Successor to be chosen as early as May

JOULO MENACHE
Staff Writer

Leadership, vision, management and resource development are among the most desirable qualities in University presidential candidates.

That’s what Jan Greenwood, who co-heads presidential search firm Greenwood/Ascher and Associates, told members of the University community at a forum Feb. 5. Though open to all students, only a handful actually attended the forum.

Meeting both at University Park and Biscayne Bay campuses, the firm agreed that if pieces were in place to receive more federal funding and raise the stature of the University, it needed more work on crumbling infrastructures.

“We have a third world infrastructure for the sciences,” said Phillip Stoddard, professor of biological sciences. “We definitely need someone who can raise funds outside this University and outside the structures.”

“We need someone who can raise funds outside this University and outside the existing structures,” said Greenwich.

“Someone with too much vision could be dangerous. We cannot afford another extended period of growth without development,” said Bruce Haupl, former faculty senate chair and philosophy professor.

Joyce Elam, head of the Presidential Search Advisory Committee, said that the search process would lead to the selection of a new University president by May 1. But Haupl questioned the swiftness of the search.

“Why May, why not June, or July? Is it really important to have it at this degree of speed?” Haupl said. “It almost carries the appearance that a decision has already been made.”

Greenough tried to quell these rumors. An accelerated search “would carry the appearance of transparency but names of candidates’ names could be released prior to determining the search’s final stage,” he said.

If the new president decides to replace Berkeoff, he would be entitled to a one-year paid sabbatical. Berkeoff, who has been in the running for at least two other campus presidencies, also received a $3,000 bonus and a $3,000 raise.

Maidique defended her decision to alter the search committee’s terms saying that it was important to keep her on-board to see through her three-year budget plan which will lead to the cutting of 23 majors and up to 220 jobs, addressing the $26 million budget shortfall.

Paul Fain, who reports on executive compensation for The Chronicle of Higher Education, doesn’t know of many high-ranking University executives who receive separation packages.

“That sounds unusual,” Fain told the Herald. “There might be an example out there, but I haven’t heard of too many of them [at that level].”

Maidique, top two execs to receive rewards

CHRISTOPHER NECUIZE
Editor in Chief

Amid budget turmoil and employee layoffs, President Modesto A. Maidique renegotiated the terms of his contract and rewarded his top two executives – Vivian Sanchez, CFO, and Ronald Berkman, provost – with six-figure retention packages, the Miami Herald reported in a Feb. 8 article.

According to the agreement ratified by the Board of Trustees, Maidique, who in November of last year announced his intentions to step down as University president, will continue to receive his yearly $479,000 through 2015, about $2.8 million in total, and is entitled to an one-year paid sabbatical.

Should his successor decide to replace either Sanchez or Berkman, the two would be entitled to compensation packages possibly totaling more than $1.3 million.

According to the renegotiated contracts, should Sanchez be replaced she would continue to receive her $334,090 salary through 2012 and be entitled to another position at the University.

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HONORS COLLEGE
Advisory board adds new member

FRANCISCO MARADIAGA
Contributing Writer

Mother of a former honors student, Mercedes M. Ponce saw first-hand the positive impact the Honors College had on her son’s education.

Now she has the chance to give back as a new member of the Honors College Community Advisory Board.

“I am very grateful to Florida International University and the Honors College for the wonderful educational experience my son had here,” she said. “I would like to be in a leadership role to help other students.”

Currently, Ponce is the executive director of the College of Continuing and Professional Studies at FIU.

CAPS offers credit and non-credit programs that are designed for working adults and their hectic schedules.

Courses are available in the evenings, on Saturdays and online. It was that experience, and advocacy for lifelong learning, that Ponce believes she was recruited for.

“I could offer my insights, and many years of experience developing programs that are professionally and personally enriching to students,” she said.

