Forum highlights green solutions

ELIZABETH M. NICKERSON
Staff Writer

The University’s blue and gold is now turning earth-friendly green. Students for Environmental Action organized an environmental forum where seven University representatives, including Parking and Transportation and Dining Services, spoke about new green initiatives around University Park and Biscayne Bay Campus.

According to Foster, there are currently two buses running on 100 percent biodiesel between UP and the Engineering Campus. The rest of the buses will be on 20 percent biodiesel by the end of the semester. “Not only is it environmentally sound, but it gives us better gas mileage,” Foster said.

Foster also reminded students that UMBRELLA-ELLA-ELLA

NATALIE GIL-DEL RIO
Staff Writer

The Phi Sigma Sigma Sorority will present its seventh annual fashion show, an event tied with Dance Marathon to help collect proceeds for the Miami Children’s Hospital Children’s Miracle Network Foundation on Nov. 21 at 8 p.m. "This is a really fun and creative way of doing a charity event to help raise money for a great foundation," said Jamie Fredericks, a Delta Phi Epsilon sorority member modeling for the event.

The fashion show has received over 22 sponsorships and is well on its way to becoming one of the largest fund-raisers the sorority has ever organized.

Over 120 models, Greek and non-Greek affiliated, auditioned for the show. The auditions ran from Sept. 29 through Oct. 1 and were judged by Phi Sigma Sigma alumni as well as professional photographer Lorraine Diart.

Among the 44 models chosen to walk at this year’s fashion show is Priscilla Martinez, a Delta Phi Epsilon member and model, who has walked for professional designers such as Rafael Cinemo and Myra Cisneros.

"Fashion and modeling is something I love, runway modeling in general, and to do what I love to do for such a wonderful cause is like a two-in-one scenario," Martinez said. VIP tickets for $20, which include unlimited catering to each seat as well as front-row seating, will be provided at the event for viewers.

Tickets are on sale in the Graham Center pit. Presale tickets are $10 or $12 at the door.

Proceeds from the event will go toward FIU’s Dance Marathon, a fund-raiser in which participants engage in various physical activities for 25 hours straight, such as dancing, laser tag, basketball and rock climbing, among others.

Since its inception into the University in 1997, the event has raised $500,000 for the Miami Children’s Hospital Foundation.

Fashion show raises funds for kids
**Technology enhances artwork**

Students will have option of fresh, organic food on campus

For the President’s Climate Action Plan, University President Modesto A. Maidique announced an extension of Winter Break Holidays for employees on Dec. 29, 30 and 31.

Employees with benefits are allowed the time off with pay. Deans, department heads and directors will decide which specific areas will be operating, according to the memo.

They also should notify their Vice President which personnel will work during the three-day span from Nov. 24.

The Division of Human Resources must receive all final lists by Dec. 5.

University Park and Biscayne Bay Campuses will provide limited food services. For the both campuses’ library hours visit [http://library.fiu.edu/home/hours.aspx](http://library.fiu.edu/home/hours.aspx).

**New Chief of Staff appointed**

University President Modesto A. Maidique announced the appointment of Javier I. Marques as his chief of staff, according to a press release from the Office of Media Relations.

Marques, who was chief of staff for Miami-Dade County Commissioner Joe A. Martinez for the past eight years, will assume his new duties for the university on Dec. 1.

“I am thrilled about joining the FIU team,” Marques said. “I look forward to using my experience in the public sector and educational background to help FIU grow and thrive as a university.”

Among his accomplishments, Marques structured the current Board of County Commission Office of Intergovernmental Affairs, while strengthening local relationships with the Dade Delegation and local elected officials.

Marques also has been credited for organizing and directing several hurricane relief missions within Florida in the aftermath of numerous hurricanes, as well as the largest organized relief effort to Mississippi in the aftermath of Hurricane Katrina.

Marques will succeed Mayra Beers, who was the chief of staff for the past two years and will now serve as the director for the Center for Leadership.

Compiled by Sergio Bonilla and Julio Menache

Beacon Staff

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**Students will have option of fresh, organic food on campus**

Transportation is probably the biggest emission of greenhouse gasses at FIU.

