3-23-2009

The Beacon, March 23, 2009

Florida International University

Follow this and additional works at: http://digitalcommons.fiu.edu/student_newspaper

Recommended Citation
http://digitalcommons.fiu.edu/student_newspaper/259

This work is brought to you for free and open access by the Special Collections and University Archives at FIU Digital Commons. It has been accepted for inclusion in The Panther Press (formerly The Beacon) by an authorized administrator of FIU Digital Commons. For more information, please contact dcc@fiu.edu.
YOU'RE OUTTA HERE!

Student Government Council at University Park Elections

Commissioner Richard Guzman was removed from his position after candidates submitted their applications for the upcoming SGA elections.

Guzman was removed for failure to "provide a detailed report of his office hours to the senate and execute on weekly basis," according to the official ruling which was provided to The Beacon by the SGC-UP Judiciary.

Guzman was mandated to submit these records as one of three clauses listed on a Feb. 16 ruling by the legislature after Guzman was charged with not fulfilling his tasks as elections commissioner, including attending at least one SGC meeting per month during which he, or a member of the elections board, was to submit a report about updates in the elections process.

The judiciary based its March 12 decision on an e-mail sent to them by “Senate Leadership,” stating: "As of now, he has failed to attend meetings and complete his office hours as stated in your decision letter.”

Guzman was unavailable for comment for this article.

Business school makes top 100

LAUREN AGOSTO
Staff Writer

The College of Business Administration has one of the top 100 undergraduate business programs, according to BusinessWeek magazine.

The R. Kirk Landon Undergraduate School of Business at FIU was ranked 15 in the nation for public two-year programs, 55 among all public schools and 98 overall, ahead of Temple University, Georgia State University and the University of South Florida.

“It acknowledges that we have one of the leading business schools in the nation,” said Joyce Elam, executive dean of the College of Business Administration in an interview with The Beacon. “When students are looking for business programs to attend, they look at these ratings to determine the schools that they want to consider.”

Other Florida universities that ranked this year include the University of Miami, the University of Florida in Gainesville and the University of South Florida in Tampa.

FIU has more than 6,000 students enrolled in undergraduate business courses, more than 1,000 graduate students attend its Alvah H. Chapman Jr. Graduate School of Business every year and 1,000 business professionals are involved in one or more of its professional and executive education programs every year.

The Landon Undergraduate School of Business has been ranked among BusinessWeek’s top undergraduate business programs twice in the last three years. The Chapman Graduate School of Business has been ranked four times in BusinessWeek.

“I think it’s remarkable that we were ranked so high. Being recognized in the whole United States as one of the top business schools, it’s really an honor,” said Luis Rivera, a junior.

In addition to its frequent appearances in BusinessWeek, the School of Business has also been featured in several other publications.

BUSINESS, page 2
Online competition awards funds

There are other ways to get money for school, but people are lazy. A 30-second video is kind of easy, though.

Paula Gutierrez
freshman biology major

JONATHAN DAVILA
Staff Writer

Filling out a Free Application for Federal Student Aid isn’t the only way to get assistance helpful this year.

Tuition Tales, the second annual online competition hosted by Upromise.com, begins on March 24. The contest allows members of the Web site to upload a 30-second video explaining why they, or a person they know, should get help with tuition.

“We started the program as a way to get Upromise customers money for college,” said Debby Hohler, spokesperson for Upromise, a subsidiary of SLM Corporation.

Entrants must create a Upromise account to submit a video. All entries must be submitted by May 5, and the videos must be no longer than 30 seconds and no larger than 50 megabytes. Contestants must be at least 18 years old to enter.

After the entry deadline, first-round voting begins.

The 12 contestants with the most votes between May 6-12 will receive a $250 Bed Bath & Beyond gift card.

Second-round voting takes place from May 13-19 and three winners will be selected – one from each three categories: children ages zero to 18, undergraduate students and graduate students.

The three grand prize winners will receive $10,000 for college expenses.

“I’d pay my loans, my housing loans and buy books,” it’d probably last two semesters,” said freshman biology major Paula Gutierrez.

Gutierrez’s sister, Juliana, said the contest was a good way for students who don’t normally apply for more conventional scholarships to have a chance at earning money for college.

“There are other ways to get money for school, but people are lazy. A 30-second video is kind of easy, though,” she said. “It’s an interesting opportunity.”

Past entrants have submitted videos ranging from amateur 30-second clips of the contestant speaking to the camera to professionally edited videos. A grand prize winner from 2008 stared into the camera and sang a song he had written.

“Some of them were creative and fully edited. We’ve even had claymation submitted.” Hohler said “One family of eight even did their own take on ‘The Brady Bunch.’”

Aside from implementing the Tuition Tales contest, Upromise is dedicated to helping students earn cash for college. They have partnered with Dell, Best Buy, Target, Exxon, Apple and many other companies that have agreed to submit portions of cash spent on their products back into Upromise members’ accounts.

During the voting phases, Hohler said the site would feature an instant win game with daily prizes, but no further details could be provided at the time of this writing.

Cash saved up in a member’s Upromise account can then be disbursed out upon the conclusion of the contest.

For more information on Tuition Tales and Upromise, visit Upromise.com.

