SGC-UP spending down in ’08-’09

The Student Government Association allocates money to students’ resources and organizations every fiscal year. Their budget comes from the Activities and Services fee, which is paid by every student and is currently at $10.52 per credit hour. During the Spring term of every school year, University-wide and campus-specific budget hearings are held, in which student government determines how to fund student organizations and clubs during the upcoming fiscal year.

Student Media analyzed SGA’s budget; this is part of one of a running series on how SGA has spent student fee money over the past three years. SGC at University Park budget and expenditures this year have been somewhat cut since 2006.

In the 2008-2009 fiscal year, SGC-UP had an expenditure of $220,191.45. As of April 8, $87,362.66, or 40 percent, had been spent. In the previous year, SGC-UP had $290,403.00 and spent about 69 percent of it.

In the 2006-2007 fiscal year, the expenditure budget was $303,470.60 and $290,189.29 or 55 percent was spent. Money that is not spent during each fiscal year goes to an SGA reserve account that is controlled by Student Affairs but doesn't get used, it must be authorized by Jones.

In SGC-UP, that responsibility is documented through Expense Authorizations and clubs and organization. That responsibility falls under each club or organization’s advisor.

In SGC-UP, that responsibility would fall to advisor Jose Toscano and SGC-UP comptroller Robert Chung. Most SGA expenditures that are budgeted are approved by myself and Jose (Toscano), SGA advisor,” Chung said.

Student government expenditures are documented through Expense Authorization Forms, filed by the members making the requests. These expenses are then signed and approved by Toscano and Chang.

In SGC-UP, that responsibility would fall to advisor Jose Toscano and SGC-UP comptroller Robert Chung. Most SGA expenditures that are budgeted are approved by myself and Jose (Toscano), SGA advisor,” Chung said.

Student government expenditures are documented through Expense Authorization Forms, filed by the members making the requests. These expenses are then signed and approved by Toscano and Chang. Office Manager Liliana Alfonso makes a record of the transaction by inputting it into the account history.

During the past three years, Gramling said her department has worked hard to teach SGA not to spend money merely for the sake of spending because it will get rolled into the reserve account; any expenditures, she said, should line up with the strategic goals of the University report dated April 6.

At the request of the “Think Before You Drink” series. Zona said she always wanted to organize this tour guide of the trees on campus. As a tour guide of the trees on campus. As a tour guide of the trees on campus.

- Garcia lost his temper and used profanity when talking to staff.
- Garcia misused state resources, according to a University investigation revealed Garcia used profanity, intimidated staff, lost his temper and misused state resources, according to a University report dated April 6.

Garcia apologized to Athletics, was verbally reprimanded by Athletic Director Pete Garcia after a University investigation revealed Garcia used profanity, intimidated staff, lost his temper and misused state resources, according to a University report dated April 6.

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Leaf through it: Tree brochure released

DAIANA KUCAWCA
Copy Editor

Hoping to spark an interest in nature preservation, University professors have released the FIU Campus Tree Guide.

The brochure, written by the Wurtzheim Conservatory Glasshouse Green House curator Scott Zona and Brad Bennett, an associate professor of biology, was released on Jan. 8 and includes a key to identify trees on both campuses by major characters like leaf shape, leaf color and fruit, as well as where they can be found and whether they are native or exotic. These guides are common in most universities that are surrounded by vast green spaces like the University of Florida and Michigan State University.

If you’ve ever been to other campuses in the country, they have a map or guide available of the trees,” Zona said. “It’s fundamental for a university’s landscape, architecture or biology programs.”

Zona said she always wanted to do something like it. Then, University President Modesto A. Maidique’s wife, Nancy Maidique, asked him for a tour guide of the trees on campus. As a result, Zona received the authorization for the brochure, thereby increasing the University’s oldest sorority turns 25

SERGIO BONILLA
Asst. Sports Director

University President Modesto A. Maidique reprimanded Athletic Director Pete Garcia after a University investigation revealed Garcia used profanity, intimidated staff, lost his temper and misused state resources, according to a University report dated April 6.

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Eco-friendly fest promotes Earth Day

SOLDANAYS MUYICA
Staff Writer

Music, earth balls and the smell of veggie burgers filled the air at the FIU Preserve during the Earth Day Fest.

