University discusses tech fee implementation

DAVID BARRIOS
Senior Staff Writer

Students can expect to pay up to an additional 5 percent on their tuition next year thanks to a new technology fee being considered to begin this Fall. This is in addition to the 15 percent tuition increase also expected to be effective in the Fall.

The money from the fee will be invested in the enhancement of instructional technology for students and faculty, including the possible expansion of the University’s wireless network and the expansion of computer labs on campus.

Cathy Akins, assistant vice president of student affairs, will chair the tech fee committee that has been established. The task of the committee is to report recommendations on whether to establish a fee and if so, to recommend how large the fee should be.

“The Technology Fee Committee will make recommendations to administration by mid-March. These recommendations will then be reviewed and submitted to our Board of Trustees for final approval,” said Rosa Jones, vice president of student affairs and member of the committee.

With the amendment of Section 1009.24 of the Florida Statutes, the University Board of Trustees can choose to establish a technology fee to be paid by all students, starting in Fall 2009. The fee may be up to 5 percent of the tuition charged per credit hour. During the first meeting of the tech fee committee on Feb. 11, possible usage of the funds was discussed including the expansion of the University’s wireless network.

“We installed over 625 wireless access points that cover all general purpose classrooms and offices,” said BRIAN ALONSO, Contributing Writer.

Golf cart thefts continue unchecked

CHERYL MALONE
Staff Writer

As of last May, the Department of Public Safety has been on constant theft call. Though the theft reports may be coming in from all over campus and by many different people, the calls are all for the same reason: stolen golf carts.

The stolen golf carts are showing up all over campus in odd locations, often damage-free, according to police reports.

The latest case of a stolen golf cart was Feb. 6, when a report was made regarding a golf cart being driven in circles in the courtyard. Just as before, the person(s) responsible for the crime were nowhere to be found.

Public Safety explained that security cameras would be a necessity everywhere golf carts are parked on campus to find the person, or group of people, responsible for the crime. However, the level of security cameras needed would come at a high cost.

Aside from courtyards, the golf carts are being found outside office buildings and housing and apartments.

The golf carts are often stolen from the International Studies Department and rarely returned to their point of initial theft, according to various case reports.

The greatest degree of damage to the golf carts was seen on Sept. 3, 2008, when one of the carts’ ignition switch and the plastic casing were damaged.

Public Safety believes that due to the insufficient security features on the golf carts, they are easily accessible.

“Most of the golf carts are being stolen via their key holes,” said Madeleine Baro, assistant director of Media Relations. “They are not designed for high security locks. The golf carts are made for the golf course.”

The golf cart reports themselves often have no witnesses, only sightings of the actual golf cart, according to police reports.

At this point, no extra precautions are being made in preventing the theft due to the manner of the crime, Baro explained.

There is no way of telling who is responsible for the theft, according to Madeleine Baro, assistant director of Media Relations.

“...are being made in preventing the theft due to the manner of the crime, Baro explained.

There is no way of telling who is authorized to be on the carts,” Baro said. “The only way to prevent the thefts currently is to secure the steering wheel with a cable and padlock. This is the same concept of the club device for cars.”

Flowers, page 3

Afrodita’s Garden in bloom

BRIAN ALONSO
Contributing Writer

Right across the University Park’s Bookstore in the Graham Center and next to the information desk there is a small shop that can easily be overlooked: Afrodita’s Garden, a store specializing in floral arrangements and specialty items.

Some of the special services Afrodita’s offers include line rentals, floral and event planning and delivery on and off campus. For Greek students, it offers some custom merchandise and T-shirts, journals, picture frames and keychains.

The store has been open for more than three years and one of the employers, freshman Katerina Afrodita’s Garden, a store specializing in floral arrangements and specialty items.

Some of the special services Afrodita’s offers include line rentals, floral and event planning and delivery on and off campus. For Greek students, it offers some custom merchandise and T-shirts, journals, picture frames and keychains.

The store has been open for more than three years and one of the employers, freshman Katerina De La Rosa, explained that it was only last year that they added the Greek portion to the store.

“We’re a full service flower shop and we also take care of Greek life,” De La Rosa, who has been working there for a year, said. “We make the shirts, we take custom orders and we do flower arrangements.”

Last week was very busy as the store dealt with flower and teddy bear orders for Valentine’s Day, according to De La Rosa. “So far our sales have been

Flowers, page 3

GOTCHA

FUN GAME: Anthony Barbato, sports management major and Samantha Andino, hospitality major, react to getting a bouquet of flowers during the “Flower Pi” event. The event, organized by Alpha Omicron Pi and Beta Theta Pi, was intended to raise money for Relay For Life.
**NEWS FLASH**

**FIU**

Four Generations of Dr. Bennie Osborne’s family will be examined for a new exhibit

“Five Women: From Sharecroppers to Doctortes, Survival Strategies for the Generations” is currently on display in the Gallery at the Green Library.

The exhibit, a series of paintings, poems and drawings, profiles five generations of women in her family from the late 19th century to the present day, showing the evolution of African Americans in the U.S. during the last century.

**LOCAL**

High school steroid testing program cut

Florida’s new program to test for steroids among high school athletes has been canceled after becoming a victim of budget cuts. State officials said that in the tough economy, they can’t justify spending the $100,000.

Tests were randomly administered at 53 schools at a cost of $166 apiece. Of the 600 students tested for drugs and steroids, only one student has tested positive for steroid use.

**NATIONAL**

Lincoln voted best president

Abraham Lincoln was voted best U.S. president in a poll held by C-Span that ranked presidents from George Washington to George W. Bush. Bush was ranked at No. 36 on the list of 42 presidents. The list was compiled by 65 historians who ranked the presidents by effectiveness on a scale where 1 meant “not effective” and 10 meant “very effective.”

