RETENTION BONUSES MAY DETER CANDIDATES

JULIO MENACHE  Staff Writer

Retention deals for the University’s top officials may have an effect on the pool of candidates for the presidential search, as potential candidates may not be able to choose their own top two executives, according to outside observers of politics in higher education.

“It’s definitely not common,” said Paul Fain, a reporter who specializes on presidential searches for The Chronicle of Higher Education.

According to Fain, retiring presidents will usually come back to faculty at a lower salary, as well as leaving the positions of provost and chief financial officer open for the new president to fill.

“Typically, new presidents would want to choose their top two cabinets,” Fain said.

Other higher education experts have noted the contracts could create a difficult situation for the new president, making it harder for candidates to bring in their own senior staff.

“It’s an awkward situation,” said Ann Duffield, co-founder of The Presidential Practice, a group of former university presidents and councillors who offer their advice and expertise to current presidents and chancellors in transition.

“Many new presidents come into a new university and don’t feel that the chemistry is right and wish to bring in their own staff,” Duffield said.

Executive Vice President and Provost Ronald Berkman and CFO Vivian Sanchez were given retention deals last summer. Under their current contracts, if Sanchez were to be replaced by the new president’s appointment, she would still be entitled to another University position with her same current salary of $334,090 for three years. If the incoming president decides to replace Berkman, he would be entitled to a one-year paid sabbatical where he would return to the school as a member of the faculty.

In addition, President Modesto A. Maidique will earn $478,000, his current salary, until 2015, well into his post-presidency.

NEED TO RETAIN

Some members of the FIU community have defended the contracts of Maidique, Sanchez and Berkman, citing the need to retain each of these highly talented individuals who constantly receive offers from both the private and academic sectors.

Maidique, in a recent interview with The
Cigarette tax hike may aid healthcare

OLGA VELEZ  Staff Writer

On Feb. 18, two FIU students attended Advocacy Day in Tallahassee with more than 500 other advocates to rally for a bill that would increase Florida’s cigarette tax.

Narganes, a senior and political science major, and Angela Baker, a sophomore majoring in political science and English, joined a group of 500 advocates who met at the Florida Capitol Building.

They met with their representa- tives, senators and representatives, in a rally in favor of the bill and a press conference.

The bill they are supporting is known as “Pass the Buck,” because it plans to increase the Florida state tax on cigarettes from 34 cents to $1.34, according to an article in the Tax Foundation — a non-partisan tax research group based in Washington, D.C. — titled “Florida Rep. Trying to Call Cigarette Tax a ‘Fee.’”

Narganes was able to speak with various representatives, including State Representative Juan C. Zapata and representatives Marcelo Llorrente and Richard Steinberg.

Supporters of the bill, like Narganes and Baker, argue that Florida has the sixth lowest state tax on cigarettes and that it deprived the state of necessary funds other states have, due to their high cigarette tax, to support hospitals.

They also argue that increasing the cigarette tax would reduce the number of smokers and, since smoking is linked to several diseases, it would also reduce the number of medical expenses.

Florida has the sixth lowest state tax on cigarettes in the country, according to the National Conference of State Legislatures Web site. The lowest state tax is 7 cents in South Carolina, while the highest state tax is in New York at $2.75.

“Florida should increase the state cigarette tax to save lives and benefit the state’s long-term budget,” Narganes said. “The state of Florida is the second highest cancer-affected state in the nation. Most import- antly, this is a public health measure. Studies show that for every 10 percent increase in the price of cigarettes, adult smoking rates go down by 4 percent. Teen smoking will decrease as well. A $1 increase will reduce the number of new teen smokers by 7 percent.”

Those against the passage of the bill, like the Tax Foundation, argue that a higher cigarette tax encourages smuggling and associated crimes. They also argue that it is a tax that affects mainly the poorest members of the state.

“Higher cigarette taxes also mean more smuggling, as many states are learning,” according to the Tax Founda- tion article. “Due mostly to federal, state and local taxes, the U.S. price for that same pack can reach many times the average of $1.25. When smugglers move just one shipping container with 200,000 packs into the U.S., the profit potential is a cool $1 million.”