Guzman removed as commissioner

Newest releases Friday by the Congres- sional Budget Office, President Obama’s new budget would create unsustainable large deficits of $1 trillion per year for 10 years. According to USA Today, the new budget will produce precisely $9.3 trillion of spending, $2.6 trillion more than the administration predicted last month in its budget.

The CBO says that with these numbers, the deficit will never go below 4 percent a figure that economists agree are unsustainable.

—Compiled by Jorge Valens

FIU
Arturo Sandoval to perform at FIU

On Tuesday, March 24 Arturo Sandoval will be performing in the FIU Jazz Band at the Westheim Performing Arts Center Hall at University at Culture House.

Sandoval, a Grammy award-winning jazz trumpeter, is renowned for his Afro-Cuban grooves and his ability to play a variety of different styles.

Sandoval will be playing along side the FIU Jazz Band which is made up of young musicians from a wide range of cultures. To order tickets for the event, please call 305-348-0496.

WORLD
Poll: Miami Cubans still support embargo

According to the Associated Press, a new poll conducted in Miami, shows that most Cuban-American voters still support the embargo against Cuba.

Students from the University of Miami surveyed a total of 2,470 people while they were exiting the voting booths on Election Day. Of those, 720 were Cuban-American.

The results of the poll, which was published Friday by the UM Institute for Cuban and Cuban-American Studies, showed that 36 percent of the Cuban-Americans polled supported keeping tightening the embargo while 43 percent would loosen it.

While 64 percent of Cuban-Americans said they would respect the vote of the next president, 28 percent were unsure.

Cuban-American.

voting booths on Election Day. Of those, 720 were Cuban-American.

The results of the poll, which was published Friday by the UM Institute for Cuban and Cuban-American Studies, showed that 36 percent of the Cuban-Americans polled supported keeping tightening the embargo while 43 percent would loosen it.

While 64 percent of Cuban-Americans said they would respect the vote of the next president, 28 percent were unsure.

Students from the University of Miami surveyed a total of 2,470 people while they were exiting the voting booths on Election Day. Of those, 720 were Cuban-American.

The results of the poll, which was published Friday by the UM Institute for Cuban and Cuban-American Studies, showed that 36 percent of the Cuban-Americans polled supported keeping tightening the embargo while 43 percent would loosen it.

While 64 percent of Cuban-Americans said they would respect the vote of the next president, 28 percent were unsure.

ELECTION, page 1

elections board.

Candidates will be heard during today’s SGC-UP Senate meeting during which the senate will approve applicants.

The current requirements to be a member of the elections board include a minimum 2.0 GPA, without any disciplinary or academic sanctions attached to an applicant’s record.

The applicant must also not be affiliated with any candidate or campaign for an electoral posi-

12 contestants with the most votes between May 6-12 will receive a $250 Bed Bath & Beyond gift card.

The 2009 requirement to be a member of the elections board included a minimum 2.0 GPA, without any disciplinary or academic sanctions attached to an applicant’s record. The applicant must also not be affiliated with any candidate or campaign for an electoral position.

Guzman removed as commissioner

Newest releases Friday by the Congres- sional Budget Office, President Obama’s new budget would create unsustainable large deficits of $1 trillion per year for the next 10 years.

According to USA Today, the new budget will produce precisely $9.3 trillion of spending, $2.6 trillion more than the administration predicted last month in its budget.

The CBO says that with these numbers, the deficit will never go below 4 percent a figure that economists agree are unsustainable.

—Compiled by Jorge Valens
Contribution Writer

Thirty-three new student ambassadors were announced by the executive board of the Student Alumni Association on March 9. Student ambassadors serve as leaders for the University community. Applicants are chosen by the previous year’s ambassadors with the executive members of the SAA, however, the SAA is looking for specific qualities in a candidate.

All candidates must maintain a 3.0 GPA throughout the year. Ambassadors must also be able to manage their time and represent FIU in a professional manner at all events.

The program is highly competitive, according to Dianne Cordova, assistant director of students and campus outreach who was also present for the announcement.

“It is a really tough choice this year. There were many that applied for the positions,” said Laura Fajardo, director of the student ambassador program.

The ambassadors, once chosen, are responsible for hosting alumni events as well as tailgates and football games and, most importantly, they serve as the link between faculty, staff and alumni.

In addition, they are able to assist the Office of the President and the Office of Alumni Relations for certain events.

“In the past, they have helped us in events including commencement, freshman convocation and the geopolitical summit,” Cordova said.

One by one, the names were called and the board of the SAA adorned each new ambassador with beads and a nametag that officially appointed them as part of the 2009-10 ambassador team.

One of the names selected was Manuel Romero.

He said he expects to represent the University in a way that he has not before.

“I want to portray FIU spirit – I am looking forward to hosting school events and portraying FIU in a positive light. Also, I want to make others care about our school,” said Romero, a junior medical engineering major.

Some were chosen for a second time to serve as a representative for the University. One of these students was Paul Ashe. For Ashe, it was the involvement in student life that persuaded him to apply for the program.

“I love the tailgates and the football games, and it’s also a great way to see a sense of FIU pride in addition to joining faculty and alumni at events,” said Ashe, a senior advertising major.

Each year the SAA chooses about 30 candidates for the University Park campus and about five for the Biscayne Bay Campus.

Following this year’s announcement, the applicants embraced and rejoiced with the executive board of the SAA. Cordova said she was especially excited to work alongside these skilled groups of students.

