University focuses on international curriculum

ELSIE PUIG
Staff Writer

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 assistance.

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 entail 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 perspectives.

However, according to a Miami Herald article, “the number of sponsors has dropped 12 percent, the biggest drop in festival history.”

Talent Show: Made for Life, Feb. 25, 10 p.m. - Can’t get enough of the life of famous? This reality television-themed show will be sure to please.

Rock Band competition, Feb. 25, 10 p.m. - Compete for the title of band leader and experience the adrenaline of rock and roll.

Surfs and Turks event held at the Mandarin Oriental. It’s the biggest drop in festival sponsors has dropped 12 percent,

Errors cost baseball team third victory in a row

DAVID BARRIOS
Senior Staff Writer

Heated debate ensued as senators walked out from deliberations over the Elections Code Revisions of 2009 on Monday night’s SGC-UP Senate meeting.

The bill, calling for the establishment of political parties for student government elections and the disclosure of candidates’ resumes and elections records to the voters, was debated for almost two hours and was not voted upon.

“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.

“Any who votes overwhelmingly on campus campaigns,” Molinaro said. “Greek’s vote. The University of Florida has political parties, including the Greek Party. The Gator Party has never lost an election and is made up of fraternity and sorority members. They have essentially locked out all of the other parties and anyone who isn’t a Greek.”

SGA’s code on student discipline

Code revisions spark debate
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 Rivas 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.

“It’s not an easy topic,” Posada said.

He explained his commission makes recommendations to member states based on the complaints 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 frame of the U.N.,” Posada said, noting this is one of the criticisms of the commission.

After explaining the intricacies of U.N. policymaking, 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.

“Iternational 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 the civil cases, the process of filling 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 Eguizabal. “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.

NEWS FLASH

U.S. dollar hits highest level in almost a week

Student was killed during the week of Feb. 16.

Students, faculty and other University employees are now able to purchase tickets to the Youth Fair at a discount price off the gate price. Tickets went on sale Feb. 20 and will go on until March 24 at the Graham Center in the first floor ticket office.

This year’s fair will be held from March 26 until April 12.

For more information, call Greg Bryant at (305) 348-2187.

Florida governor proposes cuts in property taxes

Republican Florida Gov. Charlie Crist proposed three additional state constitutional amendments and another law regarding cuts in property taxes on Feb. 20.

Legislation and an amendment passed in 2007 and 2008 helped cut property taxes an average of 3 percent annually after a stream of increases.

One proposed amendment would put spending caps on local governments. Another would give breaks to first-time homebuyers and non-homeowner taxpayers. The third would tax increases for primary homeowners if their property values go down.

Fraternity suspended after drug bust

Zeta Beta Tau’s University of Miami chapter has been temporarily suspended after two of its members were accused of drug dealing.

According to Coral Gables police, marijuana and other pills were being sold from the house.

University officials, as well as the national executive director of the fraternity, are working with police during the investigation.

Gas prices inch down

The price of a gallon of regular gasoline appears to be going down, according to the American Automobile Association Club South.

Greg Laskoski, the managing director of public relations for AAA South, said that for the first time oil prices as Americans drive fewer miles.

POLICE NOTES

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 refusing to be transported to a hospital, she signed the “Florida International University - Release and Liability Waiver For Emergency Medical Attention.”

Feb. 17

A student left his wallet at some point between Feb. 14 through Feb. 17. While the student believes the wallet was taken, it was not reported to the University.

Feb. 18

An FIU employee did not respect warning signs outside BBC Academic I, with postings of “CAUTION,” falling near a student’s head.

- Compiled by Paulo O’Sowth
We’ve had almost 1,000 students sign up, with 700 assigned to events.

Caroline Karlberg, assistant associate coordinator
SoBe Wine and Food Festival

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

Senator Helena Ramirez was elected as Senate speaker pro-tempe early in the meeting in protest to the continuing debate. Soon thereafter, the meeting ended as the rest of the senators followed them.

OPEN SEATS

Following a semestral GPA check for all members of student government, several seats were left open including the position of 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 Ramírez during her speech to the body after Molinaro and Senator David Dial, co-author of the bill and Senator for the College of Nursing and Health Science, walked out of the meeting to join their party if they don’t have that support to campaign won’t be able to survive much competition.”

