Globalization is a term used to describe the interconnectedness of our lives to global processes. At FIU, a group of dedicated faculty and administrators would describe it as an essential component of our education.

On Feb. 17, the Faculty Senate voted to give full support to the Global Learning Quality Enhancement Plan, a campus-wide effort to internationalize the framework of the University's curriculum.

"The soul purpose of any QEP is to enhance student learning," said Stephanie Doscher, associate director of the Global Learning Initiative. "But FIU chose global learning because it was already part of our initial mission, ingrained in the plaque outside Primera Casa, which is to achieve greater international understanding."  

The QEP is one of the steps taken toward being reaccredited by the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools in 2010. Reaccreditation ensures the University is in compliance with standard regulations and allows for federal grant money and student financial aid.

Currently there are four courses that have been tweaked to follow the QEP structure, but the core foundational courses will be assessed in Summer 2009.

"The courses are going to be largely interdisciplinary and hands-on, and we will pilot four of the foundational courses to do some research of how students are learning in these courses and how effective they are," Doscher said.

The QEP will require students to take at least one global learning course as part of their University Core Curriculum and one upper division course designed to give a global angle to any given major. Doscher assured it will not increase the amount of credits students need to take.

Doscher observed that for most universities, the idea of global learning entailed increasing classroom diversity or sponsoring student study abroad programs. FIU, however, will strive to make the connection between the curriculum and its international implications right from the classroom.

The Global Learning QEP follows the idea that education in the 21st century must be able to mold global understanding.

"Right now, there are several ways for students to get elected into SGA through clubs and social connections, but I feel that there isn't an apparatus in which students can be elected solely for ideology," said Chris Cabral, co-author of the bill and senator for the College of Arts and Sciences.

"Senator Jeff Molinaro for the College of Law debated in opposition to the bill, claiming that the financial guidelines for the parties were vaguely established, with no bylaws being established in the bill on how parties were to keep track of their budgets, which could go up to $10,000.

"We know who votes overwhelmingly on campus campuses," Molinaro said. "Greeks vote. The University of Florida has political parties, including the Gator Party. The Gator Party has never lost an election and is made up of fraternities and sororities. They have essentially locked out all of the other parties and anyone who isn't a Greek."
U.N.’s lawmaking efforts addressed

Jonathan Davila
Staff Writer

Protecting the international human rights of citizens who are from member states of the United Nations is an arduous task, said a U.N. chairman the morning of Feb. 20.

Rafael Riveros Posada, chairman of the U.N.’s High Commission for Human Rights, spoke to a crowd of 55 at the University’s College of Law. His lecture clarified confusion about the process the United Nations goes through to create international human rights laws.

“Not an easy topic,” Posada said.

He explained his commission makes recommendations to member states based on covenants created by experts not affiliated with politics. The experts have different areas of concentration such as creating rights for women, migrant workers, children and people with disabilities. Some countries accept their recommendations, while others do not.

“If a state denies its compliance, then there is nothing to do but apply political pressure within the framework of the U.N.,” Posada said, noting this is one of the criticisms of the commission.

After explaining the intricacies of U.N. policy-making, Posada discussed the side of the commission that deals with processing individual citizens’ complaints of their respective states.

“The emphasis is not only on the legislation, but on the reality,” he said.

“It’s a very complicated world.”

Individual complaints submitted to the U.N. take anywhere between one and four years to process, according to Posada. Once the committee receives a complaint, it must translate it, research and meet with the state’s government to determine if it was not compliant with the established, international human rights laws.

“International law is not superior, but it has to be taken into account,” Posada said.

The Colombia native then addressed some issues the committee is currently dealing with, namely the modern view of terrorism.

“After the tragic events of Sept. 11, the world tried to create a way to defend member states from terrorism. The question is: ‘What is terrorism?’” he said. “Some states have approved laws which are very general. Some have approved legislation which is very restrictive. The concept of what is terrorist behavior is going to be very difficult and probably never reach consensus.”

The lecture was followed by a question and answer session in which some students and faculty asked Posada what he thought about Darfur, abortion, the place of international law in civil cases, the process of filing a complaint against a state and other issues.

The crowd of mostly students was silent throughout the lecture, but Posada was well-received. The crowd applauded his speech and some in the crowd stayed around to chat with the chairman afterward.