**GOING GREEN, page 1**

Parked and Transportation started a new program this academic year known as GreenRide.

The carpool program matches students who travel the same route to the University and share similar schedules to open parking spaces on-campus, reducing greenhouse gas emissions.

Other attempts to reduce greenhouse gas emissions included shortening work schedules during the summer. The University, water heaters - excluding the residential housing areas - will be moved, as well as heated hand dryers in Graham Center restrooms to reduce electricity usage.

Hand dryers will be replaced by Dyson Air Blade ones which do not require a heating system, explained Carlos Carrasco from Graham Center Operations.

Housing will soon have an earth-friendly makeover, too.

According to Oestreich, Panther Dining will no longer use styrofoam containers for to-go foods, but a reusable plastic container for next semester.

Nancy Maidique, public health graduate student and President Modesto A. Maidique’s wife, explained how multiple healthy selections on campus are important.

According to Maidique, Organic Farmers Market will be selling organic foods and fresh produce every Wednesday starting Dec. 3.

Joost “Joe” Nuninga, assistant director of Custodial Services, said recycling will be streamlined to make it a more efficient process for students.

Recycling bins will be placed in Housing and classroom rooms to make them more available. Paper is the most recycled product on campus, with 40 tons recycled a month, Nuninga said.

As the University slowly goes green, Panthers Go Green, a housing-based student club, wants to make its contribution in a less practical way.

The club will have an art show at the Patricia and Phillip Frost Art Museum with “prominent FIU figures” giving pro-green presentations, explained Green representative Nour Zaamer.

“To help FIU implement a greener university go to [http://wordpress.fiu.edu/gogreen](http://wordpress.fiu.edu/gogreen)."
DUEL OF THE FATES: Ivan Catalan (right) won the “Guitar Hero” competition after playing “Paranoid” and “Same Old Song and Dance.” The tournament was projected on a screen in Panther Square on Nov. 19.

SERGIO MONTEALEGRE
Contributing Writer

“Guitar Hero” competition tests skill, promotes services

As a little boy, I always fought for fairness, justice and dignity. As I got older, I realized that there were more evil people than the gangsters...the government.

Eddie Daniels

JOSHIMAR GARCIA
Contributing Writer

Activist speaks about time in jail, fight for justice

so I said ‘Good afternoon, Mr. Mandela.’ He said please call me Nelson and welcomed me. From then on, I knew he was one of the best men to have ever walked the Earth.”

At the start of his prison term, the conditions of the prison were horrible.

Despite the privileges that came with being white in the apartheid system of South Africa, Daniels was troubled by the passes that colored people had, which prevented colored people from moving up in society. He was not allowed to have contact with white citizens.

When Daniels was a high school teacher, he saw how privileged the white children were, while the black children weren’t given the same opportunities.

According to Daniels, whites’ prosperity in society grows in a diagonal line; their chance to move up in society increases from generation to generation. Colored citizens only inherited poverty and insults. White children were born superior, and black children were born inferior.

Daniels was troubled by the passes that colored citizens carried, which determined where they could live and find work. The passes were used to limit the colored citizen workers in areas where the dominant population consisted of white citizens.

At the time, there were organizations that were against the apartheid government. One of these groups was the Liberal Party of South Africa.

“I found out about the Liberal Party accidentally,” Daniels said. He joined the Liberal Party because they were non-racial, meaning that anyone who opposed the apartheid regime could join, regardless of the color of their skin.

His involvement with the party, in which he was a high-ranking member, led to his arrest.

Daniels was held for 92 days in a detention center where they tortured the detainees. After being detained, he was sent to Robben Island, a colored prison, where he would spend 15 years of his life. It was there that Daniels met Nelson Mandela.

“When I first met him, I did not know him in person; I knew him from a distance,” Daniels said. “But in prison, the first day I was there, I was going to the toilet and this big man struck me. I looked up and saw that it was Mr. Mandela, so I said ‘Good afternoon, Mr. Mandela.’ He said please call me Nelson and welcomed me. From then on, I knew he was one of the best men to have ever walked the Earth.”