**POLICE NOTES**

Feb. 9

A student lost her wallet on the south side of the Graham Center. The wallet was valued at $35, containing a Hello Kitty Bank of America credit card and $10 in cash. The student never returned to the scene of her lost wallet.

The windshield of a Honda Sedan was broken while parked in Lot Sin. The owner of the vehicle had parked his car on Feb. 6 and did not return to it for two days. Additionally, the vehicle suffered from scratches to the right rear door.

Feb. 10

A motorcycle was reported missing from Parking Lot Nine. The black 2005 Yamaha motorcycle was reported stolen and placed in the Florida Crime Information Center/National Crime Information Center.

An officer responded to a call regarding a golf cart driving in the courtyard. Upon his arrival, the golf cart, No. E-38, had been abandoned.

**Lecturer talks veganism, animal rights**

Lauren Agosto, Staff Writer

A vegan who was banned from countries around the world and the University and explained why he thinks every human is a natural herbivore and clarified his so-called “radical” views on animal mistreatment.

On Feb. 11, Gary Yourofsky, president and founder of Animals Deserve Absolute Protection Today and Tomorrow, spoke at a lecture sponsored by Earth-Save Miami, the FIU Yoga Club and the FIU Environmental Club.

AdAPPT is a non-profit animal rights organization geared toward abolishing the use of animals in medical research, product testing, circuses, rodeos and other entertainment.

The organization opposes hunting as a sport, wearing animal skins as clothing and eating meat, dairy, eggs and honey.

“I understand that we’re all on a journey in life, we all have different likes and dislikes, different religions and nationalities. But there’s one thing that we need to have in common with each other and that’s peace, genuine compassion and genuine peace for our planetary companions,” Yourofsky said.

Yourofsky has been banned by five countries and arrested 13 times for what he refers to as “random acts of kindness and compassion” toward all animals.

He was banned from Canada for releasing 1,542 minks from the Ebert Fur Farm in Blenheim, Ontario. He was also banned from England, Northern Ireland, Wales and Scotland because the United Kingdom felt that his presence there would not be conducive to the public good.

Yourofsky has never been a vegetarian. He ate meat for the first 25 years of his life and wore leather shoes and belts before he began to feel that it was wrong.

“I love the way meat tastes. Love it. Cheese, love it. Corn milk, love it. Eggs, love it. I didn’t stop eating that stuff because of a taste issue. I stopped for ethics and morality, altruism and compassion for my animal brothers and sisters,” Yourofsky said.

“Nowadays, it’s never been easier to be vegan: You can have the same smell, taste and texture of meat, cheese and milk, without anybody having to suffer and die for your enjoyment. They may make all the pronouncements you like to eat from soy, wheat, rice and hemp.”

Linda Bower of Earth-Save Miami said she really enjoyed Yourofsky’s presentation.

“That is the most amazing lecture I have ever heard about compassion, kindness and going back to a way of living that is going to improve our planet, not only for the animals, but for our own health and for the health of our planet.”

According to Yourofsky, there is a common misconception that animals cannot think for themselves.

“We all agree that animals can use their eyes to see, ears to hear, nose to smell, mouths to eat, legs to walk, feathers to fly and fins to swim,” Yourofsky said.

“It is my belief that most people don’t believe that they can also use their brains to think and feel. Am I supposed to believe that every body part on the animal functions just like it’s supposed to except the brain?”

Ten billion land animals and 650 billion sea animals aremass produced every year, according to Yourofsky, in order to feed about three million meat-eating Americans.

He continued saying that 95 percent of all the soy, 80 percent of all the corn and 70 percent of all the oats that are grown in America are set aside as animal food, but every two seconds a human dies from starvation.

“In America today not one pig, chicken, cow or turkey missed a meal. They got all the food they wanted to eat, while little babies are starving to death,” Yourofsky said.

“Sixty-five percent of the world’s grapes are grown to feed 50 billion land animals that are killed every year instead for feeding six and a half billion people.”

“We’re trying to make excuses for things that we do,” said television host Reilly, a senior.

“It’s just a matter of us realizing what we’re doing and making a change. There have been points in society where we have oppressed others, like slavery and genocide, and right now we have the opportunity to make a change.”

The human body was designed to be herbivorous, according to Yourofsky. He said that, like other herbivorous animals, the lengths of the human intestines are very long compared to the length of the torso, seven to 13 times. Carnivorous animals have much shorter intestines, only three to six times their torso, because they are built to quickly push the animal flesh, fur, protein, cholesterol, saturated fat and trans fatty acids, making it impossible for genuine carnivores to clog their arteries.

He said humans have carbohydrates digestive enzymes in their saliva, in order to digest all the carbohydrates humans consume. Humans have broad, short, blunt, flat teeth with no incisors and molars to eat harder foods like apples. Human jaws are built to move from side to side, like other herbivores, not just the up and down motion that carnivores have.

Yourofsky explained that humans are not born with carnivorous instincts. He said all humans are born vegan, but only acquire a taste for meat, cheese, milk and eggs when they are force-fed these things during childhood.

“All I’m asking people to do is something that’s normal and natural. It’s funny how people always think that vegans are radical. Eviscerating billions of innocent beings, murdering them, cutting them up into pieces and consuming their corporeal, flesh consumption, graving on somebody else’s rib cage—that’s radical behavior,” Yourofsky said.

“You are what you eat from the earth, not from vegetables. There is an original source and it’s not the animals. We eat animals after they eat from the earth. Stop filtering your nutrients through somebody else’s body, it’s irrational and illogical.”