“The lecture was perfect. He hit on two specific topics that me and a partner are presenting on,” said junior political science major Raimondo Gugliotta. “I wish he had some more time for questions.”

Posada holds a doctorate in political science from Princeton University and has served as the president of the Universidad de los Andes in Bogotá, Colombia. He was brought to the University in collaboration between the Latin American and Caribbean Center and the College of Law.

The lecture was a part of the Latin American and Caribbean Studies Distinguished Lecture Series, sponsored by the LACC and the Colombian Studies Institute.

“I think it was great — very interesting and informative,” said director of the LACC Cristina Ezquibel. “I’m very glad he came and accepted our invitation.”

The lecture series’ next guest is Teodoro Petkoff, a Venezuelan journalist and politician. He will be at the University on March 6, at the Wertheim Performing Arts Center.

Feb. 12

Unknown persons removed an FIU student decal from a student’s vehicle. The decal was set at a $10 value.

Feb. 13

A young woman was found at the courtyard between Lakeview South and Lakeview North bent over, conscious but not fully alert. The young woman suffered from a heart condition and was in need of her medication. After waiting for an ambulance, she signed the “Florida International University - Release and Liability Waiver For Emergency Medical Attention.”

“She had approximately 100 milligrams of medication,” said Cpt. Roberto Gugliotta. “The pharmacy at the University on Park Campus filled the prescription.”

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SoBe raises scholarship money despite economy

SOBE, page 1

According to SHTM, in the eight years that it sponsored the event it raised approximately $5 million. The figures for this year’s event weren’t available at press time.

Despite the downturn affecting the event, not all the news is negative. Though Publix retracted its sponsorship of the Grand Tasting Village event in order to offer the public cheaper milk and Cheerios, Whole Foods quickly filled in the hole the supermarket chain left.

Student participation is still strong, according to Caroline Karlberg, a student associate coordinator for the festival.

“We’ve had almost 1,000 students sign up, with 700 assigned to events,” Karlberg said. “Some have helped us with planning for the past six months, while others are showing up right now to help us set up.”

The festival features more than 40 events, with students assigned to serve as sous-chefs and servers in several of the cooking seminars.

The students participating are being compensated both with experience and financially for their time and dedication.

“They get to have the experience of the festival, meeting lots of people and chefs from around the country,” Karlberg said. “It’s a large chance for exposure. The money raised by the event will go toward scholarships for the students, which is a benefit for those involved.”

An estimate of how much money generated by the event would go toward scholarships couldn’t be determined at press time.

According to the festival’s official Web site, the event holds its origins with Biscayne Bay Campus in 1996, when it began as a one-day festival known as the Florida Extravaganza, held on campus.

For six years, the Florida Extravaganza showcased wines from national and international wineries paired with food from local restaurants and chefs working with students of SHTM.

In 2002, Lee Schranger, director of special events and media relations at Southern Wine & Spirits of America, relocated the event to South Beach and renamed it the Wine and Food Festival.

From 2002 to 2006, attendance exploded from 7,000 to 20,000, requiring the addition of more days to the festival and receiving sponsorship from Food Network in 2006.


Spirit of University renewed in reaccreditation

QEP, page 1

ally-conscious individuals aware of how they’re chosen career is evolving internationally.

We also hope that students graduate with an attitude of shared responsibility for solving problems at the local and global level,” Doscher said.

With that in mind, the faculty involved with strategizing for the QEP drafted a set of goals and outcomes that include intercultural communication skills, understanding the relationships of global dynamics, gaining multiple perspectives on real world problems and knowledge of how global dynamics affect any given field.

“We cannot only worry about things happening in our backyard because our actions can have an indirect or direct impact on the world,” said Ophelia Weeks, associate professor of biological sciences.

Biology of AIDS, taught by Weeks – who is also involved with the QEP – is one the courses that aims to follow an interdisciplinary global approach by not only studying the biological processes of the infectious disease, but by exploring psychosocial processes and group dynamics.

“It will essentially aim to make students richer citizens of the world,” Weeks said.

Senators debate students’ readiness for party system

SGA, page 1

Cabral continued to defend his bill.

“If students have the right to be in political parties in federal and state elections, I feel that students have the right to be in a political party in a school election,” he said. “Some people have told me that FIU students are not ready for it. Well, you know what? I don’t think that FIU students are any less capable of creating a political party system than anyone else.”