Ponce enters a diverse group of professionals that include attorneys, CEOs, a judge, a state representative and an artist.
Forum focuses on academic concerns

BRIAN ALONSO
Contributing Writer

How to recover from a bad semester, how to choose a major and even how to continue studies at FIU if your major was cut were issues addressed at a forum directed at concerned students.

On Jan. 5, the Student Government Council at University Park invited April Lewis, academic advisor for undergraduate education, and Evert Duarte, assistant director of internships to speak at the event.

The event included three separate discussions concerning cancelled majors, advice to improve GPAs and tips on deciding on a major.

The first panel, hosted by Lewis, was about cut majors. Due to the latest wave of budget cuts, many programs were cut ranging from dance, humanities to health sciences.

Math, music, science and social science teacher education majors were also among the losses.

Iris Casillas, a sophomore and a former speech pathology major, was about to inherit her major at advising when she received the news that her major had been cut.

“I started basically freaking out because I didn’t know what to do,” she said.

Advice included taking courses in other majors that are similar to the main major. “In Casillas’ case, psychology and liberal studies – in order to meet current requirements to eventually obtain the major.

“I had gone to advising before and they explained to me what I could do so I’m on the right track now,” Casillas said.

“There are very good professors who are being taken out of their flock,” said Carla Sian, a freshman, in reference to professors who now must teach out of their niche.

The second presentation, hosted by Duarte, focused on undergrads having problems choosing their majors.

Considerations included investigating Web sites such as salary.com, applying for internships, attending job fairs, exploring related courses and areas of interest and taking a skills inventory test.

“It helped me a lot because I wanted to be an education major and I learned today that I have many more opportunities with this major than just teaching,” said Katherine Perez, an undecided freshman.

Duarte stressed the importance of experience through internships.

Robert Chung, a senior majoring in finance, also helped coordinate the event and added that “employers are always looking for students with internship experience.”

He later stated that he had previously worked with Duarte to advance his professional development and that Career Services is a “great resource” for meeting career goals.

Chung said that from his experience in internships employers place more emphasis on well-rounded individuals rather than academically-oriented ones and to an employer, experience is “crucial.”

“Now I have more of an idea about my choices and several Web sites to go to,” said Marcela Rodriguez, a sophomore debating between advertising and nursing.

“Now I know about Career Services and have the opportunity to go back and talk to them,” according to Duarte, the two most common concerns among undecided students is whether they will like what they do and if the coursework is manageable.

“Probably the most important thing is to rule out what you don’t like,” Duarte said.

She also mentioned that concerning cancelled majors, the economy, more internships become available due to employer’s needs to fill vacant positions.

“IT’ll be looking into internships with Duarte and am looking into [the major] more than I was before,” she said.

The final segment was also helmed by Lewis and addressed how to recover from a bad semester. This portion dealt with staying or remaining in good standing and dealing with bad grades through several means, including the forgiveness policy.

Many of the questions were directed concerning the University’s forgiveness policy.

A problem that is largely encountered in academic advising is students do not know, or realize the importance of checking their grades at the end of each semester, according to Lewis.

The forgiveness policy allows a student to request a course and substitute the second grade for the first. It can be used up to three times.

To get the word out to students that are in need of help and searching for answers was the purpose of the event, according to Ramare.
Interest in higher-ed rises nationwide, so do expenses

JUSTIN POPE
AP Wire

The number of Americans who think a college degree is essential for success has risen dramatically in recent years, a new survey shows, but half of them also believe that higher education is priced out of reach for some qualified students.

The survey, released Wednesday by the groups Public Agenda and the National Center on Public Policy and Higher Education, underscores the uptick in public anxiety about college affordability during the current recession.

In the 2000 version of the survey, at the end of the Internet bubble and with the success of college dropouts like Bill Gates attracting attention, just 31 percent of respondents called a college degree the only way to succeed in America.

That figure jumped to 50 percent in 2007 and 55 percent in the latest survey, conducted late last month.