Well, you know what? I don’t think that FIU students are any less capable of creating a political party system than anyone else.

SGA- page 1

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.

“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.

Senators debate students’ readiness for party system

SoBe raises scholarship money despite economy

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ELECTIONS CONTINUE IN SGA

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

She promised to support Jean Roseme, Senate speaker.

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

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

JOIN OUR STAFF!

The BEACON is always looking for talented and reliable individuals to join the staff. Stop by one of our offices located in GC 210 and WUC 124.

SGA- page 1

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Wine, Food Fest offers students a taste of the biz

CHRISTOPHER NECUEZ
Editor in Chief

As the sun started to set on Feb. 22, marking the end of the eighth annual South Beach Wine & Food Festival, close to 1,000 FIU students breathed a collective sigh of relief after four days of helping make the festival a reality.

The student associates involved in almost every aspect of the Whole Foods Market Grand Tasting Village, one of the main events of the festival, were hosted and organized by the University’s School of Hospitality and Tourism Management. They worked on everything from the logistics to the actual execution of events themselves.

At the festival, hundreds of exhibitors, students working the grounds answering festivalgoers’ questions or thanking them, students working the grounds answering...
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009635
BuBBles on the Beach:

1. The BubbleQ chefs posed for a picture with their Romero Britto decorated champagne bottles.

2. Andres Villabona, Bianca Rojas, and Paul Castaneda 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 Sarduy and Jouven 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.

SoBe Wine and Food Festival ‘09

BUBBLES ON THE BEACH:
1. The BubbleQ chefs posed for a picture with their Romero Britto decorated champagne bottles.
2. Andres Villabona, Bianca Rojas, and Paul Castaneda await the judges decision from Emeril Lagasse at the Big 105.9 cook off.
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ALL PHOTOS BY NATHAN VALENTINE/THE BEACON
It's halfway through the semester and I already know the one lesson that I am going to walk away with from these couple of months: never assume anything about anyone.

The first revelation of this message actually came back in 2006, as I was still intending to be an education major when I entered college, and was flipping through television channels and saw part of The Ron Clark Story on TNT where Matthew Perry played a dedicated teacher in a rough neighborhood.

Perry's character was frustrated by a particular student who never turned in work and always caused trouble, but when he went to the student's house to talk to her mother, he found that the student was home alone, not doing homework because she had been left to take care of her many younger brothers and sisters – including needing to make dinner. (At least that's how I remember the scene, which is what is important here.)

From that night on, I told myself that when I became a teacher, I would never degrade my students in class (even if they were poor performers) as so many of my own teachers did, because I would have no idea what was going on once they walked out of my room.

I am no longer an education major, but I still carry this message with me daily.

I have more than a handful of personal experiences this semester which reinforces this, too, but first, one more movie that resuscitated the lesson for me: Stand by Me Millionaires. In Stand by Me, the main character is accused of cheating on a game show because someone of his social status could never have known all the trivia answers. The movie consists of flashbacks to a life tougher and more challenging than I could ever imagine, consisting of traumatic and devastating experiences throughout his life that explains how he knew each question. I am part of a couple of programs this semester that have thrown me into interesting activities with new people.

I have always appreciated the honesty that my peers have put into these activities, and since these are all the sort of things that happened in confidence and shouldn't be disseminated outside of the room, I'll have to be unfortunate, vage, to demonstrate how everyone has been through such different experiences in life, everyone I was with started out standing in a straight line and had to step forward or backwards based on certain experiences, such as going without dinner one night because their family couldn't afford it. I already do not remember which people stepped back for that question 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 wrongly assume that someone isn’t putting effort into their work and feel like a fool afterwards because you didn’t consider everything else they are going through. But please, try to avoid this.

I don’t ever think that I can look at someone new again and think that I know them very well.
COMING SOON

Adventure, education abroad and around
FRANCESCO SALOMONI
Contributing Writer

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 opportunities ranging from $300 to $500 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, Phia 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 Sirmangkalakul, 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,” Sirmangkalakul said.

The 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 www.education-abroad.fiu.edu or e-mail education-abroad@fiu.edu.