The 2008-2009 team was amazing and I am fortunate to be working with such wonderful students,” Cordova said.

Laura Fajardo, director of the Student Alumni Association, announces the new ambassadors.
KAMPAI! A JAPANESE TOAST

NURIA YUANCHA/THE BEACON

FRESH IDEA: The Friends of Wine Club hosted a sake tasting March 12 so members could compare flavor profiles from Japanese-style rice wines to traditional grape wines, which are usually tasted. The sakes were paired with sesame encrusted tuna, miso soup and seaweed salad.

AT THE BAY

NATHAN VALENTINE/THE BEACON

SCHOOL OF JOURNALISM AND MASS COMMUNICATION

Reaccreditation standards met, University review still in progress

NATALYA COHEN Contributing Writer

Students are not the only ones under tight scrutiny to meet academic requirements. Every 10 years, different schools within the University need to meet several criteria to pass reaffirmation of accreditation, a voluntary self-assessment and external review of schools and their professional programs.

“It improves the quality of our teaching,” said Joseph West, dean of the School of Hospitality Management and BBC vice provost.

The University undergoes the reaffirmation of institutional accreditation through the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools.

Set in Atlanta, SACS is an educational accreditation agency recognized by the U.S. Department of Education to improve education in the south through accreditation, according to its Web site.

SACS representatives review the schools’ documentation, visit the schools going through the accreditation process and write a report of the assessment, including a recommendation to the commission of the accrediting organization.

On Feb. 16, the Accrediting Council on Education in Journalism and Mass Communications, the agency responsible for evaluating journalism and mass communications programs in colleges and universities, visited the School of Journalism and Mass Communication for four days.

“The people from all over the country made up the team,” said Lillian Lodge Kopenhaven, SJMC dean.

There are nine standards that ACEJMC representatives review. They judge, deliberate and eventually inform the school of their decision, according to Frederick Beverly, SJMC professor.

These standards include:

- The mission, governance and administration of the school: The ACEJMC looks for a mission statement, a strategic plan and effective leadership from the administration.
- Curriculum and instruction: The school needs to demonstrate a balance between theoretical, conceptual and professional skill courses for students to be competitive, and that its instruction and curriculum is demanding and current. The student-faculty class-room ratio should not exceed 20:1.
- Diversity and inclusiveness: The school is required to have a written plan for achieving a culturally diverse faculty and student population. There should be no signs of any type of discrimination against gender, race, ethnicity or sexual orientation.
- Scholarship: research, creative and professional activity: The school should require, support and reward faculty research.
- Student service: The school should provide students with the support and services they need for proper learning and ensure their timely graduation. Students should also be well-informed about the different activities, requirements and policies of the school.
- Assessment of learning outcomes: The school should constantly evaluate student learning to improve its curriculum and instruction.
- “We did excellent,” Kopenhaven said. “We scored full compliance in all nine standards for our undergraduate program and graduate program.”
- The ACEJMC committee will meet in Chicago in mid-March to prepare its preliminary report.
- The committee will then meet in May in Portland, where the ACEJMC council will finalize accreditation.
- The University as a whole will be reviewed by SACS next year to seek reaccreditation.

Although accreditation is a voluntary process, there are several disadvantages to students attending non-accredited schools. Federal and state financial aid is only available to students attending accredited schools.

“The Marriott Hotel just awarded us $1.7 million toward our program abroad in China. We would have never gotten that had we not been accredited,” West said.

“By the end of March, Jones has to say ‘yes’ or ‘no’,” Gramling said. “The A&S committee, that I know of, hasn’t even started, so I doubt by the end of March we’ll have a decision.”

“We’re at a point where we need to do more evaluation of the importance of the services that are offered,” said Jones in an article published on The Beacon on March 9.

In regards to whether the organizations at BBC will get funded the amount SGC-BBC wants to, 99 percent of the time the administration doesn’t change the proposed allocations, according to Zapata.

These organizations include Bay Vista Hall Council, BBC Campus Life and Orientation, MultiFaith Council, Student Programming Council, Student Organizations Council, Panther Power, Biscayne SOA and Campus Life.

On March 25, a University-wide meeting will be held to discuss the projected funds of the A&S fees, according to Neinstein.

There are no set dates as to when the A&S fees will be determined and finalized, but Neinstein says they are, both UP and BBC will meet again and refine the proposed allocations.

BARBARA QUIJANO Asst. News Director

Bombardeled with a strenuous economy and suffering from budget cuts, the Student Government Council at Biscayne Bay Campus distributed funds for the 2009-2010 fiscal year.

A BBC budget meeting took place March 13 in the Wolfe University Center to decide how much funding, which is determined by the Activities and Services fee, should be allocated to each student organization, recreational activity and facility.

The A&S fee is based on student enrollment at the University, it costs students $10.52 per enrolled credit each semester.

“The administration designs the distribution of the A&S funds through the estimated enrollment process, and that’s how every government bases it on, in terms of how much tax dollars they’re going to get,” Neinstein said.

“The administration designs the distribution of the A&S funds through the estimated enrollment process, and that’s how every government bases it on, in terms of how much tax dollars they’re going to get,” Neinstein said.

The committee will then meet in May in Portland, where the ACEJMC council will finalize accreditation.