Perceptions about accessibility are moving in the other direction: Just 30 percent agreed that almost anyone who needs financial aid for college can find it, down from 38 percent in 2007.

These changes are rather quick given what you normally see in public opinion," said John Immerwahr, a Villanova University professor and senior research fellow at Public Agenda, a nonpartisan group whose mission includes conveying the public’s views to policymakers.

Researchers have conducted the survey six times since 1993.

This year’s survey was based on telephone interviews with 1,009 adults, and has a margin of error of plus or minus 3.1 percentage points.

... the public is going to be very resistant to policymakers and higher education leaders handling this recession...

Patrick Callan, president of the National Center.

“It seems very clear from this data that the public is going to be very resistant to policymakers and higher education leaders handling this recession as we’ve handled the last three — that is by passing most of the pain along to students and families,” said Patrick Callan, president of the National Center.

College prices rose 6.4 percent last fall, and a recent, separate report by the National Center finked 49 of the 50 states on college affordability.

That report found low-income families have been hit particularly hard, with the local college costing a college family in the bottom quintile of income 55 percent of their earnings now — up from 39 percent in 1999-2000.

Prices are expected to rise again as state legislatures plug huge holes in their budgets, but officials in some states, such as Maryland, Kentucky and North Carolina, say they will try to minimize tuition increases next year.

Many colleges are scouring for money to maintain and even increase financial aid budgets this year, and the stimulus package moving through Congress is likely to boost Pell Grants for low-income students.

As for private loans, while some private lenders have stopped making loans or tightened standards, there have been no reported problems with students seeking federal loans.

Fifty-three percent of the poll’s respondents said colleges could maintain high-quality education while spending less, and 35 percent said higher education pays more attention to the bottom line than its educational mission.

SGC-UP explores ‘green’ initiatives including fee, events

DAVID BARRIOS
Senior Staff Writer

The Student Government Council at University Park has a new “green” position filled and is discussing the possibility of a “green” budget, fee or tax, among other “green” initiatives.

Stephany Alvarez, the newly appointed SGC-UP director of Environmental Affairs, is now in charge of overseeing all the environmental initiatives the council does.

The purpose of the “green fee” is to fund environment-friendly energy initiatives and it would cost 50 cents per credit hour for all students attending FIU.

“All things calculated, it would only cost around $6 per student to help the environment. It’s a small fee,” Alvarez said.

The money would be used to have FIU put in place energy efficiency conversions and possibly put it toward sustainability projects.

“Personally, I am against student fee increases. If the student body requests them or needs them, however, I do my job for them,” said SGC-UP President, Arthur J. Meyer.

“I am against the cyclical fee increases that continue to present themselves. It simply subsidizes the costs for the University from the student’s wallet to specific areas.”

The SGC-UP council meeting on Feb. 4 agenda continued on a “green” theme as other environmentally focused initiatives throughout the University were discussed.

“Black Out – Green On” is a newly planned approach geared toward housing residents to conserve energy by doing simple routines like turning off home appliances when not in use.

The event is planned for Feb. 10.

During the event, Panthers Going Green, a student club, will be giving information on sustainability while plans are being made to have Roary, the University mascot, along with several athletics players go around the residence halls collecting recyclables.

It was also noted at the meeting that the University entered Recyclemania, a 10-week, nationwide competition in which schools try to collect as many recyclable items as possible.

The event started on Jan. 18 and will end on March 29.

“It’s been a slow start in collecting items but we hope to catch up to the other schools that are competing,” Alvarez said.

Alvarez, a member of the president’s Climate Task Force and co-president of Students for Environmental Action, was appointed to her position after the graduation of her predecessor, David Fonseca.

Ponce’s community ties useful to board

HONORS, page 1

“What we try to do on our community advisory board is bring in people of different walks of life,” said Juan Carlos Espinosa, associate dean for the Honors College. “The resource they bring is themselves. Their enthusiasm for FIU and for students.”