Additional reporting by Eddith Sevilla

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 right, 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 them 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, congestion, cough — 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, WebMD 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 about 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 busily works to make a buck.

Pulse is a weekly column examining the state of college health.
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, ruminations 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 us to 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 to get far more hits than FIUSM. Why? Because they can have a smiley face, much consternation and mental anguish could be averted.

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 of the day. TMZ and Perez Hilton’s Web site get into the realm of satire, and some have been offended by sentiments that were merely articulated for irony’s sake.

Of course, I never really supported housing Guantanamo Bay prisoners in the University, but if text messaging in a text message can confirm, why isn’t this the case? This is an important question, and it has become apparent that “Cabralitics,” not to mention “The Beacon,” must adapt to these changes.

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 of the day. 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.

CABRALITICS is a bimonthly column exploring the nature of his character that seems quite paradoxical: a Greek play in which the gods are part of birds that lead them to Popsy, Queen of the Birds (the original Greek play by Aristophanes dating back over 2,000 years, is the story of two down-on-their-luck hacks: Las Vegas nightclub comedienne, Ms. Heckyl (Lal Navarro-Watts) and Ms. Jeckyl (DeAnna Drayton). Wandering in the desert, the two men come upon a lone bird vendor who manages to sell Smoke and Sand a pair of birds that lead them to Poppy, Queen of the Birds (the original Greek play by Aristophanes dating back over 2,000 years). He is trite and filled with far too many F-bombs and few memorable characters. Instead, we get the hackneyed and pointless lyrics of Mr. Jenkin. And then there’s the musical numbers, comparable to Sesame Street on LSD without the wonderful lyrics of the late Joe Raposo. Instead, we get the hackneyed and pointless lyrics of Mr. Jenkin. The lyrics reflect the dialogue, which was trite and filled with far too many F-bombs and few memorable characters.

Meanwhile, humans try to climb over the barrier into “Cloud Cuckoo Land,” the paradise of the birds, including a pedophile priest (because we don’t already get enough child molestation jokes), computer nerds who promise infrastructure (offering to build a 56 screen megaplex in the digital age), politicians (touting law and scandal) and real-estate developers (offering to build a $6 screen megaplex theater and a Starbucks). Sounds like a commentary on American society of the 21st century, no?

The interpretation is predictable, shallow, pedantic and uninteresting. This commentary is not enlightening. The humans who make it across the wall are meant to represent the hypocrites of society that the birds try to shut themselves from. But nothing new is said about these religion and politics that wasn’t said by Aristophanes more than 2,000 years ago.

The acting is mixed. Gutierrez and Moreno do a great job as their 1963 counterparts (Suzanne Pleshette, Rod Steiger) having fun at the expense of their 1963 counterparts (Suzanne Pleshette, Rod Taylor and Tippi Hedren). And then there’s the musical numbers, comparable to Sesame Street on LSD without the wonderful lyrics of the late Joe Raposo. Instead, we get the hackneyed and pointless lyrics of Mr. Jenkin.

The Birds is ridiculous and unoriginal and despite honest attempts by the actors on stage to bring some semblance of order to the purpose to the stage, it is Jenkin’s text that is to be blamed.

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

SOFTBALL, page 12

FORDHAM 3, FIU 2

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 sliced the deficit to 70-61 with 1:23 minutes left in the second period, but the Hilltoppers converted 10- of-11 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.

WOMEN’S BASKETBALL

Monika Bousil 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.

TENNIS

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

The two matches marked the first home games for the team this season. The two wins boosted the Golden Panthers’ rank to No. 48 in the nation.

Troy managed to win two games against FIU, but still lost 5-2. Jacksonville, on the other hand, was shut out.

No. 101 ranked sophomore Liset Brito defeated Rawia Elsisi in straight sets. Meanwhile, No. 58 ranked Mariana Muci also won in straight sets against Annabelle Bares.

SWIMMING

The swimming and diving team finished seventh out of eight teams with 210 points in the season in 3-meter diving.

No. 48 in the nation.

The freshman will compete in the NCAA Zone Diving Championships in Knoxville, Tenn. March 13-14 after qualifying earlier in the season in 3-meter diving.