Students for Environmental Action, the group that was in charge of the Earth Day Fest, made signs and put earth balls all around the University to show students the path toward a greener future, and call them to participate in the event they hold every year. The preserve is the grassy land located right across the Recreation Center and next to the U.S. Century Bank Arena at University Park.

“It's an annual thing that we do in March, so it’s our way of showing to students and fellow neighbors the issues and what we can do to try to lessen our impact on the Earth,” said Cara Cooper, SEA treasurer, who was in charge of the fest.

SEA provided games, such as Jeopardy trivia and sack races, and raffled items such as Wow Green cleaning products, a bag made out of shirts, bowls made out of old records and green products from the bookstore.

“We just want people out here, people drive it and they don’t even know the preserve exists. They think it’s just a bunch of trees that will be knocked down and that there’s nothing back here,” said Jessica Okaty, a member of SEA and co-director of the Earth Day Fest. Student bands like Jacob Jeffries Band, to Mornington, the DJs from the Electro-Acoustic Management District and FIU’s Environmental Law Society all played during the event.

SEA also provided free food for all students present during the festivities, consisting of veggie burgers with organic vegetables for toppings, veggie hot dogs, bowls made out of old records and green products from the bookstore.

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SEA also provided free food for all students present during the festivities, consisting of veggie burgers with organic vegetables for toppings, veggie hot dogs, natural fries and the DJ’s music. According to SEA, they want other students to be aware and learn about the Environmental Law Society and their activities.

“We have a month and a half ago so students could say that we’d save upwards of 60 percent of the awards budget for the banquet. We’re also moving more from a banquet to a reception,” Toscano said.

Meyer admitted that attendance for the banquet is not where it should be, but said it was important every year to reward SGC-UP members for their hard work.

According to Meyer, this year’s banquet will be held at a “cocktail reception instead of offering full course meals.”

Another party SGC-UP paid for was a celebration for President Modesto A. Maidique on March 2007. The final price for all the festivities was $2,981.35.

The breakdown is as follows: $1,758.90 for catering, $1,050 for a cake and $72.45 for an optical crystal for Maidique.

“I can’t speak on behalf on what was done to honor someone who moved this University forward. It was a small deal and care for the environment to...”

Meyer was hoping to get the telecommunications a month and a half ago so students could see what their elected officials were voting on during the Florida legislative session.

“I know that what’s going on in Tallahassee but the lower division senators don’t have a clue. And I really want to give them that type of opportunity to watch the Florida session,” Meyer said. “We’re not at FSU or FAMU. We can’t just walk to the Capitol.”

Although he was able to cut spending, he was unable to fulfill one of his campaign promises of making SGC-UP more transparent and provide all documents and figures on the Web site.

“Our transparency was not what I hoped it would be. But if [students] come to this office, they can get any document they want and will be happy with the numbers they see in front of them, and there will be very few reasons to question our numbers and what we spent them on,” Meyer said. “I have full confidence that Anthony [Rodza] will be able to continue our legacy and do a good job.”

Public forum to discuss fee increase

The University Fee Committee will hold a forum to discuss the possible increase of the Activities and Services fee.

The forum is scheduled for April 13 at 10:30 a.m. in WUC 155 at the Biscayne Bay Campus and at 2:30 p.m. in the Graham Center East Ballroom at University Park.

The committee is seeking to raise the A&S fee from $10.25 per credit to $12.06.

The moneys go to the Student Government Association, which allocates funds to student organizations.

Miami-Dade Community commissioners have approved $563 million worth of bonds toward the construction of the new Miami stadium.

According to the South Florida Business Journal, the bonds, totaling no more than $563 million, will come from funds generated by the sports and tourism taxes the University of Miami is going to use to build their new stadium.

“The trend has been toward more accountability and responsibility,” Gramling said. “They know they are being held more accountable to any expense that’s been given and know they have to be responsible because they are going to have to report it on the end of the year.”

In addition, one of Meyer’s goals this year was to cut spending and make the council more efficient.

“Then I came into the position, I wanted to eliminate a lot of the spending that went on... the ill-advised spending that went on in the past,” Meyer said.

Examples include $248,799 spent on T-shirts during the 2006-2007 fiscal year — $11,803.77 of which was used to purchase shirts for SGA giveaways and course supply wear. By following year T-shirt expenditures were down to $4,490.25 — $241.25 of which on shirts for SGA transactions.

This year, $2,886 was spent on T-shirts — $2,866 of which were spent on SGA polos.