The board offers a broad range of disciplines to complement a school with students of various majors. Their involvement depends on their interest, time and prior commitments.

The board is made up of leaders in their profession that strive for excellence, according to Espinosa.

“They are community-minded people who are already involved in the community at large,” he said.

Ponce believes this creates “a sense of community between the University and our wider landscape.”

The board must raise funds to support the Honors College and its mission.

According to the Honors College mission statement, the college aims to attract the best and brightest students within and outside FIU, and enable them to develop critical, integrative and creative thinking skills.

“We do want our students to be the best that they can be,” Espinosa said.

The college tries to foster a sense of community among its students and faculty.

In its literature, the school touts its balancing act of offering the close personal environment of a small liberal arts college, while having the resources of a large, research-oriented university.

They also offer a variety of Honors College Scholarships, special study abroad programs and a variety of other benefits to its students’ academic maturity.

Ponce will be helping in organizing a special fund-raiser for next September.

She will be instrumental in designing the program and seeking sponsorship.

“Hopefully we can use that event to showcase the talent of the students,” she said.

Ponce will work with the Chair and Co-Chair to put the event together.

According to Ponce, the true task of the Community Advisory Board is “making sure that students have leadership opportunities.”

As for her personal role, Ponce says she wants to be involved “so I can support the Honors College mission in mentoring, engagement and lifelong learning.”
Ice cream social funds help battle MS

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PAMELA DUQUE
BBC Managing Editor

Ice cream and smoothies on a cold night are not what most students had in mind on Feb. 4, but some decided to take one for the team. Team FIU BBC Biscayne Bay Campus gathered at Cold Stone Creamery in Aventura for their Kick-Off Ice Cream Social from 6 p.m. to 10 p.m., to raise funds for the upcoming Multiple Sclerosis Walk. Last year, Zachary Trautenberg, Team FIU BBC leader and Gregory Olson, senior director of the Wolfe University Center, decided to join the National Multiple Sclerosis Society in the MS Walk, an event taking place March 1 in Aventura to raise money for MS research.

They created Team FIU BBC after Denise Dixon, alumna and former MS Walk coordinator, told them about the cause. Since then, they have raised more than $1,000. “The team’s goal is to raise $2,000. That’s a little more than double what we made last year,” Trautenberg said.

Despite the cold weather, the event’s turnout was better than Trautenberg expected. Approximately 30 people showed up. “I thought the turnout was very good, given it was one of the coldest nights,” Trautenberg said.

Trautenberg himself did not have ice cream because he was too cold, but the attendees, which included students with their families and friends, did take advantage of it. According to Trautenberg, the most popular flavor was chocolate brownie.

Team FIU BBC, which currently has 12 members, raised $90 and decided to accept an offer made by the Aventura Cold Stone Creamery manager Abel Ahmed. “He reached out to us, saying that he would help any student group or organization to raise money,” Trautenberg said.

Ahmed also proposed the team give 15 percent of the profits from that night to their cause if at least 44 people attended the ice cream social. Ahmed chose the number 44 in honor of this year’s presidential inauguration, according to Trautenberg.

“Cold Stone Creamery has helped organizations in fund-raising before. They previously assisted the Make a Wish Foundation in their efforts,” said Chelsea Case, Cold Stone Creamery employee.

Because there were less than 44 attendees, Team FIU BBC will receive between 12 to 15 percent of the profit.

Attendees also received a 10 percent discount on their ice cream if they brought with them the event flyer. Even those who had not known about the social, but just wanted some ice cream, were able to help the cause.

It’s a wonderful thing to participate in activities that better educate the community on matters such as MS,” said Lorentz Malik, freshman finance major.

Additional reporting by Natalya Cohen.
Community seeks campus involvement in new president

FORUM, page 1

tain their namesake while avoiding negative press.

Other concerns addressed in the forums were the unity between the two campuses, and the enhancement of the international aspect of the University, which includes international students, study abroad programs and campuses built abroad.