Senior Sara Giovanni defeated fourth in the 200 backstroke with a time of 2:19.29 minutes and 15th in the 200-individual medley with a time of 2:08.56.

The Golden Panthers set new school records in the 200-medley relay with a time of 1:50.15 and in the 800-medley relay with a time of 7:50.75.

Charlie Grau and Sergio Bonilla contributed to this report

Softball team loses three of five weekend games

GUN BOUNTY PROGRAM

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BASEBALL: JACKSONVILLE 9, FIU 3

ERRORS STOP SWEEP

Pitching staff hurt by 10 errors; team still wins two of three

SERGIO BONILLA
Asst. Sports Director

For the first time in the three-game series, the Jacksonville Dolphins’ bats came alive to avoid a sweep.

Just 12 hours after losing 20-1, the Dolphins (1-2) took advantage of four Golden Panthers miscues to defeat the Golden Panthers 9-3 on Feb. 22 at University Park Stadium.

Despite the Golden Panthers’ first series win of the 2009 season, head coach Turtle Thomas would like to see his team’s defense commit fewer errors.

“I’d like to see something different than a four; you just get more base runners, more guys on base. In college baseball, for every two guys that get on, normally one of them is going to end up scoring over the course of the season.”

Of the allowed runs so far this season, six of the 14 are unearned. The team committed 10 errors in three games.

The Golden Panthers tacked two runs in the first inning vs. Dolphins’ starter Andrew Carson. But after a shaky beginning, Carson settled down and used his off-speed pitches to throw the Golden Panthers off balance.

It was during the fourth inning that the Golden Panthers relinquished the lead for the first time. Missouri’s hit by Tyler Townsend made the first error of the inning when he dropped a fly ball. Third baseman Garrett Wittels also mishandled a ground ball, and the Dolphins did not waste these opportunities against lefty Corey Polizzano.

“Corey wasn’t on his game today,” Thomas said. “He wasn’t at his best. He didn’t have a good fastball today, so he went with a lot of changeups and breaking balls. Last Sunday, he threw the best I’ve ever seen him pitch. He’ll be back.”

The Dolphins scored three runs in the fourth. Shortstop Junior Arrojo also made an error in the sixth, when the Dolphins added four more runs to their score.

Designated hitter Tim Jobe began the seventh inning with a rocket shot off the scoreboard for his first home run as a Golden Panther. Jobe’s homer made the score 7-3. The Dolphins scored two more times in the eighth to salvage a win in the weekend series. During the series, the Golden Panthers’ team’s earned run average (ERA) was a miniscule 2.00. Outfielder/infielder Tyler Townsend was impressed by his team’s pitching during the three-game stretch.

“The last three games, we had a great starting pitcher,” he said. “Definitely, the pitching is night and day from last year.”

But Townsend agrees with his coach about the team’s questionable defense this season.

“We need to work on errors,” he said. “We’re going to work on the little things. Making routine plays, throwing and catching. It’s just one of those things that’s going to get better with time.”

Even with the improvements, Thomas said his team should’ve taken advantage of the 2-0 series lead.

“When you have a chance to get a knockout punch, you want to take that and get the sweep if you can,” he said.

SOFTBALL, page 11

Nationally ranked team sweeps Golden Panthers

STEPHANIE GABRIEL
Staff Writer

The Golden Panthers had a quiet weekend on the offensive side, forcing the pitching staff to take control of keeping the softball team in the winning column. However, none 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 at the FAU “Strike Out Cancer” Tournament on Feb. 20 in Boca Raton, Fla. The Golden panthers recorded just three hits by Kim Rodriguez, Lauren Stern and freshman Ashley McClain, who each went 1-for-3 in the 7-0 loss.

Paige Cassidy, the starting pitcher for FIU, walked the lead-off hitter in the first inning who then scored the game’s first run. Cassidy got FIU out of the first inning after Missouri batted in another run, making the score 2-0.

The junior pitcher gave up four more runs in the second inning, putting Missouri up 6-0, before freshman McClain came in to her relief.

MU’s Chelsea Thomas picked up the win, allowing only three hits while walking none. She didn’t allow any FIU runners to advance passed second base.

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.

MU 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