The University as a whole will be reviewed by SACS next year to seek reaccreditation.

Although accreditation is a voluntary process, there are several disadvantages to students attending non-accredited schools. Federal and state financial aid is only available to students attending accredited schools.

“The Marriott Hotel just awarded us $1.7 million toward our program abroad in China. We would have never gotten that had we not been accredited,” West said.

“By the end of March, Jones has to say ‘yes’ or ‘no’,” Gramling said. “The A&S committee, that I know of, hasn’t even started, so I doubt by the end of March we’ll have a decision.”

“We’re at a point where we need to do more evaluation of the importance of the services that are offered,” said Jones in an article published on The Beacon on March 9.

In regards to whether the organizations at BBC will get funded the amount SGC-BBC wants to, 99 percent of the time the administration doesn’t change the proposed allocations, according to Zapata.

These organizations include Bay Vista Hall Council, BBC Campus Life and Orientation, MultiFaith Council, Student Programming Council, Student Organizations Council, Panther Power, Biscayne SOA and Campus Life.

On March 25, a University-wide meeting will be held to discuss the projected funds of the A&S fees, according to Neinstein.

There are no set dates as to when the A&S fees will be determined and finalized, but Neinstein says they are, both UP and BBC will meet again and refine the proposed allocations.
Fish data helps Everglades restoration, research

NATHAN VALENTINE
BBC Photo Editor

When grad student Meagan Dunphy-Daly and marine scientist Kirk Gastrich aren’t doing research in their lab, they are playing hooky in the marshes of the Everglades.

But this trip was no walk in the park. It was a boat ride.

Leaving the Biscayne Bay Campus around 5 a.m. on Feb. 24, the duo had one goal in mind: insert three transmitters into wild snook caught in the Everglades.

The team headed toward Shark River Slough (which feeds into the Everglades and goes into the Gulf of Mexico) where they met up with an electrofishing team.

Electrofishing is an alternate method for sampling fish. Instead of using fish traps or large nets, an electrical current controlled with a foot pedal is released into the water via two electrodes, stunning fish in the immediate vicinity.

The immobilized fish are then scooped up with nets, identified and measured, according to grad student Philip Matich.

“Our sampling is standardized, with 5 minutes of pedal time, more than 120 meters of shore-line,” said Jennifer Rehage, electrofishing team leader.

The electrofishing team collects the fish, while the data collection team scrubs in for the dirty work.

“Our research is looking at the roles of large consumers in Shark River, and how environmental conditions affect their behavior and habitat use,” said Matich, who helps analyze the data in the Dr. Michael Heithaus Marine Community Ecology Lab in the Marine Science Building at the Biscayne Bay Campus.

The Comprehensive Everglades Restoration Project provides a framework for the restoration, protection and preservation of central and southern Florida, including the Everglades, as well as research funding at the University. The project aims to increase seasonal freshwater flow to the lower Everglades. This would cause the salinity level to decrease in the lower Everglades and coastal wetlands, according to the CERP official Web site.

“This may change the dynamics of the ecosystem [in Shark River],” Matich said. “Our research will be used to advise managers on the possible results of doing this and how restoration efforts should best be planned.”

According to Rehage, fish catches vary depending on the season, peaking during dry season between February and May.

“We get a mixture of species in our samples,” said Rehage.

But on this Dunphy-Daly and Gastrich were only interested in snook and gar.

Rehage’s team presented five fish to the duo to begin data collection and tagging.

“The exciting work of field biologists begins right now,” Dunphy-Daly said. “It never ends.”

Gastrich agreed.

“It never ends.”

The field work conducted by Dunphy-Daly and Gastrich included a quick surgery to insert an acoustic tracking transmitter into the fish, which by rule of thumb should be at least 45 centimeters based on the size of the transmitters surgically implanted, according to Matich.

The minimum size limit is based on previous lab experience with fish that were not affected by the surgery.

“There are no official regulations on size requirements in our research permit,” Matich said.

The transmitter’s dimensions are similar to a wine bottle cork.

TAG AND RELEASE: Kirk Gastrich and Meagan Dunphy-Daly measure a garfish before taking a fin clip sample and releasing the fish back into Shark River Slough in the Everglades, Feb. 23.

For the surgery, a scalpel makes a ventral incision down the stomach, which is widened with blunt tip scissors. After the transmitter is inserted, the incision is sutured with one stitch. The surgery start and end time is documented, as well as the apparent health of the fish after the surgery before it’s released.

“The average surgery time is about two to four minutes,” Dunphy-Daly said.

It takes about two to three weeks for the incision around the transmitter to heal completely in bull sharks, for which the same methodology as the snook is applied, according to Matich.

Of the three snook that underwent this procedure, all were released and able to swim within minutes of the surgery’s completion. It takes less than a day for the fish to resume normal behavior, according to Match.

Tagged animals are tracked as they swim by any of the 41 monitors placed around the survey area, according to Dunphy-Daly.

“We track the fish in order to understand their behavior and habitat, and to determine their role in the ecosystem,” Matich said.

Data collected at the harvesting site included exact GPS coordinates of where the fish were caught, salinity of the water, dissolved oxygen content of the water and water temperature.

Along with habitat field samples, the data illustrates how water animals influence the ecosystem as predators and how marine nutrients are deposited in the estuary, according to Dunphy-Daly.