Some FIU students are also concerned about the possible increase in crime.

“There are people who might not stop smoking and might steal to get the money for their cigarettes,” said Veronica Fernandez, a sophomore at FIU. “This might increase crime.”

As for it affecting mostly the poor in Florida, Alan Gummerson, an economics lecturer at FIU stated: “The tax increase would affect the poor more because poor people tend to smoke more. This tax increase will hopefully get them to quit smoking.”

According to Narganes, the ciga- rette tax revenues would go toward building Florida’s healthcare infrastructure.

“The state needs to invest this revenue specifically for programs, services and institutions that improve the state’s medical capacity and access,” Narganes said.

The Beacon — Wednesday, March 25, 2009 www.fiusm.com

Stadium debate leads to arrests

Two people were arrested as debates regarding the Marlins stadium escalated.

According to NBC6.net, the two arrested were members of Power U, a local group protesting the stadium. The Power U protesters continued to chant, “Real jobs now. Shut stadium down.”

After long discussions and constant resched- uling, the city commission approved the deal by a 3-2 vote last week. If the deal gains approval of the Miami-Dade County Commission, the county would contribute $359 million in construction costs.

LOCAL

DOW Jones soars almost 500 points

The Dow Jones was subject to a gain of 497 points on Monday.

According to CNN Money, the rally is in response to the Treasury buying bad bank assets and a better-than-expected existing home sales report. Insiders point to this as a possible sign that the market is stabilizing.

On Monday, the Treasury department intro- duced the second phase of the Troubled Asset Relief Program. The aim of this program is to purchase “toxic” assets from banks in order to facilitate lending to consumers.

The Miami-Dade based group affiliated with the American Can- cer Society lobby in Tallahassee for an increase in cigarette taxes.

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In the issue dated March 23, The Beacon reported in an info box that Brandon Quiniones, Vanessa Yepes, Krishan Arora, Steven Cruz were candidates for office. They have since withdrawn their candidacy.

In the same issue, Natalya Cohen’s name was misspelled and Robert Quintana was omitted and is in the running for Rep-at-Large.

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BONUS, page 1

Beacon, said he has been approached by 29 universities, while Berkman has been a finalist for the presidential searches at 29 universities, while Berkman has been a

Sanchez has received many offers from public universities. Maidique also said Sanchez has received many offers from the private sector.

“Sanchez are all highly competent people who are sought after,” said Bruce Haupli, former Faculty Senate chair and current faculty fellow of the Office of the Provost. “I’d be worried about losing these people.”

Haupli, who was a Board of Trustees member when Maidique’s contract was modified, admitted the negotiations were done before the budget crisis worsened, yet claimed he still stands by his decision.

The fund was not voted in favor of the modification if it were bad for the University,” Haupli said.

While Haupli claimed that the faculty supports the modified contracts, his successor in the Faculty Senate and Board of Trustees member, Thomas Breslin, said there were a few complaints.

“I did receive from faculty members expressions of concern about the use of foundation funds for the president’s salary during a time when there wasn’t money in the foundation for other things,” Breslin said. “There were expressions outside the Senate floor from a handful of faculty of concern over the contracts given to the provost and the CFO.”

However, Breslin said at a recent Steering Committee meeting, which is comprised of Faculty Senate members and designated to represent all academic units of FIU, that faculty were extremely posi- tive about the work of both the provost and the CFO.

“No one was willing to fault the president, at least not at the Steering Committee,” Breslin said.

MORE OF THE SAME

While Breslin agreed that the reten- tion deals may have an effect on the pool of candidates, he disagreed with leaving the offices of provost and CFO vacant for the new president, especially now with the current economic recession. According to Breslin, the new president should stay the course Maidique has laid out in his FIU 3.0 plan and later add minor modifications to it.

“If we want a president to clear deck and start a new time to do it,” said Breslin, who is also a member of the President search Advi- sory Committee, which is in charge of picking the next University president.

“Change isn’t always good.”