“I just don’t think that our University and student government is ready for this at this moment,” said Mykaelle Figueiredo, senator for the College of Nursing and Health Science, as speaker pro-tempe, previously occupied by Christopher Ponce.

Currently, the seats open in the senate include one senator at large, two College of Education seats, one seat for the College of Nursing and Health Science, one seat for the college of Social Work, Criminal Justice and Public Administration/Affairs and one College of Medicine seat.

According to the SGA Constitution, senators must maintain a 2.0 semester GPA and a 2.5 cumulative GPA.

ELECTIONS CONTINUE IN SGA

Senator Helena Ramirez was elected as Senate speaker pro-tempe early in the meeting by 13-2.

She promised to support Jean Rosene, Senate speaker.

“I will keep an open dialogue with Jean and support him in whatever way I can,” said Ramirez during her speech to the body after being nominated.

As speaker pro-tempe, she will have power to oversee meetings if Rosene is ever absent.

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JOIN OUR STAFF!
Celebrity chefs cook up a victory at BubbleQ

**SHERVIN BAIN**  
Staff Writer

Recipe for a BubbleQ Mix 150 FIU students with 26 celebrity chefs and about 3,000 hungry guests. Place evenly along the Delano Beachside, add a DJ and letizzle for four and a half hours. This event was best served with champagne.

About 150 students woke up early on Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday and/or Friday to get to the "Perrier-Jouët BubbleQ hosted by Tom Collicchio & Friends," the event they had signed up for by the South Beach Wine & Food Festival. The event was hosted and organized by the University's School of Hospitality and Tourism Management students.

"Have you ever used a knife?" said Jouvens Jean, a SHTM alumnus and team leader for the team in charge of working with Al Roker, one of the celebrity chefs to showcase one of his recipes prepared by SHTM students. Jean was getting his team ready to work. Students were split into 26 teams to work with different celebrity chefs. Some students worked in the "Cold Kitchen," where different ingredients were peeled, sliced and portioned, while others worked in the "Hot Kitchen," where food was cooked.

"The students had a choice between three different shifts, ranging from 8 a.m. until 11 p.m. I've been in the kitchen all day every day," said Heather Wheeler, SHTM first-year grad student. "This is my first festival, so I'm really excited." On Thursday, Michael Moran, chef instructor and BubbleQ culinary coordinator, and the students finalized all the prep for Friday's event. According to Moran, they prepared 22,500 portions of food.

Morgan guided students throughout the entire process. "Working on a project like this is a great collaboration," Moran said. "This is something that they do and I'm their guide along the way. I'm honored to be a part of it."

The event was completely planned, prepared and produced by the SHTM students.

"They're very dedicated to this project and understand that it's a difficult industry," Moran said. "There's a lot of hard work goes behind the scenes to make a great party."

"It's long hours, but when you're enjoying it, it doesn't feel like work," said Andres Villa- bota, SHTM senior and BubbleQ student intern.

The students were not the only ones excited about getting their hands dirty. Many of the guests put aside their celebrity status and were thrilled to work with the students.

"It's fantastic. We're talking about foodies, students that are enthusiastic about food, that are ready, willing and able to help us," said Chris Lilly, from Big Bob Gibson Bar-B-Q, a restaurant in Decatur, Ala. "These students are great and they're part of the reason that I came back every year."

"Every time I come down, the first place I always come is wherever the young chefs are," said Tony Neely, from the Neely's Bar-B-Que restaurant in Nashville, Tenn. "I expect great things. The world is theirs."

Many chefs focused their efforts on inspiring students and said they felt humbled to work with festival attendees. "It looks like they've got a great networking opportunity and some real-world experience," said Reppert, who also serves as a teaching assistant for culinary classes. "To see professional chefs in a setting where they can learn from them and even be mentored; you really can't get that anywhere else, even labs." Adam Jessup, the University's culinary Student of the Year, was in charge of handling the prep work for the many demonstrations held throughout the weekend. He assisted the likes of Iron Chef Cat Cora who, he said, was the only one whose name he could remember.