**CORRECTIONS**

Feb. 16

The Feb. 16 article titled “‘Deep Seascape’ showcase sounds of nature,” wrongly stated Erik Legend event, SGC-UP should reconsider its lecture sponsorship by EarthSave Miami, the FIU Yoga Club and the FIU Environmental Club.

Yourofsky’s presentation.

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Discreet flower shop flourishes on Valentine’s Day

**FULL CAPACITY:** Afrodita’s Garden in the Graham Center offers flowers, gifts and Greek life souvenirs.

**FLOVERS, page 1**

“doing well,” she said. “Right now we’re trying to pick up Valentine’s Day sales as well as picking up on our marketing.”

They just created a Facebook page as part of their marketing efforts and it helped them during Valentine’s week.

“It was a success on Valentine’s,” said senior Antoanette Guaba-Ortiz, store manager and an international relations major. “We used it to show pictures of our merchandise.”

The week of Valentine’s Day did, however, pose a challenge to the store.

“Considering that Valentine’s Day falls on a Saturday, in the flower business that’s a really difficult position to be in,” De La Rosa said.

One of the difficulties they faced Valentine’s Day, explained Guaba-Ortiz, is that flower shops tradition ally do not open on Saturdays because they do not perform as well.

“It was a challenge getting a lot of people in on Saturday,” she said.

Afrodita’s is usually not open on Saturdays, but Valentine’s Day was an exception. Specials for Valentine’s Day included free gifts with early-placed orders such as boxes of chocolates and teddy bears.

“We had a good show,” Guaba-Ortiz said.

Scott Sakowski, a freshman who was hired last week, helped with the growing number of orders.

“I’m appreciative that they gave me something to do to make some money on the side and make people happy,” Sakowski said.

“A lot of students don’t realize we do both flowers and the Greek store. People coming in seem to forget we offer] one or the other,” De La Rosa said.

Guaba-Ortiz added that her main concern is that there is a “lack of knowledge” about who they are and what they offer.

On the new Facebook page, customers are able to check merchandise prices, leave comments and place orders.

“They are also focusing on passing flyers in the residential areas and setting up e-mail lists. “We really want to pick up on our marketing so everyone on campus knows exactly what we do,” De La Rosa said. “It seems our name is getting out there, a lot of people have been stopping in.”

“I can order some merchandise, but they definitely need a little more variety,” said Shirley Armenteos, a student passing by.

A regular customer showed support for the store.

“I’ve always been satisfied with the merchandise,” said Ruth Ann Maranto, senior financial assistant for the student financial department.

Making the flower arrangements and seeing customers walk away with a smile is what De La Rosa said she enjoys the most about her job.

“This morning I had a customer come and thank me for the job I had done and that makes me happy,” she said.

The committee to represent student concerns about a possible increase.

“I feel that students at first will have objections to the tech fee,” said Kendal Paul, vice president of the Student Government Council. “Especially during these economic times, an increase in anything is the last thing students want to hear.

I personally want to evaluate all the options before stating whether I object or not to the increase.”

Nick Antilillo, lower division senator, holds a similar viewpoint.

“I sympathize with students in these difficult financial times. Just as our University is facing financial challenges, so are our students,” Antilillo said. “At the same time, our University is extremely underfunded compared to other institutions throughout the nation. Our technological infrastructure is not on par with other major urban research institutions and technological updates are clearly needed.”

In the coming weeks, student government is planning to distribute a survey to the students to gauge reaction to the tuition increases that faces them. One of the questions on the survey asks students if they would support a technology fee and if so, how large of a fee.

Marketing to the student body to get opinions on the fee was also discussed at the committee meeting with the possibility of future forums to get students’ opinion.

“We talk about being a large research university. Well, this is what large research universities invest in,” Yao said.
SCHOOL OF JOURNALISM AND MASS COMMUNICATION

Jon Stewart’s secret weapon to give lecture

DAINEYS MARTINEZ
Staff Writer

He was dubbed by the Washington Post as an “investigative humorist.” He watches C-Span and searches news footage for stories that are either ignored or overlooked by the mainstream news media. Senior producer of Comedy Central’s “The Daily Show” Adam Chodikoff, 37, will speak at the Mary Ann Wolfle Theater on Feb. 19 at 9:30 a.m. as part of the School of Journalism and Mass Communication’s Hearst Lecture Series.

“It was great luck getting him,” said David Berry, SMC marketing executive. “We couldn’t believe we got him. Students will get a kick out of him. Chodikoff has been booked since November.”

In his lecture, “Finding the Funny: Thrilling Tales and Awkward Pauses from the Investigative Humorist,” Chodikoff will talk about his year with “The Daily Show,” his zeal for news and the enjoyment he takes from it. “At its best, Chodikoff’s work goes beyond satire and into the realm of cold truth-telling,” according to an April 30, 2008 Washington Post article by Paul Farhi.

Kate MacMillin, instructor and coordinator. “We couldn’t believe that this guy said this or that a year ago. One popular segment, “Mess O’Tomata,” accuses the Bush administration of lying on the nation in the past year.

Oscar Mayer seeks fresh ‘hotdoggers’

JOSH GARCIA
Staff Writer

While a student at the University, public relations alumna Magaly Estrella never thought she would spend a year driving in a 27-foot hot dog-shaped vehicle.

After attending an information session last year, she found herself behind the wheel of the Oscar Mayer Wienermobile.

But Estrella’s time with Oscar Mayer is coming to an end and the company is looking behind that. We are getting so much experience, from contacting media in every city and doing TV interviews to being the face of Oscar Mayer’s 125-year-old brand.”