The electrofishing team and the data collection team finished by 2 p.m. Feb 24.

Including travel time, a typical day of field work in the Everglades begins at 4 a.m. and ends at 9:30 p.m., according to Gastrich.

If the teams receive more funding, they will continue their research tracking fish in the areas affected by CERP’s efforts, but accomplishing daily goals in a timely manner is still cause for celebration.

“That was successful, short and sweet,” said Dunphy-Daly. “We got the job done.”

Students to partake in whitewater rafting, caving trip

ADA ALVAREZ
Contributing Writer

Whitewater and dark caves await student participants of the whitewater rafting and caving trip sponsored by the Recreation Center.

The trip, from May 14 to May 17 in Hico, W.Va, is part of the Adventure Recreation program, which is designed to take students to athletic excursions to places outside South Florida.

Participants will get wet on a six-hour whitewater rafting adventure in the New River on the southeast corner of West Virginia.

The activity is coordinated by Adventure Mountain River, a rafting company.

Although West Virginia, said Matt O’Connor, intramural and sports coordinator for the Recreation Center. “You’re going to get dirty.”

“During the Lost World Caverns’ 45-minute tour, participants will learn about how the caves were formed and what kind of life can be found in the caves, according to the Lost World Caverns official Web site.

The cost of the trip is $300 for University students and $325 for non-students. This fee includes the roundtrip bus ride to West Virginia, rafting equipment, a cavern tour and three nights in the Howard Johnson Express hotel in Beckley, W.Va.

“Only one lunch and one snack are provided during the trip; students have to pay for all other expenses, according to Shaw.

“We want to make it the least expensive for students,” said O’Connor. “With the economy the way it is, people don’t have money to spend.”

Although the Recreation Center at UP has organized several trips this year, including a skiing trip to Colorado, this is the only trip that the BBC Recreation Center has been involved in.

“I’m really happy with the trips that are being offered here,” said Laura Hernandez, graduate student of hospitality and management.

“I kayaked, played paintball and now I’m going water rafting – all for the very first time, it is really exciting.”

Students interested in participating in the trip is welcome to register, according to Shaw, who said that both students and non-students can register by filling out the forms available at the Recreation Center at both University Park and Biscayne Bay campuses.

Registration is open to a maximum of 50 people until May 4. The deadline for earlybird discount (25 percent off total fee) is April 17.

Max López, senior marine biology major.

“I couldn’t plan a trip for Spring Break, but it’ll definitely go to this. This will sure be a way to say goodbye to my last semester here.”

Max López, senior marine biology major.

“I couldn’t plan a trip for Spring Break, but I’ll definitely go to this,” said Max López, senior marine biology major. “It is a little over my budget but I’m trying to save to get in the list. This will sure be a way to say goodbye to my last semester here at FIU.”

Anyone interested in participating in the trip is welcome to register, according to Shaw, who said that both students and non-students can register by filling out the forms available at the Recreation Center at both University Park and Biscayne Bay campuses.

Regulation is open to a maximum of 50 people until May 4. The deadline for earlybird discount (25 percent off total fee) is April 17.

The cost of the trip is $300 for University students and $325 for non-students. This fee includes the roundtrip bus ride to West Virginia, rafting equipment, a cavern tour and three nights in the Howard Johnson Express hotel in Beckley, W.Va.

“Only one lunch and one snack are provided during the trip; students have to pay for all other expenses, according to Shaw.

“We want to make it the least expensive for students,” said O’Connor. “With the economy the way it is, people don’t have money to spend.”

Although the Recreation Center at UP has organized several trips this year, including a skiing trip to Colorado, this is the only trip that the BBC Recreation Center has been involved in.

“I’m really happy with the trips that are being offered here,” said Laura Hernandez, graduate student of hospitality and management.

“I kayaked, played paintball and now I’m going water rafting – all for the very first time, it is really exciting.”

For more information contact Shaw at (305) 919-4595 or O’Connor at (305) 348-7530.
Middle-class Americans deserve to voice their issues

On Feb. 28, the first meeting of President Obama’s middle-class task force took place in Philadelphia. The purpose of this task force is to meet in cities across the country to deal with problems that specifically affect the middle class.

The problem, according to an article from Time magazine, is that the task force does not have a single member that belongs to the middle class.

The article states that anyone making between $30,000 and $100,000 a year is in the middle class. Yet everyone in the task force from Vice President Joe Biden to Council of Economic Advisors Chairwoman Christina Romer is part of the top 5 percent of wage earners. However, what this article fails to acknowledge is that the members of the task force from the Council of Economic Advisors chairwoman to the energy secretary are the ones most knowledgeable about ways to solve the problems faced by the middle class.

In order to help the middle class in this country, the task force must have the most experience on issues concerning the economy and ways of using renewable energy to create green jobs. Since they are experienced within these fields, it should not surprise anyone that they belong to the top 5 percent of wage earners, especially since these experts are in high demand during a recession.

Besides the fact that the members of the task force should be the most knowledgeable in fields concerning job creation, middle class Americans can submit their questions and ideas online on the task force’s Web site, StrongMiddleClass.gov.