"I'm not very good with all the celebrity chef names," Jessup said, a grin on his face. "I'm just one of the cooks. We're helping to do prep work for all the celebrity chefs ... [We did] lots of prep at the Loews hotel, transferred it all over here in separate bowls, made everything look pretty." Students' roles were not just limited to preparing food. Besides the dozens of students working the grounds answering festivalgoers' questions or thanking them for recycling the thousands of Evanish mini-bottles offered to the guests, some students were tasked with working directly with guests and assisting the celebrity chefs present at the event.

"Can you hold on just a minute?" said Heather Wheeler when asked for an interview. The hospitality management graduate student then disappeared and reappeared with folders and papers in her arms which she handed to Sandra Lee, host of the Food Network show "Semi-Homemade," who had just finished her cooking demonstration and was preparing to leave the stage.

"I'm not just her assistant, I'm pretty much all of theirs," Wheeler said. "I was here all day yesterday. I helped everyone from Rachael Ray to Emeril Lagasse to today, everyone from Paula Deen to Sandra Lee." The chefs themselves had nothing but good things to say about the student support they had been receiving.

"This is my third year here and every year it just gets better and better," said George Duran, host of "Ham on the Street" from the Food Network. "It's almost like these kids don't need training; they were born to do what they are doing. I'm telling you, in the next 10 years, the best chefs in the world are going to be from here, they're going to be from FIU."
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009635
1. The BubbleQ chefs posed for a picture with their Romero Britto decorated champagne bottles.

2. Andres Villabano, Bianca Rojas, and Paul Castronovo await the judges decision from Emeril Lagasse at the Big 105.9 cook off.

3. Bobby Flay throws down his dance moves for the crowd that gathered to watch his cooking demo and end the last day at the Grand Tasting Village.

4. Students prepped food at the Centerplate kitchens in the Miami Beach Convention Center for the BubbleQ event.

5. Christy Cooper and Priscilla Urra handed out MiSha’s cupcakes to guests at the BubbleQ.

6. Janiece Sardey and Jouvene Jean grill beef short ribs for the guests at Al Roker’s station at the BubbleQ.

7. Guy Fieri pours tequila into a gigantic bender to make margaritas for the audience during his cooking demo at the Grand Tasting Village.

All photos by Nathan Valentine/The Beacon

SoBe
Wine and Food Festival ’09

BUBBLES ON THE BEACH:
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All photos by Nathan Valentine/The Beacon
Gerrymandering cannot be tolerated

ALEJANDRA GOMEZ Contributing Writer

Art these days has never taken such a diverse form. Drawings and renderings of mythical creatures such as dragons and other flying beasts have been sprouting up all over the country. I’m sorry to break it to you, art majors, but this is not a story on the latest craze in the art world. It’s the political one.

New computer-based software that is being used to apportion voting districts has made the job easier for politicians, who have access to someone who can maneuver their way around a computer. What’s sad is that the high-priced map makers now have more power than voters and even politicians themselves, and the districts they’re drawing can have some truly weird shapes.

A Feb. 14 Miami Herald article reported that Florida Republicans have been accused of creating new voting districts by re-slicing them based on demographics and predicting how certain groups will vote.

The apportionment of these districts is completely legal yet immoral. This allows the incumbent in Florida to keep his seat safe and reduce the chance of losing future elections.

“Gerrymandering isn’t fair,” said freshman Yanelee Diaz. “If they give voters the right to vote, then politicians shouldn’t interfere with what vote goes to whom.”

Gerrymandering is not a new political strategy. Wrongful division of voting districts has roots locked up to the late 18th century, right when our country was young and vulnerable. This makes the United States a country built on unfair advantage and early voting.

This is a no-win situation for the voters. If we decide to do something about this and petition this wrongful plan to the very people who are responsible for it, there’s no doubt that we would lose. But the politicians believe that since it’s legal they have the right to give districts as they please. This is wrong and is to our platforms and vote.

But the site isn’t going to do it all by itself. Unless there hired “geeks” get the idea, this is a hopeless task for all of us. The politicians believe that since it’s legal they have the right to give districts as they please. This is wrong and is to our platforms and vote.

The ability to convert voters through a central processing unit just makes those who think they’re making a difference feel betrayed.

Let’s keep this out of their control and put democracy back in our hands.

We are not ‘a nation of cowards’

MATT RUCKMAN Staff Writer

Eric Holder, President Obama’s pick for the Office of Attorney General, won high marks for re-defining water boarding as torture. He then took one giant step backwards after his speech to the Justice Department.