Estrella said her position with Oscar Mayer will end in June and that she appreciates the opportunity she has had to travel the country in the past year.

It’s bums of fun. I wish I could keep doing it after June,” Estrella said. “The experience I gained from doing this job is amazing. I’ve seen more than half the country and I’ve been to places that I would have never dreamed of going to.

It’s recommended that students who attend the information session come dressed in business casual attire and bring a resume along with a Panther ID. Food and beverages will be provided to those who attend.

For additional information on the internship visit www.oscarmayer.com or call BBC Career Services at (305) 919-5770.
DON’T GAMBLE WITH YOUR FUTURE
PLAY YOUR CARDS RIGHT

Complete the Financial Aid application at:
FAFSA.ED.GOV

COMPLETE YOUR FREE APPLICATION FOR FEDERAL STUDENT AID TODAY!

FIU Federal School Code: 009635
Uphill battles are still worth the effort

Despite its prevalence in the English language, the term “lost cause” is really an oxymoron. If the fight was truly lost, why would there still be people fighting for it?

This particular column is inspired by the several times in my life that I was told that I shouldn’t bother trying to change something I didn’t like because I would fail; but it is not about any of these issues, it is meant to be a manifesto to you, my reader, to realize that whatever fight you want to take up, whether it be petty or life-changing, never back down in the face of opposition, no matter how daunting the task may be.

I should mention that, in the examples I am going to give you from my life, I “failed.” This column is not about failure, but about success. You will not find any inspiring stories about overcoming the odds and bringing about change, but you will hopefully find inspiration to refuse to be trampled over and to use your right to free speech, which is afforded to you from my conditions and which many people in the world would die for.

In high school, my senior class president was removed from office by the school administration over a controversial situation. I was one person who led an effort among our class to reinstate him, including making shirts and a petition. No administrator knew what the petition and the large group that bore the shirts thought. Everyone who has ever supported a third party, or even an underdog candidate for the U.S. presidency also knows how I felt to be looked at by someone in power as some trouble-making teenager.

I would know, because I’ve done that too. Which candidate was it is irrelevant, but I spent many hours during the primary election season last year holding signs on street corners in the sweltering heat for the guy that I thought was the most sensible and able to lead the nation.

There was literally a guy who walked down his hallway and said he thought what I was doing was great, but that I shouldn’t waste my time on a lost cause.

Another person who just doesn’t get it. Whether my actions had any impact on who our president is today, it feels a lot better knowing that I tried.

Granted, I am no savior of the First Amendment. A lot of things in society make me uneasy and a lot that the government does makes me upset, as I’m sure is the case for many of you and I do spend more time on Facebook than writing letters to my congressmen.

But the point here is not to fight every battle, or to fight them to the death. At the very least, stay informed of the news and when something strikes you that you’re really passionate about, let the world know.

Eric Feldman

Parking continues to evolve through initiatives, construction of new garage

I do not know what possessed me to take an 11 a.m. class on Tuesdays and Thursdays, but whatever it was, it took over the minds of hundreds of other students as well. It’s not even that 11 a.m. is that early, more so the fact that it’s when parking on campus is at its worst.

Given that the time spent on scoping out a parking spot is the equivalent to four or more songs on a track, you can devote that time to either being irritated about why the car in front of the line won’t ask if the person is leaving, finishing your math homework or just thinking.

That’s what I was doing as I stuck in line on the fourth floor of the Red Garage when it occurred to me that the University should adopt the same system that airports and beach parking lots use: a parking availability indicator.

It would be beneficial to students if Parking and Transportation developed a system that could monitor the parking spaces and display “Full” on a screen outside the entrance.

When approached with the idea, Executive Director of Parking and Transportation Bill Foster said that they had done some research into this, but discovered that it would not be an option to pursue at the moment.

“First, the signs are used effectively at airports, hospitals, etc., where people are usually not daily users. At universities, people already know when the garages are full—they come here every day,” Foster said.

“You would think that after attending classes (presumably) semester after semester, you would know at what times certain garages and lots are full. However, some people—at least I do—hold a, “Today I’m finally going to get that first spot in the first row” kind of optimism. Why else would we be daring enough to enter the parking garage with people driving and turning the ramps at 30 mph?”

“Even if the sign says ‘Full’, people will still look or try to sit idling, waiting for someone to leave. Also, many times there are misconceptions about availability. If the sign says ‘Full’ and a car is coming out, people think that they just left and a space is open. Of course, this could be a car that was driving around hoping for a space to open,” Foster said.

Foster also identified cost as an issue. The signs are about $100,000 per garage for a basic package. While Foster’s points are valid, perhaps an investment into a system, at least one garage at a time, would still be helpful to students as they would know the status of at least a few garages.

In the meantime, Parking and Transportation have taken alternative actions to make parking more available to students, including the GreenRide Carpool Program and the construction of a new garage.

“We are beginning construction in the summer, which will add more than 2,000 spaces to our inventory and provide added convenient parking spaces to the area of campus along 8th Street,” Foster said.

At universities, people already know when the garages are full—they come here every day.

Bill Foster

executive director, Parking and Transportation

The garage will be located adjacent to the existing Red Garage. Other new initiatives include the University’s first valet program.

“We are beginning a valet parking pilot program on Feb. 16 by the Graham Center to make parking more convenient in that area. We are also evaluating a possible shuttle option to help students travel around campus more easily,” Foster said.

The valet parking is very expensive for students at $5 per hour or $20 per day, but perhaps could come in handy on those days when they’re just really late for an exam and the program can also bring in some revenue from visitors to the University.