At the forum held at BBC, Rolda Serieux, senior secretary for the Office of the Vice Provost, wondered about interaction between the two campuses.

"BBC is a very friendly campus. The upcoming president should be able to interact with the campus," Serieux said.

Joyce Peterson, assistant dean of arts and sciences at BBC, said that the new president should be someone who can “articulate and communicate well the University’s vision.”

Julissa A. Castellanos, director of operations at the Office of the Vice Provost at BBC, worried about the school’s reputation among recent high school graduates.

"FIU is seen as a default for local students," said Castellanos, who believes that high school graduates opt to attend FIU when they can’t attend their first choice.

"Students say, ‘I didn’t get into UF but there’s always FIU.’”

During the question and answer session, one faculty member was concerned about whether former Chancellor of the State University System Mark Rosenberg’s interest in the position and the presumed candidacy of Provost of Academic Affairs Ronald Berkman would complicate the search.

"Does that make your job of fl ushing out other candidates more difficult if people see very public inside candidates, who people presume have the inside track?” said Alan Gummerson, an economics professor.

Greenwood claims it may or may not complicate the search, but urged that other members within the University system who wish to announce their candidacy not to go through a “running for election” routine and go through the same motions as the other candidates being considered.

Last November, Rosenberg told The Miami Herald he was “very interested” in the position of president, while Berkman said he would wait until the search process began.

The Board of Trustees established the Presidential Search Committee, chaired by Trustee David Parker and the PSAC, headed by Joyce Elam. Consultant firm Greenwood/Asher and Associates was hired to aid in the search.

The BOT PSC will interview Greenwood/Asher’s candidates. The finalist will be presented to the Board of Governors for approval.

Additional reporting by Nathan Valentine and Pamela Duque.

Professor helps foreign journalists

VIRTUE, page 4

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Major League Soccer, like all professional sports, attracts a tremendous amount of attention. With the prospect of a professional team making FIU Stadium its home, with the investment aid of FC Barcelona, FIU would be in a great position to reap the rewards of having such a high profile stadium team. One of the best recruiting tools for any university is to have its name on its program, and with a national television contract, the MLS would bring the name of Florida International University to an expanded base of people. Having a professional team that gets major national exposure would also make finding a title sponsor for the stadium much easier.

When looking back from the third richest soccer club on Earth, as per the 2007 Deloitte survey, Deloitt Touche Tohmatsu is a British professional service firm, and is one of the four largest firms of its type in the world, and releases an annual survey of the richest professional soccer clubs in the world.

Some of the peripheral benefits of having a professional team on campus are the buzz that would be generated on campus and in the community about the team and the stadium. If the team is able to become successful, the experience of attending a game at FIU Stadium could be something that fans back, and in turn, creates new FIU fans.

The attraction could turn to the Athletics Department and the school should be able to secure the bonuses that would come with it. In turn, the Athletics Department would be able to expand its product to a broader audience. The on campus audience would receive a boost. The campus buzz that would be generated would be great for the students and the University, as its growing through its athletic program could continue to blossom.

It isn’t necessarily predicted to be a perfect transition, mostly from a traffic standpoint. This campus has grown accustomed to operating in a certain way and parking could be jeopardized. In particular, Lot 6, which is adjacent to the football stadium and used for a housing lot. There also may be some scheduling issues that need to be worked around, with the MLS playing on a schedule running from April until November, but with FIU playing a home schedule that should be between five and seven games, and the ability to practice in the afternoon or at the FIU recreation fields. These conflicts should be the easiest to work around, in a manner similar to the way the New England, New York and Seattle MLS clubs do, as the three share stadiums with NFL teams in their respective cities.

The issues would be all be workable, and the benefits would far outweigh the amount of bumps in the road that FIU would incur with the addition of a professional soccer franchise as an on-campus tenant. With the backing of an organization like FC Barcelona, the rewards would not only be numerous, they would be apparent far sooner than some might expect.
It’s hard to guess with Lupe Fiasco now.