Yet Breslin, who has been in the University since 1976, also mentioned that vice presidents have come and gone at the president’s discretion.

“Maidique has made no bones about getting rid of a vice president. In my time in FIU, I have known four provosts, all gone,” Breslin said.

Breslin noted that if this situation were to occur, Berkman could return to teaching and Sanchez could be in charge of finances of the new medical school.

“She would be a welcome addition,” said Breslin, who worked with Sanchez to secure the University’s new medical school.

NO BONUSES

Breslin noted that Maidique has already taken steps to reduce his and his vice pres- ident’s salaries. However, as per the OFFICE of the President, Maidique has decided not to award his vice president’s perfor- mance bonuses. In addition, the president has given his bonus of $50,000 awarded to him by the BOT to the College of Medi- cine, bringing his salary back down to $428,000.

Yet, the president as well as Breslin, may decide more salary cuts are necessary for the top three administrators.

“If the economic crisis worsens, the BOT may revisit their contracts,” Breslin said.

BONUS, page 1
Public Safety to start biking around campus

SERGIO MONTEALEGRE
Staff Writer

According to Jesse Scott, captain of Public Safety at ABC, the idea is to provide more safety to students and visitors in the parking lots and buildings by increasing police visibility.

“It’s part of our philosophy of being in contact with faculty and students,” Scott said. “We’re looking to work with the public to make them aware that we’re here.”

David Silberberg, Sophomore English major, said the bicycles will improve officers’ ability to make contact with students.

“It will make it easier for them to arrive to buildings and the parking lot,” Silberberg said.

Officers on bikes will be able to do regular patrol activities, such as watching for speeding or break-in attempts at the parking lots. They also have the advantage of riding between buildings faster than officers on foot, as well as being able to cover more areas in less time, according to Scott.

“What’s nice is that on a bicycle you can ride faster, you can keep an eye on your surroundings and make contact with people,” Scott said. “It’s a different kind of response if there is an issue.”

Another advantage is that officers don’t have to use cars, which saves money for the department.

“If you go out on a bicycle, you’re not using gas and you have the ability to move around campus fast,” said Roxette Miranda, Freshman Political Science major.

However, the patrol won’t be too expensive for the department, according to Scott.

“The bikes we have were the same ones we had seven years ago,” he said. “They’re practically brand new. We’ve had them in the storage all this time and recently took them to get new tires and cleaned up.”

In total, according to King, the cost should be around $500 per officer on the squad, which includes the costs for the uniforms and safety equipment such as helmets.

“It’s only running us just under the thousands range,” Scott said. “It’s a very small fraction of the Public Safety budget allocated from the school.”

The bicycle unit will operate at both UP and BBC everyday between 7 a.m. and 3 p.m. But the use of a bike patrol will depend on the number of police officers available during the day.

According to Scott, there are only two officers working, they will patrol either in the police car on foot. The bikes will be used if a third officer is on duty.

“The use of bicycles is very efficient in time and resources,” Scott said. “There’s less fuel burning involved, which makes it much more environmentally friendly.”

Spring has finally arrived! While the rest of the country rejoices the passing of winter, we can say goodbye to our 80-degree windy days and welcome the sweetening Miami heat.

My prescription for steamy hot days and final-week nausea is a fresh scoop of ice cream – like cookies and cream, peanut butter chip or Chunky Monkey – hungry yet?

Ice cream is nostalgic, sweet and sticky, but most of all, cool. It’s a foodgasm that has the power to relax and chill you on a hot day, but I know how fast a student on a budget can be forced to liquid cooling for volunteers. In response, several officers applied.

In order to work in the bike patrol squad, officers must complete a two-week certification program at the Miami-Dade County Police Academy. “There are already some officers who are qualified,” said Sgt. Edward Degel of Public Safety.

The bicycle patrol will be covering all areas of the campuses, including the walking trail along Biscayne Bay at ABC.

Relax, welcome spring with refreshing frozen desserts

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Do as I say, not as I do.