With the parking sign idea unlikely becoming a reality, at least not in the near future, take comfort in these newly implemented measures that will surely help in addressing the ubiquitous parking issues.

Vanessa Espinell
REVIEW

Flighty play brightens the Center’s Main Stage

ANDREW CALIENES
Contributing Writer

The Birds is a surprisingly colorful blend of comedy, emotion and song. The show forces you to suspend reality and enter a world where Greek mythology and modern settings collide to form a sometimes confusing yet colorful show.

The Birds is a play by American playwright Len Jenkins who adapted it from Aristophanes, an Athenian playwright. The show centers on Ventable and Howland-Cook. A pathetic lounge comedian and Arnold Sand, (Alex Morena), his nervous talent agent, who both work at the Solar System Casino in Las Vegas.

Mr. Smoke and Mr. Sand find themselves owing a considerable amount of money in gambling debts to a local gangster, Buddy Barracas (Alain Mesa). After being beat up by his beautifully murderous henchwomen, Ms. Heckyl (DeAnna Drayton), they are kicked out of town and into the desert. During their wanderings through the desert, the two run into a make-shift bird seller who tries to sell them two birds that can lead them to the desert, the two run into a make-shift bird seller who tries to sell them two birds that can lead them to

The other honorable mentions are Morgan Howland-Cook (Queen Popsy) and Jennifer Jean-Louis (The Ornithologist) who both stole the show with their energy and pure talent.

Each sang beautifully and made each of their songs enjoyable, though the songs themselves could have been omitted. If you decide to go watch the play, be ready to sit back and accept whatever The Birds throws at you. Overall, this is a fun show to watch. It can leave the audience scratching their heads, even with the towering abilities of its actors and scenery. Aristophanes’ age-old themes of leadership and utopia are still there, which can give the average student something to take home and think about.

The Birds is playing this weekend, Feb. 19-21, at the Herbert and Nicole Wertheim Performing Arts Center Main Stage.

Despite the great performances from the cast, it is a wonder how they were able to turn such a confusing mess into something your average FIU student could even partially understand.

Though the performances were highly entertaining, the soap opera moments sprinkled throughout the show left the audience wondering what was going on every time they walked on stage.

Nevertheless, the performances from most of the cast are inspiring. There are a few that bear mention, especially those by Denise Schwartz, Michelle Fraioli and Andrea Bovino who played The Finches that are slightly reminiscent of the Three Stooges with their refreshing brand of comedy.

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FIU celebrates the establishment of the

**School of International and Public Affairs in the College of Arts and Sciences**

The School of International and Public Affairs brings together many of FIU’s internationally oriented disciplines to provide cutting edge research, first-rate teaching, and innovative training necessary for the globalized world of the 21st century.

Join us for a series of events currently underway at University Park, Biscayne Bay Campus, The Wolfsonian, and throughout Greater Miami. For more details, go to [international.fiu.edu](http://international.fiu.edu).

### SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

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<tr>
<th>Date</th>
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<tr>
<td>February 20</td>
<td>Conference on International Ethics in Time of Insecurity</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>University Park Campus, Green Library, Room 220, 9:30 am - 5:00 pm</td>
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<tr>
<td>February 20</td>
<td>Screening of the films “AfroDiDigital” and “Since the Company Came”</td>
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<td>The Wolfsonian-FIU, 1001 Washington Avenue, Miami Beach, 7:00 pm</td>
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<td>Free for members and students, $10 all others</td>
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<td>February 20</td>
<td>Dr. Rafael Rivas Posada, Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights, UN</td>
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<td>“Human Rights and Latin America”</td>
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<td></td>
<td>University Park Campus, College of Law, Room 1000, 11:00 am</td>
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<tr>
<td>March 6</td>
<td>Dr. Kyle Caldwell, University of North Carolina-Chapel Hill</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>“Transnational Black Feminism in the 21st Century: Perspectives from Brazil”</td>
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<td></td>
<td>University Park Campus, Graham Center, Room 150, 2:00 pm</td>
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<tr>
<td>March 6</td>
<td>Haim Mala, Center for Strategic and International Studies</td>
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<td></td>
<td>“Between War and Peace: Israel’s Strategic Challenges and Opportunities”</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Sunny Isles Beach Government Center, 18070 Collins Avenue, 2:00 pm</td>
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<td></td>
<td>University Park Campus, MABC International Pavilion, 7:30 am - 3:30 pm</td>
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<tr>
<td>March 13</td>
<td>Max Paul Friedman, American University</td>
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<td></td>
<td>“Nazis and Jews in Latin America During the Second World War”</td>
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<td></td>
<td>University Park Campus, Graham Center, Room 140, 11:00 am</td>
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<tr>
<td>March 13</td>
<td>Screening of the films “I Am Become Death: They Made the Bomb” and “The Nuclear Comeback”</td>
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<td></td>
<td>The Wolfsonian-FIU, 1001 Washington Avenue, Miami Beach, 7:00 pm</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Free for members and students, $10 all others</td>
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<tr>
<td>March 13</td>
<td>Dr. Greggoon Davis, Duke University</td>
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<td>“Negritude as Performance: The Parade of Black Masks in Almé Césaire’s Journal of a Homecoming”</td>
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<td></td>
<td>University Park Campus, Frost Art Museum, Room 105, 2:00 pm</td>
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<tr>
<td>March 14</td>
<td>Southern Japan Seminar, featuring Dr. Marvin Sterling, Indiana University</td>
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<td></td>
<td>University Park Campus, Graham Center, Faculty Club, 8:30 am - 4:00 pm</td>
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<td>March 24</td>
<td>Dr. Waleed Hazboun, Johns Hopkins University</td>
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<td></td>
<td>“Beaches, Ruins, and Resorts: The Politics of Tourism in the Arab World”</td>
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<td></td>
<td>University Park Campus, Graham Center, Room 243, 6:30 pm</td>
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<tr>
<td>March 25</td>
<td>Screening of the film “Kinshasa, DRC: Cemetery City” and commentary by Dr. Filip De Boeck, Catholic University of Leuven, Belgium</td>
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<td></td>
<td>University Park Campus, Graham Center, Room 243, 2:30 pm</td>
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<tr>
<td>March 25</td>
<td>Dr. Filip De Boeck, Catholic University of Leuven, Belgium</td>
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<td>“Children of Disorder: Intimacy, Violence, and the Production of Social Knowledge in Congolese Youth’s Management of Death”</td>
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<td>University Park Campus, Graham Center, Room 243, 6:30 pm</td>
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<tr>
<td>March 27</td>
<td>Screening of the film “Why We Fight”</td>
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<td></td>
<td>The Wolfsonian-FIU, 1001 Washington Avenue, Miami Beach, 7:00 pm</td>
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<td>Free for members and students, $10 all others</td>
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<td>April 9</td>
<td>Dr. Syyed Hossein Nasr, The George Washington University</td>
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<td></td>
<td>University Park Campus, MABC International Pavilion, 6:00 pm</td>
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<tr>
<td>April 30-May 1</td>
<td>27th Annual Journalists and Editors Workshop on Latin America and the Caribbean: “The Politics of Natural Disasters”</td>
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<td>Biscayne Bay Marriott Hotel, Miami, 9:00 am; RSVP: 305-348-2864</td>
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### FEATURED EVENT