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It seems basic political knowledge has eluded many Americans. According to Dr. Adrian U. Ang, assistant professor of the political science department, "Studies by political scientists have found that political knowledge is aymalb.
A study by the new McCormick Tribune Freedom Museum found that only 29 percent of Americans could name two or more of the five freedoms listed in the First Amendment, while 52 percent of those surveyed could name at least two of the five family members from The Simpsons
The survey found about one in five people thought the right to own a pet was protected. While 38 percent said they believed the right against self-incrimination contained in the Fifth Amendment was a First Amendment right.
There are numerous studies that show the same pattern of stereotypical American ignorance. The bad news is that despite an unprecedented expansion in public education, a communications revolution has shattered national and international boundaries. Due to the increasing relevance of national and international events and policies to the daily lives of Americans, citizens appear no more informed about politics today than they were half a century ago.
In a recent research, a Pew study determined that only 30 percent of adults could name two of the five freedoms listed in the First Amendment. Most of them were shocked to discover that they did not know the whole list.
This is ‘cool’ since he seems to be relevant to youth towards diplomacy as key.
In his ability to connect with young people and supporters did not end the night of his landslide win. He recently announced that not only would he be conducting the weekly radio ‘fireside chats,’ established by President Ronald Reagan, but he would post the video on YouTube, giving a new meaning to “Web technology has forever transformed campaigning. As social-networking technologies mature, a growing number of Americans are gaining comfort in them. [Obama’s] use of technology has forever transformed campaigning. As social-networking technologies mature, a growing number of Americans are gaining comfort in them.

Vanessa Espinel
Contributing Writer

“Who wouldn’t want the complete set of limited edition Joe action figures? There’s the Plumber, Joe Six-Pack and my personal favorite, Joe Biden.”
Tina Fey said this joke as Sarah Palin on Saturday Night Live, but in the wake of what seemed to be a perpetual election, they can add another collectible to the set: Joe Cool.
President-elect Barack Obama, in the midst of his poise, candor, tech-savvy and celebrity, has made history far beyond becoming the first African-American president of the United States. His elegance and allure made him appealing to young voters and his promise for change drew in those wanting to drown the last eight years. He is at the eye of a “new world” hurricane which has suddenly made America cool.
The morning after that historic day, French junior minister of human rights Rama Yade said, “On this morning, we all want to be Americans so we can take a bite of this dream unfolding before our eyes.”

Did someone from France just say they wanted to be American? Now there is something you have not heard in a while. This is just one of the countless praises from leaders all over the globe in response to the 44th presidential election. Not to mention the fact that the likability quotient that has harvested this collection of positive reactions can be beneficial during his term.
“Tina Fey said this joke as Sarah Palin on Saturday Night Live, but in the wake of what seemed to be a perpetual election, they can add another collectible to the set: Joe Cool.Obama claimed victory with technology, charm
This obviously resonated to Obama’s camp and was duly the center of his race to the White House. Rather than opting for the traditional way of announcing his running mate, he text-messaged his VP pick. The Internet offered a heap of ways to propagate Obama’s message.
In the Oct. 2008 issue of Technology Review, Obama’s campaign said, “We provided the tools, remote training, and opportunity for supporters to build the campaign on their own.” His campaign also enlisted Chris Hughes, co-founder of Facebook, to his team.
“Compared to the majority of politicians he is ‘cool’ since he seems to be relevant to youth and the issues that are important to our generation,” Padron said.

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On the other hand, the results were not as good for gay rights, with 54 percent of respondents saying they would support gay marriage, and only 46 percent saying they would not.

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TWILIGHT FALLS

Stephanie Meyer’s best-selling tale of transpecies love hits the big screen

SUSANA RODRIGUEZ
Staff Writer

What happens when 17-year-old Bella Swan moves to the small, rain-soaked town of Forks, WA, and falls for her pretentiously beautiful classmate, Edward Cullen? You get “Twilight,” a film adaptation that puts its literary source—author Stephenie Meyer’s story about a love that transcends class, age and respective positions in the food chain—to shame.