First, he said that his next album is going to be his last—which basically ripped his fans’ heart out, grabbed a baseball bat and hit it 200 feet.

Then, to ease things, he said the last effort—to be titled LUPend—was going to be a three-disc set, somewhat providing CPR and relief to the fan base.

But now, Lupe wrote on his personal Web site that he plans to cancel LUPend, and drop an album called The Great American Rap Album.

The change of plans is surprising since just months ago, the 26-year-old Lupe seemed so fed up enough with the rap industry that, despite his love for music, he was going to call it quits.

Even crazier, Lupe said the album would have 11 tracks, and one through 10 were going to be called “Song No. 1,” “Song No. 2,” and so on, with the last joint being called “The greatest rap song ever made.”

Now, I know old boy is as creative as there is in hip-hop, but he’s just all over the place. And it’s great.

Also mentioning that LUPend would still likely drop after this album, it leaves more than one project left for Lupe.

I felt that he was not finished...
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Elitism shuns solid pop songs, limits music range

Since I like to fancy myself a would-be music critic, I would like to pretend that I have far superior taste than the unwashed masses.

There are times when I consciously attempt to create an air of superiority by turning up my nose at the latest pop fed or lamenting the plight of some band that all of 35 people in the tri-county area have even heard of.

I have been accused of hating anything that is popular, and I’ve talked down to friends for their acceptance of whatever the latest band of the moment might be.

While I have mellowed some in my old age, I still, at times, come off as an enormously pretentious, judgmental, musical know-it-all.

This is all a façade, you see.

Beneath my hardened exterior is a side of me that is only recently making its way to the surface. It is a part that I had tried for years to hide. But now, I am beginning to embrace it.

Romance.

Out Boy and My Chemical Romance.

I found myself being drawn to pop music more and more. It’s probably a bit strange to admit that pop punk bands have broadened my musical horizons, but it is what it is. Since that time, I’ve found myself drawn much more to simple pop music than music I once considered "intellectually challenging."

Much pop songs aren’t breaking any new ground, but there is a reason the three-minute pop song has been the dominant form of music for 50 years. In all reality, popular music hasn’t changed since The Beatles.

Sure, the elements have changed — going from a simple guitar, drums and bass style to more complex 64 track productions featuring a whole array of instruments — but the overall design of the pop song is still the same as it was when John and Paul wrote “She Loves You.” Now, this isn’t to say that I don’t ever listen to anything but pop music. On the contrary, most of the music I listen to is still found squarely outside of the mainstream.

But that just isn’t a prerequisite for me anymore.

Lupe Fiasco hopeful for Grammy, future unknown

after one album and would end up coming back to the game, but even better, he realized he wasn’t done before he released his so-called last album.

“I hate the music business ... but I love music...Grammy’s, here we come!!,” Lupe wrote on his label 1st and 15th’s Web site, futurlymph.com.

So Lupe, who was nominated for four Grammy’s yesterday, is far from done.

This is significant because Lupe Fiasco is arguably the best rap artist in the game.

I would love to hear from anybody who wants to discuss it, because I feel like there are a few rappers who also deserve that title as well, but I’m kind of a Lupe fan.

After his first album Food and Liquor garnered Grammy love, his sophomore effort, The Cool, was nearly as good, but different.

It still featured Lupe slicing beats and sending a message, but his rhyme patterns varied more and he finally had a huge breakout hit, “Superstar.”

So if you can guess what Lu is doing this time, your name is Waisil Jaso, because nobody else but him seems to know at this point.

Who knows, maybe he changes his mind in a month, but it looks like Fiasco fans can breathe and know that the former QQ Man of the Year is as inspired as ever.

This looks to be an interesting year for his label with forthcoming proj-ects by Matthew Santos, the singer on “Superstar,” set to hit the shelves.

Hopefully, Lu’s up-coming-label-mate Gemstones can also close in on releasing an album of his own.