In his speech, Holder urged people to use Black History Month as a chance to discuss racial matters, ending with, “Though this nation has proudly thought of itself as an ethnic melting pot, in things racial we have always been and should be.”

But the idea is that people stepped back for that reason because it doesn’t matter, but I will never forget being shocked by the number of people that did.

Between that and a couple of other instances sitting in a circle, just learning about other people, I don’t ever think that I can look at someone new again and think that I know them very well. Everyone has a story.

This isn’t to say I won’t ever mess up, I know what it’s like to worry about someone that isn’t putting effort into their work and feel like a fool after- wards because you didn’t consider everyone else they are going through.

But please, try to avoid this.

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But please, try to avoid this.
Adventure, education abroad and abroad

If you feel the need to take a break from Miami but you don’t want just a regular vacation, take a look at the University’s study abroad programs.

From Thailand to the Czech Republic, students can choose from an array of countries in which to spend a term learning abroad while experiencing a different culture. And if money is an issue, scholarship offerings ranging from $300 to $590 are available, according to the Office of Education Abroad Web site.

One of the longest running University programs in Europe is in Czech Republic, where students learn about literature, history, film studies and more. “Students will really get a chance to see a country in transition,” said Barbara Weitz, director of the program and professor in the English department. “The Czech Republic is becoming a strong democracy and it is vital for students to understand everything going on in Europe.

Some of the learning will be done in the classroom, but a lot of time will be spent on walking tours and trips around the country. One week in particular will be spent in Slovakia, now a separate country from the Czech Republic. This program is available for Summer B semester, and students can register for three, six or nine credits. Costs vary between $2,850 and $4,450 and include housing in small historic hotels.

But if Asia is what you’re feeling, then the Cultural Communications Patterns of Asia is the program that will take you to Thailand. Students will visit Bangkok, Phuket, Pha and Chiang Mai, while learning the relationship between cultural identities and life styles and interviewing local members of the community. Course instruction will be in English and students will have the chance to learn the basics of the Thai language.

“Students will be changed forever based on this or any study abroad experience,” said Pavena Sirimangkal, adjunct associate professor for the Department of Speech Communication.

Programs give students the opportunity to gain more than just cultural and academic experiences, “Students will discover who they are in terms of what they want to do with their lives, careers and academic interests,” Sirimangkal said.

This program is available during Summer A and is worth three credits. The estimated cost is $3,032 per person and includes airfare, accommodation in a four-star hotel, ground transportation and activities.

However, even though the programs are fun, realizing that there are people out there with different lives than what we have is challenging, according to Weitz.

The programs also allow students to take on a different approach toward school. In some countries, for example, students will only have to take a final exam as opposed to a series of tests or quizzes.

“Students not only learn the subjects of the specific programs, but they are also exposed to a broader learning experience,” said Lisa Carbajo, director of the Office of Education Abroad. “When they come back from these educational programs, students have a different view of the academics as well.”

To learn more about the various study abroad programs go to wwww.education-abroad.fiu.edu or e-mail education-abroad@fiu.edu.

Additional reporting by Eddie Sevilla

Pulse

Keep the cold, flu at bay this year

Stop and take a look around. You may see people coughing, blowing their nose or eyes so red, you’d think the owners were high.

Chances are, no one is high. And actually the reason everyone around you is sick is because, you guessed it, it’s the flu season.

In the United States, the peak of the flu season occurs anywhere from late November through March, according to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

But if you’ve been able to avoid a viral attack, consider yourself lucky. Be cautious, though. When the bugs assault, it’s best to know what you’re dealing with in order to stop you from sending you crashing to bed and missing that test you’ve been looking forward to all week.

While the symptoms for the common cold and the flu may be similar, these illnesses are not the same.

A cold is a weak respiratory ailment that begins with a sore throat. This is followed by a runny nose, congestion and a cough by the fourth or fifth day, according to WebMD.com.

The flu, an influenza virus, may hit harder. Symptoms for the flu include sore throat, fever, headache, cough, chills – and my dead giveaway – muscle aches and soreness, according to the Web site.

Now, if it becomes difficult to breathe, the fever persists or if vomiting or an inability to keep fluids down develops, the Web site suggests you call your doctor.