Last week, talking heads that transcended party lines and branches of government branded failing insurer American International Group for its lack of oversight in spending its $180 billion in bail money, with most of it going to foreign banks or employee bonuses.

Oversight? Who gave Congress and the president the right to complain about oversight of the people who gave you all out of this money without any pan to account for where it goes. You guys should teach a course on oversight, all right.

Do as I say, not as I do.

Charlie Crist ran to become governor of Florida on the premise of a transparent and open government even before Obama used those buzzwords for his presidential run. The Sun-Sentinel recently reported, however, that the Governor has been accepting flights on the private jets of influential businessmen, such as the time he flew back to Tallahassee aboard the plane of a wealthy HMO founder after watching the Super Bowl.

Crist once criticized former Governor Lawton Chiles for accepting private flights. Do as I say, not as I do.

Bernard Madoff is facing the rest of his years in prison for orchestrating perhaps the largest of what is known as a “Ponzi scheme” in history. In a Ponzi scheme, earlier investors are paid back money from the money of scheme, earlier investors are paid back money from the money of scheme in history. In a Ponzi scheme, earlier investors are paid back money from the money of scheme, earlier investors are paid back money from the money of investors. Eventually, the flow of money usually runs dry.

This setup seems strikingly similar to our current Social Security system. It is no secret that the government-run retirement program is in dire need of repair and might eventually run out of money, as current worker inputs are paying retiree’s benefits.

What is so wrong with letting workers invest their money how they please? Of course, if someone were to opt out of Social Security, the government wouldn’t have that money for most of the person’s lifetime.

At least Madoff’s investors had a choice. Do as I say, not as I do.

Gambling is a dangerous, addictive activity that destroys families. At least this is what the Florida Legislature must think, considering how much time it spends doing everything it can to prevent gambling from becoming prominent in the state, by creating petty rules about what types of machines are legal or criminal, based on how much skill is involved. The jailing of Gale Fontaine, a woman who was 56 years old when she was arrested in 2006 for operating an arcade where seniors won prizes such as grocery store gift cards, shows how dangerous gambling must be.

The state knows what is best for us. Apparently, they are the only ones who know how to operate a casino, too, or at least eliminate competition: if you want to gamble in Florida, turn to the state. Curious how much the jackpot is? Just check the government-sponsored billboards on any highway. The Florida Lottery Power Ball jackpot was $81 million at press time.

Do as I say, not as I do.

FIU, along with essentially every school in the nation, has an academic integrity policy that holds harsh penalties for those caught plagiarizing, including expulsion.

Why is it then, that whenever our leaders and representatives in government give a speech, we know that it was not written by them? You could say that this is not the same because we expect politicians to have someone else write their speeches for them, but could you not also say that it is somewhat expected for a college student to at some point use someone else’s words in a paper?

Whether it is a student’s thesis or a politician’s speech, the audience wants to hear what that person has to say, not meaningless fluff. I’d quite like to see politicians, who can’t bother with speaking directly to their constituents, be sent to Conduct and Conflict Resolution for discipline.

Do as I say, not as I do.

Pay your taxes. It’s the right thing to do, as a citizen of this country reaping its benefits. Plus, if you don’t oblige, the Internal Revenue Service will come after you with an audit so that the Secretary of the Treasury Tim Geithner can make sure the nation’s coffers are fully stocked.

They should be one now that Geithner paid the $35,000 in back taxes that he himself neglected to dole out prior to being offered a prestigious job in the Obama administration.

Do as I say, not as I do.

Back by popular demand, FIU will adopt a four-day, 10-hours-a-day workweek this summer. This will be effective from June 19 through July 31, 2009. According to a University-wide survey, the three primary reasons for the return of the summer schedule are: increased savings on gas and tolls, a better work-life balance and increased savings to the University. Last year, the University saved approximately $250,000 by implementing this schedule.

As I look at my academic calendar, I couldn’t help but wonder why the four-day week isn’t in effect as soon as the Summer term begins. FIU could do better in saving money. Forty-three days are great, but 81 days would be much better. We could save an additional $250,000.