But the breadwinner of the label is still Lupe.

And whatever he does is an important piece of holding hip-hop together and carrying it into the future.

Remos, page 7

Barry University faculty member Dr. James Losito specializes in fancy footwork.

In addition to serving as the Miami Heart’s team pediatric physician, Dr. Losito teaches pediatrics at one of only two programs in the nation affiliated with a comprehensive university, Barry University’s program in pediatric medicine and surgery often exposes research facilities, distinguished hospital and medical mentor affiliations, and excellent opportunities for residency programs and externships across the United States.

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Hitting may fill up the seats, but pitching wins ball games

Turnovers spark second half rally

Rebounds spell two wins in a row

Day one and the journey’s just begun

SUN BELT BASKETBALL STANDING (M) EAST DIVISION

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<td>.208</td>
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*All records up to date as of Feb. 7

SUN BELT BASKETBALL STANDING (W) EAST DIVISION

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*All records up to date as of Feb. 7

BOINILLA, page 12

Swinging for the fences: Katie Bell swings from an Auburn pitcher on Feb. 7. The team last 2-1 in nine innings.

Turnovers, spelling second half rally for the Golden Panthers, were key as they forced 13 turnovers and had just seven giveaways of their own. In the overtime session, FIU went 2-for-11 from the field as the Golden Panthers sealed the game with a pair of Josue Soto free throws.

Men’s, page 12

Three points. Five seconds. A towering shot from downtown at the 18:37 mark to put FIU up 30-27. Michelle Gonzalez was fouled twice with under a minute to play. She knocked down all four of her shots from the charity stripe to make the score 55-42 with 33 seconds to play.

Soto led the team with 40 minutes and scored 16 points with four rebounds and three assists. Freshman center Freddy Asprilla missed the game with recurring back issues.

Soto and the team's stingy pitching have been key as they have four wins and a .500 record. Last season, the team posted a 3.93 earned run average (ERA). If the Golden Panthers can reduce that number to just a shade over three for the entire season, they can start booking their flights to the Sun Belt Conference Tournament.

Going into the season, head coach Beth McClendon felt her team's offense was going to be its driving force. Although the season is young, the Golden Panthers may resort to power pitching rather than hitting to post up some Ws on their record.

Women’s, page 12

BONILLA, page 12

BONILLA, page 12

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Day one and the journey’s just begun

SUN BELT BASKETBALL STANDING (M) EAST DIVISION

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FIVE TO PLAY

The Golden Panthers conclude their regular season schedule with a game Feb. 12 at South Alabama, following a meeting with Troy a week after. With this win, the Golden Panthers have more wins than last season.

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WINDING UP: Pitcher Kasey Barrett prepares to throw a pitch against the University of Louisville on Feb. 6. She gave up four runs in 6.2 innings.

On the season’s opening inning, Jessica Landau singled to right field, scoring Desiree Fink who was on second after smacking a single and advancing on a wild pitch. The University of Louisville responded in the top of the 5th inning when Kristi Cunningham hit a three-run homer to center field, giving UL a 3-1 lead.

FIU freshman Ashley McClain came into pitch in the top of the 7th inning after starting pitcher Kasey Barrett gave up a double to Chelsea Beamis. On the first pitch from McClain, Cunningham hit a ball deep to left field. Jenny Welch went up to make the catch, however it hit the tip of her glove and sailed over the fence allowing UL to win 5-1.

Jennifer Gniadek made her freshman debut against No. 18 University of North Carolina; she allowed just three hits and didn’t give up an earned run. FIU had opportunities to back her up on the offensive end but fell short in a 1-0 loss.