Having caught a sneak preview on Oct. 18, fans, known collectively as Twihards, won’t be disappointed to see their beloved characters on screen.

Leads Kristen Stewart and Robert Pattinson as the transpecies lovers breathe admirable depth and humanity into two of fiction’s most indigestible characters since J.D. Salinger’s Holden Caulfield and Sylvia Plath’s Esther Green. As the everyday girl that wins the high school sweetheart lottery, Stewart transforms Meyer’s introverted Bella—who, in text, musters about as much warmth for anything that isn’t her teen Adonis as a sociopath does for a puppy litter—into an outspoken, self-assured girl who trusts her gut and follows her heart.

It’s Pattinson, however, that steals the screen (and screams) as his reimagined Edward. Playing Forks High’s B Boy as a self-loathing blood addict, and not as Meyer’s infallible and confident paramour, Pattinson delivers audiences a broken man who gets a second chance at adolescence and a first at love with Bella.

Other notable performances include Billy Burke’s tender interpretation of Chief Charlie Swan, Bella’s father, who reads as distant and disinterested in the novel but becomes a lonely father keen to reconnect with his estranged daughter in veteran hands, and Anna Kendrick’s deliciously detestable Jessica Stanley, Bella’s frenemy.

Director Catherine Hardwicke (“Thirteen” and “Lords of Dogtown”) worked with a $40 million budget showcased in clever trick shots designed to save money (watch for Edward revealing super speed abilities we only hear but can imagine from Bella’s reaction). But the production’s thriftiness starts hurting eyes when the camera pans over some characters, like Taylor Lautner’s Jacob Black and Cam Gigandet’s vampire villain James, had to endure.

Twihards may even find themselves cringing at the grainy, video booth quality special effects subjected upon Bella and Edward’s piggy back jaunts through the forest.

Also, Stewart and Pattinson, while both deserving medals for delivering some of cinema’s teeth-rottenly gooey lines in earnest, get carried away despite their good efforts.

Stewart’s reliance on acting with her eyes fails her when her furious blinking resembles an epileptic seizure, while Pattinson’s character devotion reduces Edward’s fury into emo hissy fits that would make toddlers blush.

The nail in the coffin? Edward’s climatic reveal in the meadow, where he shows Bella why he can’t go out into the sun, is underwhelming (although hilarious).

But with a plot that kicks off in the first ten minutes (not in the last quarter, Meyer), Twilight is, overall, a fun teen melodrama. In fact, it’s almost too melodramatic, which may turn off more discerning movie goers to the series entirely.

Hardwicke and her crew are hopeful you’ll stick around. At least that’s what the closing shot said.
Q-tip's thriving solo effort delivers unrivaled album

**World of Warcraft - Wrath of the Lich King**

Latest expansion offers an entire continent of novelty

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**Jonathan Ramos**
Asst. Sports Director

It isn’t what people call commercial.
It’s not quite what the industry has taken in since the golden era of hip-hop in the late ’80s that flopped into the ’90s. It wasn’t anticipated as something that would break into the sound waves and disrupt the music scene.

But after years of hiatus, Q-Tip is hitting the mic again, causing a scene. Tribe Called Quest junkies and Q-Tip fans from the last decade must grin empirically nationwide.

For the purpose of refreshing the memory, Q-Tip was a member of arguably the best hip-hop group ever, T.C.Q., and gave fans a break from the emerging gangster rhymes of its peers. Despite a successful career as the most recognizable name of the popular group, the rapper from Harlem couldn’t find success as a solo act due to labels attempting to restrict his artistic views and a lack of belief that he could successfully mesh into the mainstream on his own.

On “The Renaissance,” the rap veteran delivers a unique, refreshing and innovative project that is consistent in its sound.

On the second track of the album, “Won’t trade,” Q-Tip flips words as well as ever on a Ruby Andrews sample. The up-tempo rhythm allows Tip’s wordplay to shine.