In addition to implementing the four-day work week, the University should also extend the rules to class times. If employees work from 8 a.m. to 6 p.m., then the University should offer classes within that time frame as well. That way more buildings can be shut down after 6 p.m. This could earn the University more savings because lights and air conditioning units are not in use.

The only buildings that should be exempt from this proposed implementation are the libraries; these will be havens for students who need to do their homework or study for important exams.

As a senior majoring in advertising, I prefer to get my classes in the mornings so I can stay longer at my potential job. Every time I mention that I might have class in the late afternoon during my interviews, the employers’ faces constrict as if they’ve eaten a barrel of sour lemons.

They don’t like the idea that in the middle of an important project I have to stop and say, “Well! I have to go to school. See you later!”

Step onto the soapbox.

Officer of a student organization? Student government member? University official? Have something to say?

Contact us at opinion@fi usm.com and we’ll give you 500 words to share your opinion with the FIU community.
Student body misinformed about HIV stigmas lead testing decrease

RACHEL CONGDON
Staff Writer

How much does the average FIU student know about the human immunodeficiency virus? That was the question that plagued demographer and Professor Maria Aysa’s mind when she conferred with a graduate student in 2006 about his own findings, which “were missing data” she said.

She set out to get funding to conduct a two-year survey on FIU students’ knowledge of and stigmas toward HIV as well as the effects religion has on both of these subjects. She was granted the necessary funding for her survey by the Crusada Center.

During Spring of 2008, Aysa conducted the first half of the survey at University Park, with the help of her Research Method’s class, surveying 1012 students about their knowledge and stigmas associated with HIV. In the Spring of 2009 she conducted the second half of the two-year project, choosing a smaller data pool, only 500 students.

The survey consisted of six parts. The first four, which were given by the interviewer on demographic information, HIV knowledge, religious attitudes and stigma scale. The last two parts, sexual habits and alcohol and drug abuse, were confidential.

According to Aysa, in the HIV knowledge section there were questions such as “Do you know what a female condom is?” and the four vital HIV transmission questions, “Can you get HIV by kissing someone on the cheek who has it? Sharing a glass with someone with HIV? Being around an infected person while they cough? Using a toilet after an infected person?”

The results shocked her. “Only 70 percent of the [surveyed] students knew, consistently, the correct answers to the transmission questions. That’s a much lower number than I was expecting, given that it is a higher learning community,” Aysa said. “I was expecting 86-90 percent to have the correct knowledge.”

This seems to go hand in hand with what Jason Valdiva, senior and anthropology major, said he noticed during his surveying of people in the past few months.

He was quite shocked at how the stigma of HIV affected the student’s attitudes toward people living with HIV. “A much greater number of respondents than I expected were not totally opposed to separating off people with HIV/AIDS from the rest of the public. It seems a bit barbaric to me,” Valdiva said. Aysa talked about how stigmas affect HIV knowledge and testing. “A stigma puts you at a lower risk of getting tested. The stigma works against the prevention of HIV,” Aysa said.

Valdiva noticed how sensitive students on campus were to the survey. “People tended to respond to the way we, as interviewers, state[ed] a question,” Valdiva said. “There is more stigma toward HIV/AIDS persons than I expected.” Aysa stressed how important it is for students to learn about the virus. “We need to talk about this disease. That’s the only way we are going to overcome the stigma’s toward it,” Aysa said. “Get tested, get educated, go to the Wellness Center. Be proactive in how you go about getting information, go online and learn.”

For more information on HIV testing and prevention, contact the Wellness Center at (305) 348-2401 or visit www.fiu.edu/~health.

RACHAEL CONGDON
Staff Writer

Student body misinformed about HIV stigmas lead testing decrease
Who needs education when there’s a ball game to go to?

Amid a federal, state and county budget crisis, we should all take a moment to salute our leaders for recognizing what’s really important: baseball.

Miami City Hall recently approved the construction of a $600 million stadium with taxpayer money for the Florida Marlins, and the county government looks poised to do the same.

Of course, a deal as brilliant as this one has its share of critics, some of whom decry spending jobs of money on a facility for a professional baseball team when millions of dollars are being taken from education.