The only problem I have with the task force is that the whole point of going from city to city is to hear from middle class Americans to find out about the problems they are facing. The best way to increase consumer confidence in the middle class is through the sessions of this task force. These sessions is to directly answer their questions and seriously consider their ideas and suggestions.

In the session conducted by the task force in Philadelphia, the task force did not accept any input from the audience. It is OK to not have any members from the middle class belong to the middle-class. It is not OK for these sessions to be conducted without any input from the audience.

In the same article, Communications Director Daniel Morris of the Drum Major Institute, a think tank that analyzes middle-class policy issues, said, “They’re going to need to talk to real members of the middle class. There’s no substitute for immediate interaction.”

Talking to Americans directly is not only crucial, but imperative for the task force’s success.
Humberto Hernandez used to hate public speaking. But after he became a part of Corps of Cadets, he’s able to speak to large groups without getting up “so much.”

Hernandez said his accomplishment is due to his involvement with Corps of Cadets, a student club that works in conjunction with Army Reserve Officers’ Training Corps at FIU.

“I used to get nervous before. My palms would sweat and I couldn’t think straight,” said Hernandez, a civil engineer major and vice president of the club.

Students who join ROTC automatically become club members, according to Jorge Rossell, the club’s president.

Rossell describes the club as a collaboration of big brothers.

Members help each other with academic issues, personal issues and even career concerns.

“We build teamwork by bringing members together,” Rossell said.

During local football games and concerts, club members work by helping camera TV crews, making sure that no one disrupts the venue and also helping raise funds for the club and ROTC, according to Hernandez.

Teamwork is important during physical training when members swim carrying 40 pounds, jump off airplanes and perform land navigation with a compass.

“This program has helped me develop my leadership skills, my confidence and my interpersonal skills,” Hernandez said.

Members are encouraged but not expected to participate in physical training, which is scheduled three times a week in the early morning hours.

“If you see some guys in uniform running around campus at 6 a.m., that’s us,” Hernandez said.

Although the club gives its members the opportunity to network with people from all walks of life, the amount of time it takes from its members does not always allow for fun time.

“A lot of times you don’t get to party, but that’s not necessarily a bad thing,” Hernandez said. “We are more focused and career-oriented and we tend to prioritize what’s good, so not everything is about party and girls.”

For more information contact the FIU ROTC office at 305-348-1619.
Why U2 album brings in wildly hailing reviews

The new U2 album is not bad. Released on Feb. 27, the Irish mega group’s 12th album, No Line on The Horizon, is probably an improvement on their last album. Looking past the awful first single (something you had to do with their last album), there are some really great songs on it.

The title track, “No Line on the Horizon” and “Cedars of Lebanon” are terrific. Many of the songs feature some of Bono’s finest lyrics in a long time, as he seems to be speaking directly to his band and the audience in songs like “Magnificent” and the brilliantly titled “I’ll Go Crazy If I Don’t Go Crazy Tonight.”

Having said all that, I don’t want it to sound like I’m heaping too much praise on it. Like I said, the album is decidedly not bad, but it’s certainly not much more than that.

However, you’d never know that by reading the majority of reviews for this album, which have widely hailed the album as a Masterpiece, with a capital “M.”

The past three U2 albums have really seen this type of knee jerk reaction from critics, especially those in the mainstream immediately heaping praise on it for not being terrible, apparently. Rolling Stone, which admittedly probably stopped being relevant sometime during the last millennium, has hailed each of the last three U2 albums as a classic, on par with their late 80’s peak. And Rolling Stone isn’t alone in this sentiment.

I realize, of course, that U2 is a special kind of beast that exists in its own world within the realm of rock music, but the type of praise they get for their late period good-to-great albums is a bit ridiculous.

However, U2 isn’t alone in this phenomenon. Seemingly every time a formerly great artist releases an album, from Paul McCartney to Neil Young to the king of it, Bob Dylan, it is instantly hailed as a classic. Dylan’s last three albums have been some of the most wildly and wildly overhyped of their time, with critics falling over themselves to fawn over mediocre mid-tempo blues because the album manages to merely top the worst of Dylan’s output.

Of course this is all subjective and in the interest of full disclosure, I’ve been accused of being a huge Paul McCartney apologist, and as such, may have been guilty of this crime with the release of McCartney’s 2005 album Chaos & Creation in the Backyard.

In the weeks following its release, I was quick to note the album as a stunning achievement from a supposedly washed up pop tune smith. But, as time went on, my interest in the album waned, and I realized that I was doing what I hated.

It is difficult to judge music in a vacuum, and that is what is being asked of critics when a historically great artist begins releasing albums in the twilight of their career.

You have to take the past and history of the artist into account, take these reviews with a grain of salt and enjoy them for what they are: a talented, though past its prime, artist who thankfully still has the drive to make music.
DON'T BELIEVE THE HYPE. Hip-Hop, Top 40, Alternative. It doesn't matter what you listen to, tobacco companies just want you to think smoking sounds like a good idea. But smoking and using other forms of tobacco can lead to serious illnesses like emphysema and lung cancer that can tune you out – permanently.
**BASEBALL: FIU 15, FDU 2**

The Golden Panthers offense made one of two big splashes against the Fairleigh Dickinson University Knights from the first pitch of the game. The second splash came via a rain delay, which prevented the start of the second inning.