The leading single, “Getting up,” is as smooth and cold as the other side of the pillow. When Q-Tip speaks to a woman with one of the best of flows ever and compares his love to that of Martin and Coretta Scott King, the jovial song produces the good feeling that great hip-hop can often offer. The last song on the disc is a nice one in “Shaka.” The song offers a tribute to his father, and J-Dilla, among others.

The most impressive thing about the body of work is that Q-tip, in addition to his rhytyming, produces 11 of the album’s 12 joints.

Except for when Tip uses an offering from the late J-Dilla on the boards for “Move,” Tip is responsible for every beat on the album, which were assisted by Tip’s personally recruited band, are part of the vision he had for “The Renaissance.”

With Tip speaking about topics he likes instead of focusing on the negativity around hip-hop that he has often spoken about, Q-Tip contributed to the game with something new, yet something that still exhibits a classical feel. The dope bars, an array of original funk and rhythm with a variety of instruments, and a constant sound give Q-Tip a successful solo effort.

Although the album can take on the same sound and it can be a bit repetitive, there is no knocking that the journey into Tip’s mind is one of the best hip-hop albums of the year thus far.

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**Kevin Castro**
Staff Writer

Be prepared to set out to a new and unexplored world. For almost two years, “World of Warcraft” players have waited to invade the shores of Northrend.

“World of Warcraft: The Wrath of the Lich King” is the latest expansion to the WOW franchise. As with every WOW expansion, the level cap – the limit to the maximum experience you can attain – has been raised again, and developer Blizzard has added a new world, or continent, to explore.

With the level cap raised to 80, players can become even stronger and gain new abilities. Those who got into the craze too late during the last expansion’s life can finally experience the end-game content that so few witnessed due to the ridiculous difficulty.

A new continent is now open for exploration and questing.

Northrend is twice the size of Outland and boasts twice the challenge as well. The continent offers a neutral city (where both Alliance and Horde can coexist) named Dalaran, as well as new dungeons, raids, a new arena and battleground, and for the first time: a world player versus player zone.

There are nine zones to explore in Northrend. From the frozen wastelands of Icecrown to the dense jungles of Sholazar Basin, all of them are unique and offer stunning visuals. These zones also give you the opportunity to level your professions to new heights. Although extraordinarily expensive, learning a grand master profession will yield great and numerous rewards in the long run.

Along with new professions, there is the first “hero-class:” the Death Knight. Although it can only be obtained once you have a character level of at least 55, it is well worth it. The Death Knight class is by far one of the best damage dealing and enjoyable classes in WOW.

This is all nice, but it does not compare to the expansion’s biggest achievement: 10-man raids. Gone are the days when you had to gather 40 people to raid and unlock the end-game content. Now, even small guilds can participate in the most epic battles WOW has to offer.

Over 11 million people play WOW. That is a larger population than the state of Michigan, and for good reason. WOW players, if they haven’t already, go get “Wrath of the Lich King” now.
JOHNATHAN AIPERT
Asst. Sports Director

With a school record in wins and the number one seed in the conference tournament comes increased pressure, and with all of the regular season success, comes the accolades as well.

Junior outside hitter Yarimar Rosa was named Sun Belt player of the week, as well as College Volleyball Update player of the week. This week, Rosa broke the school record for most kills in a three set match with 26 against Florida Gulf Coast. Against Florida Atlantic, three days later, she became the all-time leader in kills in the program’s history. Adriana Fundora previously held the record with 1,643 career kills. Rosa currently has 1,656. Rosa now has 10 Sun Belt Player of the week honors for her career, a conference record.

Rosa also received the Sun Belt conference player of the year honors. She was named preseason player of the year each of the last two seasons with this being her first postseason player of the year award.

“Yarimar deserves it. The numbers she’s been putting up all season long have been amazing. There’s always pressure on her, and she’s handled it so well. Anytime we need a score, the ball is going to her. She’s carried this team,” said head coach Danijella Tomic. “It takes a certain mental toughness to play the whole year on the level she has played. I’m proud of her.”