What about the children, they ask.

Sure, kids are all well and good, but baseball is clearly much more important than their precious “education.” I mean, just look at the entertainment value alone. Baseball is an exciting and enthralling display of man’s triumph over objects hurled at him at high speeds.

Education? It’s nowhere near as fascinating. Have you ever watched a child trying to read? It’s horribly boring.

Moreover, these critics, who are clearly anti-baseball zealots in the pocket of “big children,” always fail to mention that none of these kids even have jobs. The unemployment rate among our state’s children is close to 100 percent. If these kids want an education, they should get a job and pay for education themselves.

Yet despite their best efforts, our state still spends hundreds of millions of dollars on books, teachers and classrooms, just to ensure that children have basic reading and math skills. That’s money that could be going important things like more stadiums or lower taxes on liquor and tobacco products.

Florida is beginning to lead the race to defund education. Every dollar spent on these freeloading children signifies in a very real sense, a cigarette taxed too high, a corporate tax break withheld, a baseball team forced to build their own stadium.

Yet with time, if the people of Florida are consistent enough to stand behind their leaders in Tallahassee and in county and city government, we will some day return to the good old days. The days when traditional values prevailed, baseball was the national pastime, big government didn’t exist and children put in an honest day’s work at the factory instead of learning something useful, like how to operate a loom or stopwatch.

Thankfully, our state government has been working hard to stop all the wasteful spending on educating children, cutting nearly a billion dollars from education in the last year alone.

Think of all the books, toys and candy that our own country’s children could be purchasing with their $15 if it weren’t for these federal regulations!

Putting jobs and money in the hands of our state’s children could really stimulate the economy, and we wouldn’t have to worry so much about educating them. Florida’s kids could stop learning about art, music and history and instead learn something useful, like how to operate a loom or stopwatch.

Cubralitics is a bimonthly column that looks at the current political state, then points and laughs at it.
Gniadek provides only win in series

McClendon said.

Jessica Landau also went 3-for-3 including an inside-the-park home run. Senior Kim Rodriguez knocked down her fourth homer of the season and drove in two of the runs for FIU.

The Trojans were able to get something going early on when Hayden Gann drove in the first run after sailing a double into left field to put her team up 1-0.

It was in the second inning when the Golden Panthers began to claw. Landau's inside-the-park home run tied the game at 1-1.

Rodriguez then laid down a sacrifice fly to score another run, giving FIU a 2-1 lead over the Trojans.

The fourth inning was also explosive for FIU. McClain knocked down her first career home run directly over the centerfield wall followed by Rodriguez, two batters later, who crushed her homer to put the Golden Panthers ahead 4-1.

Senior Katie Bell followed up with an RBI double and Landau kept clawing with an RBI single all in the fourth inning to give FIU the 6-1 lead.

Following a rain delay, neither team seemed to be able to manufacture much more, at least not in the fifth or sixth innings when both teams went hitless.

In the seventh, Troy scored two more runs but Gniadek would pull out safely from the inning, allowing the opponent to get no closer than 6-3.

After going 1-2 for the weekend, the Golden Panthers have a record of 17-19 with just a 1-5 Sun Belt Conference record.

Coach McClendon seems to feel that her team is still prospering and remained with a positive outlook for next weekend’s series against North Texas.

“We’re just going to prepare for North Texas and have our normal week,” said McClendon. “I think that they’re playing better all of the time. We’re still getting decent efforts on the mound; I wish they could have been a little bit sharper this weekend but I think we’re starting to swing better every time out.”

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PARA DE ACES
Junior transfers make big impact through 19 games

STEPHANIE GABRIEL
Staff Writer

The final game of a three-game series vs. the Troy Univer-
sity Trojans came down to a battle of stingers.

But the Trojan’s Ashlyn Williams would outlast FIU’s Kassey Barret to win 5-2 in 11 innings. Williams kept the Golden Panthers, feels both Ebert and Rembisz have the talent and the work ethic to succeed as Division I starters.