However, the Golden Panthers could not be outdone as their bats launched four home runs and eight runs in the first inning before the rain caused a 25-minute delay. Game two of a double-header, scheduled to go just seven innings, was the third consecutive rout for the Golden Panthers. They defeated the Knights 16-0 on March 21 at University Park Stadium.

**克服困难**

Staff ace completely shuts down team

**SPORTS**

**CLASSIFIEDS**

**PAGEANT**

Caribbean Pageantry is seeking contestants for their 4th Annual Miss Miami Carnival Pageant, being held September 20, 2009. For more information please call 786-356-0869.

**JOBS**

**SUMMER JOBS**

Recreational Camp Counselors/ Supervisors for summer recreation program 6/08-09. 7/08-09 for children ages 5-14. WES/Lifeguards and Maintenance Aides (5/09-09). Exp. desirable. City of Plantation (west of Ft. Lauderdale) 400 NW 73 Ave., Plantation, FL 33317 or www.plantation.org to download application.


**PITCHING**

**PITCHING HARDWARE**

**BASEBALL**

**Back-to-Back:** For the second consecutive week, an FIU pitcher was named SBC pitcher of the week, following a complete game, 1-strikeout performance in a 13-2 win over UALR, in seven innings.
Major improvements have come, can they be sustained?

TOWERS, page 12

four starts and a complete game shutout win over Troy.

In his four starts, Ebert has thrown 29 and one third innings and allowed just twenty base runners. He has struck out 36 while walking just 5, and has been overwhelming, striking out 9 in each start except for his latest 8 strikeout performance in a 7 inning complete game shutout over Farleigh Dickinson.

The rest of the staff has combined for a 2.60 earned run average, a far cry from the 7.12 ERA last season’s team put up.

The defense, however, has remained shaky. With so many new players, and with Thomas utilizing a number of different lineup configurations, the team has had just a .956 fielding percentage. More than half of the team’s 26 errors have come from the left side of the infield, with Junior Arrojo and Garrett Wittels combining for a total of 14 errors.

If the pitching continues to dominate, the defense behind them must buckle down, though it must be said that the defense has performed better in the last handful of games. The bats were a bit quieter than last season in the early going, but over the past 9 games they have scored 111 runs, including a 24 run outburst over conference rival University of Little Rock, Arkansas and have surpassed even last year’s lofty expectations.

Last season, Ryan Mollica did his best Ted Williams impersonation, hitting .413 while leading the team in several offensive categories. He started off slow, looking more like Mario Mendoza through 10 games, but has brought his average up to around .300 and has contributed to a potent offense.

The offense has been carried by slugging left hander Tyler Townsend, who leads the team with 4 home runs. The team has scored 124 runs, good for 6.8 runs per game.

The Golden Panthers schedule, however, only gets tougher from here, so the team will need to see if their newfound pitching prowess can carry the team through conference play and into the postseason.

Chris Towers can be reached at Chris.towers@fiusm.com.

Weekend in Clearwater ends with win over UCF

pitch which scored a run for FIU and kept the bases loaded for McClain who was walked, bringing senior Carolina Rojas home to give FIU a 4-1 advantage.

UCF put another run on the board after Tenisha Dixon tripled to left field, however FIU responded in the next inning when Soberon stole home to put the Golden Panthers up 5-3.

The Knights would go on to tie the game in the bottom of the seventh inning but would only be able to put up one more run in the extra inning while FIU got four hits and kicked in three more runs to grasp the win, 8-5.

WINNING STRING

Day one and the journey’s just begun

Day one. It’s what you’ve been waiting for. When your career starts to take shape with award-winning training and support. When your skills are developed through experiences tailored to your needs. And when your success is driven by individual coaching, mentoring and counseling. From your very first day, we’re committed to helping you achieve your potential. So, whether your career lies in assurance, tax, transaction or advisory services, shouldn’t your day one be at Ernst & Young?

What’s next for your future?
Visit ey.com/us/eyinsight and our Facebook page.

JOIN OUR STAFF!

Stop by one of our offices located in GC 210 and WUC 124.

TOWERS, page 12

TORRID START: Tyler Townsend leads FIU with a .474 batting average this season
BASEBALL DOUBLEHEADER

POWER SURGE

Three seven-inning starts push Panthers past Knights

SERGIO BONILLA
ANDREW JULIAN
Sports Directors

GAME ONE: FIU 15, FDU 7

With an eight-run second inning, FIU buried the Fairleigh Dickinson Knights (2-8) in the opening game of a day-night doubleheader, 15-7, on March 21 at University Park Stadium.

Corey Polizzano tossed seven innings for the Golden Panthers (13-4), and allowed just two earned runs to improve to 2-1 on the season.

FIU carried a 3-1 lead into the second inning, after two FDU errors led to two unearned runs that followed an RBI single by Tim Jobe.

Matt Holsman drove in the second run for the Knights in the top of the second, and the Golden Panthers took charge in the second.

Capitalizing on an error, FIU plated four unearned runs in the inning.

Garrett Wiltse led off with a single, and Sean Reilly followed with a double. After Junior Arrojo walked to load the bases, Lammar Guy drew a base on balls and Tim Jobe picked up his second RBI of the day with a sac fly, and Tim Jobe picked up his second RBI.

In the bottom of the second, Polizzano gave up another run in the fourth, but then clamped down, and retired the last 10 batters he faced.