“There is no need in a time where we are, now that we should spend money on T-shirts. I thought it was absurd,” Meyer said.

Other items purchased during past administrations included 2,500 can coolers in March 2008 for $1,735 and $2,206 on SGA suggestion boxes.

Even though Meyer said SGC-UP doesn’t get the feedback it was hoping, he defended the purchase of the suggestion boxes.

“The response was not what we hoped it would be,” Meyer said. “I still think the investment was a fair investment good of getting our name out there for the student government and giving them another avenue to reach us out to.”

SGA also spent $1,920 on dark blue grip pens and $1,050 for 1,000 key holders, totaling $4,000 on July 2007.

“I think we can do more about strategizing on how to do things better in marketing,” Toscano said. “We need to do more about fundraising, to discuss the possible increase of the Activities and Services fee. The forum is scheduled for April 13 at 10:30 a.m. in WUC 155 at the Biscayne Bay Campus and at 2:30 p.m. in the Graham Center East Ballroom at University Park. The committee is seeking to raise the A&S fee from $10.25 per credit to $12.06. The moneys go to the Student Government Association, which allocates funds to student organizations.
Exotic trees labeled, but not for hugging

TREES, page 1

botanical literacy to provide ideas of landscaping at home.

“They are more than green wallpaper, they’re the background for campus life,” Zona said.

According to Zona, the trees on campus lower the temperature of the area, provide shade and a habitat for wildlife, lower carbon emissions and make the campus more beautiful. Zona said the student body wants to be more literate about nature.

“This is sort of an entrance into the natural world for students,” Zona said.

David Fonseca, a junior political science major and environmental affairs chair of Student Government Association, echoed Zona’s sentiment.

“It is also a way that is involved with environmental issues that might have interests in the outdoors might learn to appreciate the trees on campus,” Fonseca said. “It also creates another learning opportunity for students that might want to pursue environmental studies or students that might have interests and not to drink.”

According to Zona, the trees on campus are more than green wallpaper, they’re the background for campus life.

“Many trees are not properly cared for. They are removed, relocated or cut down for landscaping,” Bennett said. “We need to continue to plant.”

Because the University is mostly a commuter campus, students have a bigger carbon footprint than on other campuses, Bennett said. For him, there aren’t enough trees on campus to offset all of the fossil fuels being released into the atmosphere.

“There should be a designated area that’s an open space for trees, which won’t be destroyed because of the next building,” he said.

However, there is a way that trees have been getting cared for in the University. David Lee, chair and professor at the Department of Biological Sciences, said that because of National Arbor Day, which is celebrated the last Friday of every April, trees have been planted for 25 years now. Despite that, Lee said more could have been done.

“There have been times in the past where there could have been more responsibility in the administration,” Lee said.

Even through the efforts put forth by the University during National Arbor Day and Earth Week, which was from April 6-10, Lee said more needs to be done.

“We need to do a better job at educating them about that. Now is the time to start,” Lee said.

The FIU Campus Tree Guide can be found at the Information Desk in the Biscayne Bay Campus’ Wolfe University Center or in the University Park campus at the Department of Biological Sciences main office in OE 167. It is also available on the Department of Biological Sciences Web site at http://www.fiu.edu/~biology/html/outreach/campustreeguide.pdf.

Health seminar examines dangers of dehydration

NAN FLORES
Contributing Writer

The average human adult body is composed 50 to 60 percent of water and experts say that you lose 2.5 liters of water per day. Keeping that body hydrated is an essential part of healthy living and was the topic of “Think Before You Drink.”

The third installment of graduate student Noor Nusrath’s health seminar series, “Think Before You Drink,” took place April 9. It was designed to teach students the importance of hydration.

Nusrath began the series earlier this month in an effort to inform students why it’s important to live a healthy lifestyle.

“I was walking in Academic I and I saw five or six vending machines,” said Nusrath, who is finishing her masters in nutrition. “[I saw a] good opportunity to pass out information on what to drink and not to drink.”

Nusrath saw this event as an opportunity to interact with students. She handed out fliers with information about the importance of hydration, as well as tips to stay hydrated.

According to the Mayo Clinic, a non-profit medical practice organization, dehydration is an abnormal depletion of bodily fluids.

Nusrath showed a PowerPoint about hydration and gave out tips to students on how to prevent dehydration. She told students to drink more water, avoid sugary drinks and steer clear of coffee and alcohol.

