.

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