**Tuesday, February 24 - 9:00 am - 5:15 pm**

**“America and the Rising Powers: A Geopolitical Summit**”

Featuring Francis Fukuyama, Robert Kaplan, Pamela Rhaana, Fareed Zakaria

University Park Campus, Graham Center Ballroom

For tickets and more details, go to [summit.fiu.edu](http://summit.fiu.edu)

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**Senator Ted Deutch, Florida State Senate**

“Divesting from Iran: The Efforts of the State of Florida”

Biscayne Bay Campus, Wolfe University Center, Room 155, 3:00 pm

**February 25**

“A Course in Miracles” with Marianne Williamson

Temple Emanu-El, 1701 Washington Avenue, Miami Beach, 7:30 pm

For tickets call 305-536-2503

**February 27**

Dr. David N. Gibbs, University of Arizona-Tucson

“Humanitarian Intervention and the Destruction of Yugoslavia”

University Park Campus, Graham Center, Room 150, 1:30 pm

**February 27**

Dr. Tresa Keston, University of Minnesota

“Social Realities of Race and Blackness in Contemporary French Society”

University Park Campus, Frost Art Museum, Room 105, 2:00 pm

**February 27**

Screening of the film “Suena Vista Social Club: La Segunda Mirada”

Cinematheque, University of Miami, 7:00 pm

**February 27**

Deborah Dash Moore, University of Michigan

“Through American Eyes: Jewish GIS’ First Encounter with Holocaust Survivors”

University Park Campus, Graham Center, Room 140, 11:00 am

March 3

Dr. Ahmed T. Kau, San Diego State University

“Secularism and Islam in Turkey”

University Park Campus, Graham Center, Room 243, 5:00 pm

March 5

Fr. Patrick Desmond, Yahad-in Unum

“The Holocaust by Bullets: The Mass Shooting of Jews in the Ukraine”

The Shul, 9540 Collins Avenue, Surfside, 8:00 pm

March 6

Teodoro Pietkoff, Venezuelan Journalist and Political Figure

“Contemporary Venezuelan Politics”

University Park Campus, Wertham Concert Hall, 4:00 pm; RSVP: 305-348-2864

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O’Brien looks to the past, to the west as new show looms

DAVID BAUDER
AP Wire

Moving day approaches. Conan O’Brien is about to pack himself up and head west, when he replaces Jay Leno as host of NBC’s “Tonight” show in June. First things first, though, as a nostalgic O’Brien prepares for the last of his 16-year run at “Late Night.” Feb. 20 is his last show before turning it over to Jimmy Fallon.

“For a while, I was in denial — ‘Oh, we’ll just stop doing this show and we’ll move on to the next one,’” he says. “That’s very me, very male. Men don’t like to say goodbye. My wife told me about six months ago: ‘I think you have to admit that you have mixed feelings about leaving this late-night show, it’s very emotionally charged for you. That’s OK.’”

I’ve just been trying to think of funny stuff. ‘Tonight’ slot five years ago, although it was only recently that current host Jay Leno decided to stay with the network and do a nightly 10 p.m. show.

Most of O’Brien’s writers will head to California with him. Years ago, switching to that earlier time slot might have meant dramatically changing the tone of the show to appeal to an older audience. But the late-night habits of viewers are different now — many watch the next day on digital video recorders — and the need for such changes has lessened.

“The shows are an extension of the host and, like it or not, this is my sense of humor,” O’Brien says. “It would be a mistake to reinvent myself as a completely different person now.”

O’Brien will be facing more formidable competition with Letterman in his new spot. But O’Brien said one night on “Late Night” that he was looking forward to the new schedule.

“You can talk to me in a year and I’ll say ‘Well, there are some problems, there are some complications,’” he said. “But I don’t know what they are. I don’t know if there will be.”

O’Brien is trying to maintain the element of surprise for his last week of shows, saying he wants to rely on old friends of “Late Night” instead of stunt casting.