“The competition here will be a little tougher for them, but good pitchers make pitchers, watch players’ swings and study hard to be better. They are well conditioned and will continue to improve,” he said.

With the addition of Rembisz and Ebert, the team’s ERA is 2.56 through 19 games. Ebert said there isn’t a huge difference from pitching in junior college to facing potential pro prospects in the Sun Belt Conference, but knows there will be some adjustments to be made.

“The offenses were good at my previous level, but I have to fine tune my pitches, and I won’t be able to get away with missing my spots,” he said. Ebert’s pitches have earned him a 3-1 record and 0.61 ERA through 20.1 innings with five walks.

Rembisz said the biggest difference is that the talent and big bats aren’t just located in the middle of the order, but spread out top to bottom in the lineup.

“When we have opportunities we’re counting on all of them to play a role for us. I know Tom and Scott will take the ball when called upon and be ready to get hitters out,” he said.

BASEBALL: FIU 11, FDU 10
Panthers complete sweep

SERGIO BONILLA
Asst. Sports Director

After outscoring the Farleigh Dickinson University Knights 46-8 during the first three games, the Golden Panthers faced an exhausted pitching staff trying to avoid the four-game sweep.

The Knights used just three pitchers but could not salvage the final game of the series. The Golden Panthers kept the Knights at bay in an 11-10 victory on March 22 at University Park Stadium.

Garrett Wittels and Doug Joyce hit their first collegiate home runs as the Golden Panthers improved their record to 15-4.

“Everybody practices hard every day, and everybody deserves an opportunity to play,” said lead coach Turtle Thomas.

They are now five wins away from matching last season’s win total.

The game capped off a series that saw the Golden Panthers score 57 runs and sweep their first opponent of the season.

Tyler Townsend continued to prove he is one of the best hitters in the Sun Belt Confer-
ence by going 7-for-14 with two home runs and eight RBI. He leads the conference with a .500 batting average. The man preceding Townsend in the lineup, Ryan Mollica, went 7-for-14 with seven RBI for the series.

Daniel DeSimone pitched five innings and gave up three earned runs for the Golden Panthers.

He fell behind early 3-0 through the first three innings, before the Golden Panthers reclaimed the lead with a six-run third, which included Townsend’s two-run blast and Joyce’s three-run home run five batters later.

DeSimone left the game in the fifth with a 6-3 lead, and Wittels extended the lead to 8-3 with his two-run homer.

Mason McVay came on to relieve DeSimone but he struggled with his control of his off-speed pitches and he was responsible for four of the six runs in the inning.

Aaron Arbola replaced McVay, but a Lamar Guy error led the Golden Panthers to relinquish the lead.

Down 9-8 in the bottom of the sixth, Ryan Hennessey entered the game. He gave up six runs without recording an out during the first game of the series.

On Sunday, he would allow two runs and still get no outs. Hennessey coughed up the lead, his team would never recover.

Jorge Maban entered the game in the eighth and closed the game in two innings. He earned his third save of the season.

Arbola won his first game of his collegiate career. He allowed two runs but they were both unearned.

During the series, the Golden Panthers stole so many bases they jumped to the No. 2 spot in the conference.

“We have a pretty quick team,” catcher Steven Stropp said. “They also have a great first step and mechanics.”

The Golden Panthers will face the University of Louisiana Ragin’ Cajuns for a three-game series on March 27-29. The Ragin’ Cajuns are right behind the Golden Panthers in the Sun Belt standings.

TOUGH AT BATS: Third baseman Carolina Rojas swings against the Troy University Trojans. The Golden Panthers dropped two of three against the Trojans on March 21-22.

Williams threw a one-hit gem on the first game for Troy, striking out 14 Golden Panthers. She was able to lead her team to a 7-1 victory on March 21, followed by an 11-inning matchup the next day where she struck out another 14 and allowed just one earned run to grab the win at 5-2.

“Their pitcher had a really good weekend. She’s very talented and I give her a lot of credit,” said McClendon. “But I don’t think we

DOMINANT PITCHER STIFLES OFFENSE

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