The junior southpaw from Southridge High School in Miami scattered eight hits and struck out five.

The turnaround has been anchored by absolutely dominant starting pitching, led by right-handed junior college transfers Tom Ebert and Scott Rembisz.

Rembisz, coming from Manatee Community College, has started four games with two wins and a complete game. Over 28 innings, he has struck out 25 while walking just two, holding opposing batters to a .206 average.

TERRIFIC TOM:

Polizzano gave up another run in the fourth, but then clamped down, and retired the last 10 batters he faced.

The junior southpaw from Southridge High School in Miami scattered eight hits and struck out five.

The Knights were finally able to muster some consistent offense in the eighth inning, tagging FIU reliever Justin Leith with four earned runs on four hits and one walk in just 0.2 innings.

FIU has now won 13 of its first 17 games and is having its best start since the team opened 13-4 in 2003 under Danny Price.

This game also marked the first five-game win streak for Turtle Thomas in his tenure at FIU.

BASEBALL, page 10

IN-STATE TRIP FINISHES ABOVE .500

STEPHANIE GABRIEL
Staff Writer

The FIU softball team traveled to Clearwater from March 13-15 to play in the University of South Florida Under Armour Showcase.

The team went 3-2 for the weekend, picking up wins against Long Island, George Washington and Indiana. Meanwhile, junior pitcher Kasey Barrett was the go-to pitcher; she threw two complete games and was named the All-Tournament Team pitcher for that weekend, striking out 20 with just one earned run.

The Golden Panthers continued on the road to play the No. 1 team in the country, University of Florida, in two games. Even though FIU out-hit the Gators 7-4, they fell short and dropped the games, 3-2 and 5-0.

Success however, did spring over the break for the Golden Panthers when they recorded 14 hits, which tied a season high, in extra innings to beat UCF in Orlando, 8-6, on March 17.

Barrett got the start and struck out seven batters, but freshman Jennifer Giadaek (6-6) would finish off the final two innings to earn the win; she struck out four and gave up just one run.

Backed behind the solid pitching staff, the offense was able to get on the board early on in the first inning as freshman Ashley McClain led off the game with a single followed by Kim Rodriguez who doubled in the first run.

UCF starter Kristina DeMello threw a wild pitch in the top of the third inning to score Rodriguez from third base and give FIU a 2-0 lead.

The Knights would change pitchers in the following inning, but it didn’t matter.

Linda Brooks knocked down a bunted base hit after a walk and an error to load the bases for the Golden Panthers.

Sophomore Iriseldis Soberon was then hit by a pitch to score two more Golden Panthers runs.

The FIU softball team traveled to Clearwater from March 13-15 to play in the University of South Florida Under Armour Showcase.

The team went 3-2 for the weekend, picking up wins against Long Island, George Washington and Indiana. Meanwhile, junior pitcher Kasey Barrett was the go-to pitcher; she threw two complete games and was named the All-Tournament Team pitcher for that weekend, striking out 20 with just one earned run.

The Golden Panthers continued on the road to play the No. 1 team in the country, University of Florida, in two games. Even though FIU out-hit the Gators 7-4, they fell short and dropped the games, 3-2 and 5-0.

Success however, did spring over the break for the Golden Panthers when they recorded 14 hits, which tied a season high, in extra innings to beat UCF in Orlando, 8-6, on March 17.

Barrett got the start and struck out seven batters, but freshman Jennifer Giadaek (6-6) would finish off the final two innings to earn the win; she struck out four and gave up just one run.

Backed behind the solid pitching staff, the offense was able to get on the board early on in the first inning as freshman Ashley McClain led off the game with a single followed by Kim Rodriguez who doubled in the first run.

UCF starter Kristina DeMello threw a wild pitch in the top of the third inning to score Rodriguez from third base and give FIU a 2-0 lead.

The Knights would change pitchers in the following inning, but it didn’t matter.

Linda Brooks knocked down a bunted base hit after a walk and an error to load the bases for the Golden Panthers.

Sophomore Iriseldis Soberon was then hit by a pitch to score two more Golden Panthers runs.

When you recruit this well, who needs vets?

Most of the time, you want experience.

Most of the time, you are going into a season, you want to ride players who have done it before.

Most of the time, you want experience.

Returning only 11 players from a team that won just 20 of its 56 games may have been a blessing in disguise for Turtle Thomas.

Inheriting a roster mostly comprised of ex-head coach Danny Price’s players, Thomas’ first season was one to forget for the Golden Panthers.

But that team lost 22 players in the offseason, so Thomas, a tireless recruiter, took the opportunity to put together the nation’s 15th ranked recruiting class, based as much in its depth as its talent.

So far, through eighteen games and with a 14-4 record, this season for the Golden Panthers has been far more successful.

The turnaround has been anchored by absolutely dominant starting pitching, led by right-handed junior college transfers Tom Ebert and Scott Rembisz.

Rembisz, coming from Manatee Community College, has started four games with two wins and a complete game. Over 28 innings, he has struck out 25 while walking just two, holding opposing batters to a .206 average.

As good as opening day starter Rembisz was, he has been hailed by the junior out of Fargo, North Dakota, Tom Ebert. Ebert, an imposing 6’6”, 255 pound figure on the mound, has been absolutely dominating, going 3-1 in