“The one thing that’s worked consistently for me is just to use your common sense, just try to be funny,” O’Brien says. “For 16 years, I’ve just been trying to think of funny stuff. We miss sometimes, we hit sometimes but I think our average is pretty good.”

Greeks celebrate one-year anniversary of council

After spending several years fighting to install the Multicultural Greek Council at FIU, the five-member organizations celebrated the group’s one-year anniversary Jan. 23.

The organizations that are part of MGC are Lambda Theta Phi Latin Fraternity Inc, Lambda Theta Alpha Latin Sorority Inc, Lambda Upsilon Lambda Fraternity Inc, Sigma Lambda Gamma National Sorority Inc and Delta Phi Omega Sorority Inc.

“We really wanted to install MGC at FIU because we felt MGC could cater more to our needs. We do things a little different than other Greek organizations. For instance we don’t go through rush and MGC is able to focus on us. I feel like now we have a more united front,” said FIU’s MGC President Stephanie Wesseling a senior and member of Delta Phi Omega.

The organizations of MGC at the University are historically Latin, South Asian and multicultural although at other campuses they have even more diversity. While these organizations take pride in their diversity they do not discriminate against any other ethnicity and welcome others that share their same core values.

Some of its activities this past year have been MGC week in September, where there were different events and activities throughout the week and a step, stroll and salute exhibit where all the organizations of MGC came out and showed what they could do. There was also a poetry open mic night, which drew in many people.

They also participated in Relay for Life and blood drives last year. MGC is making it a priority to participate in at least two community service events a semester, where at least 50 percent plus one of each chapter they meet all their requirements they will be extremely proud now we’ve come along so far,” Wesseling said.

Currently there are about six other organizations who are interested in becoming part of FIU’s MGC, however Wesseiling said that if they meet all their requirements they will be more than welcome to join. Right now, MGC is still new and Wesseling feels they need to improve a little bit more before they start installing more chapters.

Wesseling said one of MGC’s main goals this year is “to try to unify the Greek community as a whole and participate in other Greek organizations’ events.”

In the short time MGC has been here they have already made a great deal of progress, so I think we can look forward to seeing what they can do this year.

Greek Life runs every other Wednesday.
E-mail: Amanda at amanda.batohel@fiu.com

SPIRITUAL MUSIC

RHYTHM NATION: Damian Trujillo, a junior criminal justice major, plays maracas and the didgeridoo while Joey Bassen, a sophomore religious studies major, keeps the rhythm going on the drums in an impromptu jam session by the fountain behind the Graham Center on Feb. 9.
The offense was the missing piece to the machine. During the first five games, the offense had the Golden Panthers sputtering like an old lawn mower that just refused to turn on. Just one weekend and pressure situations made the softball team’s bats come alive to cut down four out of five of its opponents this past weekend.

At 6-foot-3, Ramirez was not a specimen by any means. At 200 pounds, he was not the type that made teams think about home runs. Never. Ramirez worked hard this off-season and ate better. Five days a week, his routine included a 2½-hour gym workout, a one-hour swim in his pool at home and a nice dinner. Sometimes a double feature, sometimes he and his son went to a movie. "I don't think he's overweight," manager Fredi Gonzalez says. "The guy's a specimen."

The power pitching and timely hitting collided to create the perfect 3-0. Friedrich and Cassady are eating up all the situations made the softball team's bats come alive to cut down four out of five of its opponents this past weekend.

McClendon said the team's freshmen needed to become acclimated for the team to have better success. It took two weekends for the Golden Panthers to find their identity. After their next game against Fordham, the 13 remaining games on the schedule are versus Sun Belt Conference teams. The plan so far is developing as conveniently as can be. With the pitching staff solidified, the freshmen have gained experience and the offense has found ways to score enough runs before playing the most important games of the season.

Gniadek gets third win; Bell gets winning single

The Eagles would score one in the top of the eighth, but Katie Bell, who went 1-for-4 at the plate, knocked down a single to score Iriselid Soberon from third base.

Fredi Gonzalez on Ramirez: ‘The guy’s a specimen’

Hanley Ramirez worked harder this off-season and ate better. Five days a week, his routine included a 2½-hour gym workout, a one-hour swim in his pool at home and a nice dinner. "I spend $100 a night in the restaurant," the Dominican says. "That was the first thing him again late last season.

Even at a svelte 200 pounds, his listed weight in last year's postseason guide, Ramirez had never worked out much in the past. Even a svette 200 pounds, his listed weight in last year's postseason guide, Ramirez was the Marlins' biggest star. He has by far the most lucrative contract on baseball's thirty-first team, a $70 million, six-year deal beginning this season that will pay him $5.5 million in 2009. That's an increase from the $439,000 he made last year — hence the $100 dinners.

Trade in those home run swings for hunt singles. This offense can be shut down, but is reliable enough to be tapped into if needed. Take, for example, the Golden Panthers' last game where they trailed 8-3 in the final inning. During the five-run inning, the team manufactured runs by singing, walking and making contact. There were no home runs and just one double in the entire inning. Getting on base is the most pressure the offense will apply to opponents.

McClendon said the team’s freshmen needed to become acclimated for the team to have better success. It took two weekends for the Golden Panthers to find their identity. After their next game against Fordham, the 13 remaining games on the schedule are versus Sun Belt Conference teams. The plan so far is developing as conveniently as can be. With the pitching staff solidified, the freshmen have gained experience and the offense has found ways to score enough runs before playing the most important games of the season.

Finishing last season with a .500 record against conference teams is something this team will not be content with, especially with the Golden Panthers on a three-game winning streak and second-year coach McClendon’s recruits gaining more playing time. McClendon’s team warmed up for two weeks and is now ready to bulldoze its way to a conference title run.