Rosa, humbled by the award, is trying to focus more on the conference tournament than the accolades. “I didn’t really expect it, it’s the first time I’ve accomplished this.” She said. “I couldn’t be more excited. It will definitely motivate me during the conference tournament.” Rosa explained.

Sophomore setter Natalia Valentin and junior outside hitter Isadora Rangel were named to the All-Sun Belt Second Team. Rangel was also named the Sun Belt Newcomer of the Year. The leader and mentor of the team in the Sun Belt conference was not forgotten. For the second time in 3 years, Head Coach Danijella Tomic was named Sun Belt Coach of the year.

She last won the award in 2006. In her four seasons as head coach, Tomic has transformed the Golden Panthers into a conference powerhouse. She led her team to a school record 26 wins and only 2 conference losses. “I’m really honored,” She said. “This is the best year for Sun Belt volleyball in the history of the conference, and for my peers to pick me as Coach of the year is a huge honor.”

“I couldn’t have done it without my assistant coaches, Evie Rackham, Trevor Theroulde, and David Garcia,” Tomic continued. “They’ve been a great addition to this program, and people don’t realize that.”

Following 2-0 start, men’s basketball hits the road

JOHNATHAN RAMOS
Asst. Sports Director

The Golden Panthers won their second consecutive game to start the season, with some help from the president.

With FIU president Modesto Maidique in attendance as an honorary assistant coach, the Golden Panthers (2-0) finished off Monmouth (0-2) 80-61 on Monday night at FIU arena. FIU was led by Michael Dominguez’ 22 points and off to a 2-0 start for the second straight year.

Head coach Sergio Rouco was honored to have Maidique on the sideline. “The president bought authority and presence. For me it’s an honor, here is a gentleman that saw me as a 27 year-old kid here at FIU,” he said. “Then he brings me back and gives me an opportunity to be a head coach back home and I am forever grateful for that.”

FIU also used a career 20-point effort from Nikola Gacesa, who went 7-17 from the field. Gacesa also recorded six rebounds as he bounced back from a scoreless game in the season opener vs... Eastern Kentucky.

Dominguez is averaging 19.5 points per game in two games with FIU, and Rouco was complimentary of his newest scorer. “We knew we had a very good player when we got him,” Rouco said. “He lets the game come to him. He rarely takes a bad shot.”

Rouco also plans on further honoring Maidique, who tendered his resignation recently but will remain in his post until a successor is found, with a conference title.

“The only thing that we have not done is we haven’t won a Sun-Belt championship,” Rouco said. “I promised him that we would.”

FIU will face Toledo at FIU arena on Nov. 24 for their third home game of the season. The win less Rockets feature Tyone Kent, who has averaged 25 points per game after scoring 17 a game during his junior season. Toledo went 11-19 last season, and have lost to Florida and Xavier thus far this season.

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UP NEXT

FIU will face Toledo at FIU arena on Nov. 24 for their third home game of the season. The win less Rockets feature Tyone Kent, who has averaged 25 points per game after scoring 17 a game during his junior season. Toledo went 11-19 last season, and have lost to Florida and Xavier thus far this season.

Nothing will be the same.

“A FULL-BLOWN POP CULTURE PHENOMENON”

— Gina McIntyre, LOS ANGELES TIMES

twilight

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SPORTS

The Beacon – November 21, 2008

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After the final bye week of the season, the Golden Panthers return to the gridiron for the final three game stretch that will be nothing short of season defining. The late season program will begin with a visit from Louisiana at Monroe, who is coming into the contest having dropped its last two contests, both on the road. The Warhawks (3-8, 2-4 Sun Belt), picked up their last win on senior night against Troy on Nov. 1. Finishing the season with a three game road swing may prove to be ultimately futile for the Warhawks, as the Golden Panthers (4-5, 3-2) are still playing for a possible post season berth, and have performed extremely well at home this season.

The one area where FIU has struggled defensively this season is the one where ULM has excelled. FIU is allowing a conference high 319 during this season. Paul McCall has been coming on strong late this year, but volleyball wasn’t working out for her, so her hard work and impressive stats have brought her to FIU. And along with her, a size problem for the smaller Golden Panther backfield will be another different type of defense for the smaller Golden Panther backfield.