Some complications resulting from the flu include bacterial pneumonia, dehydration and worsening of chronic medical conditions, such as congestive heart failure, asthma, or diabetes, according to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

And if you’ve never had pneumonia, let me tell you the chest pain associated with it is no joke. Trust me, you want to take your precautions to avoid such agony.

The CDC suggests you get a flu shot. The flu vaccine protects against the three main flu strains that research indicates will cause the most illnesses during the flu season, according to its Web site.

Covering your nose and mouth with a tissue when you cough or sneeze, washing your hands often with soap and water, especially after you cough or sneeze, and avoiding close contact with sick people are some of the everyday preventive precautions the CDC suggests.

Finally the CDC recommends you talk with your doctor to discuss antiviral drugs that may help you fight off the virus.

Although a cold may not lead to deadly complications as with the flu, take precautions at all times with your health. You certainly don’t want to be stuck at home playing video games while the rest of the world audiously works to make a buck.

Pulse is a weekly column examining the state of college health.

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A few simple suggestions to dive head first into the future

With Twitter sweeping the nation, politicians and journalists have been quick to grab hold of this new technology. Everyone from Karl Rove to David Schuster can now update Americans with short, usually one-sentence-long, run-ups on the State of the Union and their daily lives.

This is all part of a transition to a brave new digital age, where online communication is supplanting traditional means of information exchange. Which brings to mind a few important questions, most importantly: Who has time to read an entire column anymore?

I mean, let’s face it, people are working harder than ever and in this fast-paced world, few people have the time to read an entire sentence, much less a column as lengthy as this one. Now that Twitter makes it possible to communicate so briefly and efficiently, why even bother with this column? How can we keep people interested?

This is an important question, and it has become apparent that “Cabralitics,” not to mention The Beacon, must adapt to these changes. That’s why I’m considering implementing a few minor adjustments to keep this column at the forefront of collegiate pseudo-journalism.

First, I suggest we replace at least half the text in the newspaper with giant LOL-Cats style pictures with funny captions. It’s funny, it’s entertaining, and it allows the paper’s Web site (FIUSM.com) to stay competitive with cutting-edge feline news sites like kittensthatarebored.com.

The adjustment wouldn’t even be that hard. Most of the opinion section for the past few weeks, for example, could be summed up by a picture of either a member of the Israeli or Palestinian government with the caption: “I can haz Gaza!”? See what I mean?

That was very easy to come up with, much less a column as lengthy as this one. Now that it was suggested in a satirical edition of this column, The Beacon received hate mail nonetheless outraged people. This, of course, is The Beacon’s own fault.

One can’t always tell when someone is joking when the joke is in written form, as just about anyone who has ever attempted to use sarcasm in a text message can confirm. However, if I were able to end every paragraph in such articles with the letters “jk” and a smiley face, much consternation and mental anguish could be averted.

Finally, I propose we focus less on campus news and more on TMZ-style gossip. After all, who cares about what’s going on in SGA? What does that have to do with Rihanna? Or Britney Spears? These are the important, relevant topics today. TMZ and Perez Hilton’s Web site get far more hits than FIUSM. Why? Because they aren’t afraid to tackle the big issues or post tasteless pictures of domestic violence victims. We need to follow their lead.

More LOL-Cats style pictures, more emotions and abbreviations and more celebrity news. That’s where journalism has veered off the track, and The Beacon needs to get on board or risk drifting into obscurity.

Cabralitics is a homonymically column exploring the lighter side of the world of politics.
Men’s, women’s basketball teams drop road games

**SOFTBALL, page 12**

the Tigers with five strikeouts in six scoreless innings.

**FIU 4, PROVIDENCE 1**

The Golden Panthers laid down their least amount of hits this season with one, but they were able to score four runs and improve to 10 wins in the season in a 4-1 decision over Providence by walking six and giving up four runs in 5.1 innings pitched.

**FORDHAM 3, FIU 2**

The Golden Panthers sliced the deficit to 70-61 with 1:23 minutes left in the second period, but the Hilltoppers converted 10-0 attempts from the foul line the rest of the way to seal the loss for FIU.

The Golden Panthers lost their last regular season road game as they fell to the Western Kentucky University Hilltoppers (19-8, 13-3 Sun-Belt) 79-66 on Feb. 21.