“Every time we play Florida Gulf Coast, it seems to end up this way,” said McClendon to FIUsports.com. “We have a ton of respect for them, but our kids fought hard. Nothing this offense does surprises me.”

Gniadek gets third win; Bell gets winning single
Pazo and Muci strive in doubles; team hopes to shake off injuries

**TENNIS, page 12**

Interim coach lifts team with work ethic, energy

**APPLEBAUM, page 12**

Are tired at the end of the season, we are going to be feeling great.”

Off the court, Applebaum wants her team to know that her interim status is not an issue.

“They trust me,” she said. “They know that I will not leave them. I’m not a quitter. They need to have trust in the coach and at the same time need to set up boundaries.”

Another component of the team’s early success is the new doubles pair of Pazo and freshman Mariana Muci.

Pazo says the team’s overall youth and perceived inexperience won’t affect the team’s record.

“The team’s talent and dedication will carry us throughout the season,” Pazo said.

Pazo was even more adamant regarding her thoughts on their ability to win this season.

However, maybe the biggest factor in the girls’ chances to make it back to the top of the conference will be from an obstacle beyond their control. When asked what the biggest challenge may be to reaching their goals, the first word both Pazo and Brito said was “injuries.”

Brito battled through a bit of a slow start to the season while being bothered by a few nagging injuries, but now is 100 percent. She is coming on strong right when the team needed consistency the most. Pazo says staying healthy is crucial.

“If we avoid injuries we should be just fine,” Pazo said.

Having young and inexperienced players is a hurdle the team believes it can overcome. Pazo feels this team can bring back conference championships to a program two years removed from winning the Sun Belt.

“We are all good friends, we trust each other and have confidence in our abilities,” she said.

Interim coach lifts team with work ethic, energy

Interim coach lifts team with work ethic, energy

“Things respect the fact that I have played in every single level and they know my judgment will help them,” she said. Applebaum implemented a new set of rules that took the players by surprise. The girls have study hall, a curfew and a strict training schedule. Some of the girls took a while to adjust.

“It’s a big change,” said sophomore Liset Brito. “We are doing more fitness and working harder.”

Junior Priscilla Castillo enjoys Applebaum’s drive to improving.

“She pushes us to work harder and she’s on top of everything,” Castillo said.

When Applebaum took over the program, she had a vision of where she wanted to take the team. She wants the University to notice and she is working on it.

“I want to take this program to the next level,” she said. “We want to get people excited about the team.”

As interim head coach, Applebaum plans on becoming head coach soon.

“I worked very hard and I want to be the head coach, but I think it is out of my hands,” she said.

Applebaum has set the goals high for this year’s team. FIU ended last season with an overall 19-5 record and No. 30 national ranking, according to Intercollegiate Tennis Association.

“This group of girls has the potential to be top 25 in the country by the end of the season,” said Applebaum. “We can be one of the best programs in the nation.”

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Applebaum, 24, ready for challenge of coaching

LEILANI LAUREANO
Contributing Writer

Three years ago Melissa Applebaum competed in the NCAA tennis championship. This year she will be coaching girls a couple years her junior.

Last year Applebaum, who played for the University of Miami in 2006, was the assistant coach at FIU. Now, at 24, she is the interim head coach for FIU’s tennis team. Being so young, Applebaum believes her age is an advantage when working with the girls. She is one of the youngest coaches at the University, but Applebaum sees it as a positive.

“Since I was a player so recently, I can put myself in their shoes,” Applebaum said.

Applebaum has played tennis for 20 years and she takes her experience as a player and utilizes it for coaching. She tries to balance her inner player to apply it to coaching.

“I think I try to use a little bit of both,” Applebaum said. “I think that they trust the fact that I have played; they know what I tell them will work.”

Applebaum is full of energy. Her parents put her in gymnastics and tennis to control her energy when she was younger. In 2006, she considered

TEAM

APPEALBAUM, page 11


Team earns comeback victory

STEPHANIE GABRIEL
Staff Writer

Down 8-3 in the bottom of the seventh, the Golden Panthers found a way to fight back.

A series of miscues by Florida Gulf Coast University let FIU claw its way back to tie the game. In the bottom of the ninth, a wild pitch paved the way for Jessica Landau to score the game-winning run.

The Golden Panthers defeated FGCU 10-9 at FIU on Feb. 15.

Junior pitcher Paige Cassady made the start for FIU and allowed two runs in 3.1 innings against a team who scored 51 runs over their previous five games.

The Golden Panthers were able to get the offense rolling early on. With the bases loaded and two outs in the first inning, freshman Ashley McClain smacked an RBI single to center field, driving in Kim Rodriguez with one charged to Barrett, to take the lead at 5-3.

The following inning saw the Eagles tied the game at 5-5. Freshman Jennifer Gniadek came in during the seventh inning after Barrett gave up a single and then an RBI double by Platt. Gniadek gave up two runs, one charged to Barrett, to make the score 8-5.

Heading into the bottom of the inning, FIU senior Katie Bell was hit on a pitch by Cassady Rash with one out. Kim Rodriguez then singled to left field, allowing Bell to advance to second. Jessica Landau was then walked and FGCU switched pitchers with the bases loaded. However, Lauren Spiers was also walked.

The Eagles were able to score two runs off of Barrett in the following inning to take the lead at 5-3. Freshman Jennifer Gniadek came in during the seventh inning after Barrett gave up a single and then an RBI double by Platt. Gniadek gave up two runs, one charged to Barrett, to make the score 8-3.

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