Auburn took the first lead in the top of the sixth. With runners on first and second, Amber Harrison doubled to score Katie Colon. FIU responded in the bottom of the sixth. Fink smacked a single and advanced second on a sacrifice hit by Katie Bell. Anna Thompson threw a wild pitch, Fink advanced to third and scored when Landau singled to right field, tying at 1-1. In the top of the 9th, Auburn was able to bat in another run after Carolina Rojas mishandled a throw from Kim Rodriguez.
**MEN’S BASKETBALL: FIU 80, 76**

**COMEBACK TRAIL**

Down by 21 points, Golden Panthers rally for overtime win

**JONATHAN RAMOS**

Asst. Sports Director

Arkansas State University had every answer in the first half. On route to a 32-16 deficit going into the locker room, the Golden Panthers could not find a rhythm as they struggled with a 6-0-24 shooting effort, including no player having more than four points. That was before Tremayne Russell came in. Russell emerged from the bench after not playing in the first period and scored 11 points, seven of them from the foul line.

Russell also contributed four steals as he injected life into FIU in a second-half in which the Golden Panthers (10-16, 5-7 Sun Belt) came from 21 points down to secure the 80-76 victory in overtime on Feb. 7 at the U.S. Century Bank Arena.

"He got us going off the bench and that’s what I need from Tremayne," said head coach Sergio Rouco. "He’s a reckless kid and we have to live with his recklessness offensively. He came in and he changed the whole momentum."

The Red Wolves (13-10, 5-7) were led by Eric McKinney’s 19 points and also got 11-point games out of Donald Boone and Brandon Ayers.

But Russell led a 64-point charge for the Golden Panthers in what was their highest scoring half this season. ASU held the 21-point lead with 14:03 minutes remaining in regulation.

"I’m ecstatic. With the luck we have had and the games we’ve lost we could have easily rolled over," Rouco said. "I’m ecstatic for Russell [Hicks] and Alex [Galindo], that are our seniors and I really want them to finish on a positive note. We went with a smaller lineup and it changed the momentum."

SHOOTING THE J: Forward Alex Galindo shoots a mid-range shot against Arkansas State on Feb. 7. He scored 23 points and made a critical 3-pointer in the team’s overtime win.

**SENIOR STAR**

FIU could not muster any offense in the first period, in part due to senior Alex Galindo’s struggles.

With former Golden Panther and current player of the NBA’s Charlotte Bobcats Reza Bell in attendance, Galindo scored 19 points in the second period and hit numerous big plays in overtime.

"We stayed together," Galindo said. "At halftime we talked, and we hit our second half shots. I was trying to do the best that I can to help my team win."

With 1:50 left in overtime, Galindo converted on a layup and got fouled, resulting in three points for FIU.

"I had to do something different because my three wasn’t falling," he said.

That wasn’t for long, as Galindo converted on a deep three-pointer that gave FIU the lead at 77-74, and put a dagger into the Red Wolves they could not overcome.

The Golden Panthers looked like they had control of the contest and would not need overtime to win, but Boone was still playing, and the momentum was in the game on a 7-2 run.

"We're playing some great defense and we're still having a good season," Rouco said.

However, ASU responded with a 12-0 run, which included eight FIU turnovers, to take the lead at 14-7 with 11.08 minutes to play in the first half.

ASU’s run was stopped after point guard Russell emerged from the bench after not playing in the first period and scored 11 points, seven of them from the foul line.

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**BONILLA, page 10**

**Second half defense decides game**

**STEPHANIE GABRIEL**

Staff Writer

Head coach Cindy Russo believes her team is still in the hunt.

"We gained some momentum and confidence," said Russo. "We’re going to keep with what we have and the games we’ve lost we could not find a rhythm as they struggled with a 6-0-24 shooting effort, including no player having more than four points."

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**WOMEN’S, page 10**

**Pitching will benefit team’s future rather than offense**

From last season to this one, the Golden Panthers may have suffered a power outage.

Losing senior home run hitters should affect a team’s offense, but something more telling is evident thus far this season.

The once offense-oriented team now has a pitching staff capable of shutting down some of the top offenses in the nation.

"We’re playing some great defense and we’re still having a good season," Rouco said.

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