The pass offense has revolved T.Y. Hilton as the one in the conference, including FIU. At six-feet-three inches and 240 pounds, Zacharie is a size problem for the smaller Golden Panther linebackers, and should be a focal point of the ULM offense. Trying their best to keep tabs on the big tight end will be another all-conference contender, Scott Bryant, who leads the Golden Panthers in tackles, 63, and will be one of the speedy linebackers called upon to contain the running of the Warhawk signal caller.

Her first year as a Golden Golden Panthers, and Julian Reams, Daunte Owens, and A’mod Ned should be fresh in the early rotation, and if one gets a hot hand, he’ll have had two weeks off, and should be ready.

With the best special teams in the Sun Belt at the moment, the Golden Panthers shouldn’t have any issues with field position. Teams have been kicking away from Hilton because of his extremely dangerous return ability, and that has resulted in FIU’s average starting field position at its own 39-yard line in its last two home games.

BEACON PREDICTION

Both teams will gain yards, but ultimately, it’ll be FIU that gains more. With a new found confidence in the special teams, the FIU coaching staff will be less hesitant to attempt field goals, so being in scoring position often will result in lots of Golden Panther scoring. ULM will get some late licks in, but, at home, FIU will roll, in what will probably be its most complete effort of the season.

FIU 41, ULM 23

Newcomer plays major role in championship season

JONATHAN ALPERT
Asst. Sports Director

Isadora Rangel embraces the butterflies. “I like being nervous before a big game,” she explains. “It motivates me.” Rangel, a junior outside hitter with the Golden Panthers, is setting second on the team in kills averaging 2.95 per set on the team in Volleyball at the University of Kansas.

Isadora will look to help some younger teammates deal with the increased pressure playing in the conference tournament and beyond by using her experience from playing in a major conference.

“It’s challenging to play in a conference like the Big 12,” Rangel said. “There are no easy wins, you have to focus all the time, and always expect to perform against top competition; we will be facing that in the Sun Belt and NCAA Tournaments and that’s the experience I bring from KU.” Rangel said.

After not getting the opportunity to play she felt she deserved at KU, Rangel needed a change.

“I made a lot of friends at KU, but volleyball wasn’t working out the way I wanted it to,” Rangel explained. “When I looked into transfer, I wanted to go to a warm place and Miami was my first choice. My assistant coach at KU got me in contact with [head coach Danijela] Tomic, we spoke for about a month, and I signed,” Rangel continued.

Rangel arrived at FIU mid-summer 2008, just as the offseason workouts began.

“The transition from Kansas to FIU was easy,” Rangel said. “I was more used to the culture in Miami, being from South America, and since we started training as soon I got here, I didn’t have time to think about it.”

“Coming to FIU was too good to be true; I’m lucky, I could have gone to a horrible place, I didn’t feel like home here,” she added.

Coach Tomic attributes FIU’s accomplishments this season to the expedited maturation of Rangel’s game.

“I’ve had a great addition to this team,” Tomic said.

“She has grown from the pre-season, she’s playing with more confidence. She is one of the strongest outside hitters in the conference, and she’s a big reason we’ve been successful this year. If we didn’t have her I don’t think we would be where we are right now,” Tomic said.

Two-time All-American outside hitter Yarimar Rosa agrees. She understands her own success this year has a lot to do with defenses shifting some of their focus toward Rangel because of her prowess on the opposite side of the court.

“She has helped me get open more this year. Everyone expected me to play the way I did, but we wouldn’t have won conference if wasn’t for Isadora,” Rangel said.

Rangel embraces the increased pressure that comes with being the top seed in the conference tournament, and aspires to win the tournament to get an automatic bid in the NCAA tournament. ULM will get some late licks in, but, at home, FIU will roll, in what will probably be its most complete effort of the season.

FIU 41, ULM 23

Golden Panthers begin quest for bowl

ANDREW JULIAN
Sports Director

The pass offense has revolved T.Y. Hilton as the one in the conference, including FIU.