The Hilltoppers got win No. 1600 for their program, becoming the 14th team to do it in NCAA Division I history.

Freddy Asprilla scored 21 and Alex Galindo poured in 13 as the Golden Panthers (11-18, 6-10) made a late run, but FIU had no answer for WKU’s offense, which shot 50 percent from the field and got 26 points from Sergio Kerusch.

“They’re a good basketball team. It’s always fun to come in here and play them,” head coach Sergio Rosco told fiusports.com.

“This is the Mecca of our league and the kind of program we all aspire to be,” Kerusch had 12 rebounds as well, but he was helped by Steffphon Pettigrew, who dropped 17 points of his own for WKU.

The Golden Panthers improved to 5-3 by defeating Troy University and Jackson- ville University on Feb. 21-20 at Univer-

**WOMEN’S BASKETBALL**

Monika Bosilj got her offensive game started in the second half, but it was not enough as the Golden Panthers (6-21, 4-12 Sun Belt) fell 83-74 to the Western Kentucky Hilltoppers on Feb. 22 at Western Kentucky. She finished with 21 points in the game, and Ashley Traugott scored 15 points.

The Golden Panthers headed into the halftime trailing 30-23.

Once the Hilltoppers took a 10-point lead with six minutes left, the Golden Panthers could not get any closer.

The Golden Panthers sliced the deficit to 70-61 with 1:23 minutes left in the second period, but the Hilltoppers converted 10-0 attempts from the foul line the rest of the way to seal the loss for FIU.

FIU closes out the season with home games vs. Middle Tennessee on Feb. 26 and Florida Atlantic on Feb. 28 as they look to get a better position in the upcoming SBC tournament.

**SWIMMING**

The swimming and diving team finished seventh out of eight teams with 210 points.

The Golden Panthers lost their final game of the weekend after leading 2-0 in the fourth inning on Feb. 22 in Miami, Fla.

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In the top of the seventh Barrett came in to relieve Gniadek who landed one Providence runner on first base. Catcher Jessica Landau tried to catch the runner stealing but it ended up as an error, allowing the player to advance to third. Lindsey Bright then nailed a single for the Rams, bringing in a runner to give them the first lead of the game at 3-2.

The loss set FIU’s record at 10-7 for the season after finishing 2-5 for the weekend.

SOFTBALL team loses three of five weekend games

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ERICA MURPHY/THE BEACON

Despite the Golden Panthers’ first series win of the 2009 season, head coach Turtle McClain, who each went 1-for-3 in the winning column. However, some of the competition proved to be too much as FIU finished the weekend with two wins out of five.

MISSOURI 7, FIU 0

An unusually anemic offense couldn’t keep up with No. 15-ranked Missouri University a the FAU “Strike Out Cancer” Tournament on Feb. 20 in Boca Raton, Fla. The Golden panthers recorded just three hits by Kim Rodriguez, Louren Spiers and freshman Ashley McClain, who each went 1-for-3 in the 7-0 loss.

The Golden Panthers scored the final run on a wild pitch.

FIU 10, ARKANSAS 1

The Golden Panthers were able to focus on their offense which had been stagnant just hours before, meanwhile starting pitcher Kasey Barrett took control of the defense with nine strikeouts in her second complete game of the season.

FIU (9-5) recorded at least one hit in every inning, enabling the team to defeat Arkansas (6-4), 10-1, in six innings.

Senior Desiree Fink and freshman Jenny Welch both went 3-for-4 while Jessica Landau contributed by going 2-for-3 with two doubles.

The Golden Panthers scored the final run on a wild pitch.

MISSOURI 5, FIU 0

The rematch proved to be a shut out once again as the FIU offense went frozen, recording seven hits but no scored runs against the Missouri Tigers on day two of the tournament.

Bell and McClain each had two hits while Rodriguez went 1-for-3, extending her hitting streak to eight games.

Gniadek (5-3) pitched five innings for the Golden Panthers. She struck out the first two batters of the game, but gave up a double followed by a single that scored the first run of the game for Missouri. Gniadek would give up four more before she was lifted for Barrett in the sixth inning.

FIU had the bases loaded and no outs at this point but Barrett got out of the jam and pitched two full innings without giving up a run. Stacy Delaney picked up the win for.