“I didn’t know that coffee was a diuretic,” said Jose Flores, a sophomore psychology major. “I would like to make a change in my life,” he said, adding that he’d like to drink more water.

In addition to the information, she gave away water bottles, pencils, pens, small beach balls, vitamin water and stickers.

“It is important to stay hydrated because every reaction in the body needs water,” Nusrath said.

according to Velez, in severe cases of dehydration, when it causes fainting, intravenous treatment is required. However, in most cases, drinking water and resting are enough.

Nusrath’s next event will take place April 14 at 1 p.m. in Panther Square at BBC. The topic will be how to prepare fast meals without cooking, aptly called “Quick Meals Without Cooking.”

“It would be interesting to [prepare] a meal without cooking,” Nusrath said.

University opened its doors, but after several powerful storms like Hurricane Andrew, landscape has been severely damaged. Logging didn’t help matters either.

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In light of the recent developments, the university reprimanded Athletic Director Pete Garcia. The Beacon has been compelled to respond with an opinion on the incident and the following judgments should be handled. While Garcia has apologized to his immediate staff, we feel that the university administration and the University community at-large are also due an apology.

Garcia has been accused of overall unprofessional management and poor leadership style, misuse of state funds, hostile work environment and improper attendance reporting. According to a report filed with the Employee and Labor Relations Department of Human Resources Division April 6.

In the past, FIU athletics has come under scrutiny for misconduct, notably the on-field fight with the University of Miami and the issues concerning the academic progress of student athletes that have led to scholarship reductions in numerous athletic programs.

These allegations, however, concern no one but the director and therein lies perhaps the greatest issue for the students.

This is not a group of students playing an emotional game at the highest collegiate level, nor is this the product of a weak support infrastructure, settled upon for convenience than for success.

This represents the poor judgment of one individual; a university administrator with arguably greater responsibility than any other on campus.

The Beacon feels that the employment of an individual is among the most sensitive of matters, and should be handled and addressed by the university administration.

Consider however, having a direct supervisor of your raising his or her voice at you, while using

profanity, in a manner that you, as an employee, would describe as intimidating.

Consider working in a professional environment and being asked to take care of personal business for your direct supervisor, such as collecting his or her dry cleaning.

Finally, consider the organization you work for converting for a five day 40-hour work week to four days, but that supervisor continuing the old five day practice.

Garcia described his ‘intimidating’ actions as those of a passionate leader who cannot lower expectations, with the goal of making FIU a top notch athletics program, and that he was unaware that personal business was not to be conducted that way within the office, as it was permission with his direct employer, the University of Miami.

Those who are of the highest University standing should be held to the highest standard. While their missteps may be magnified, this is not without due cause.

Garcia has issued an apology to the department he leads, but the question for the students, as the largest financial supporter of athletics, is has this been sufficient for you?

If so, misadventures like sending a starter to pick up some clean shirts are no big deal, and intensity must be tolerated in building a quality athletic department.

If not, how then should an administrator, who twice declined to comment on the story, be welcomed back into the fold of the University Garcia can begin making amends by talking to the community and coming clean to more than just his immediate staff. Garcia, at the very least, owes the student body and University community an apology.

Contacts

Iris Fabres
Opinion Editor
iris.fabres@fiu.edu

http://www.fiu.edu/Beacon

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Monday, April 13, 2009

www.fiu.edu

Second time around

OLGA VICENS
Staff Writer

Colleges favor wealthier students

MONEY TALKS

More attention needed to avoid tragic medical errors

ANA MARIA AROCHA
Contributing Writer

A few years ago I learned that my uncle died of AIDS — not from cancer, as had been told to believe my entire life. I can understand family’s reasons for not telling me when I was a child; in fact, I am glad they decided telling me earlier than those since I found out, I have been scared for my life.

Every time I donate blood, or watch a couple fall passionately and recklessly into each other’s arms in movies, I think of my uncle. I don’t think of him, though, when I visit a doctor and have routine procedures done. But he should.

Last month, more than 3,000 South Florida veterans were notified that they might have been exposed to HIV and hepatitis at Miami Veterans Affairs.

In a notice posted on its Web site urging patients to seek testing, the Department of Veterans Affairs explains that between May 2004 and March 12, 2009, a tube that attaches to the endoscope equipment was not disinfected between scope procedures, but not disinfected according to the manufacturer’s recommendations.

This failure to follow protocol has allowed thousands of veterans and their families in danger of infection. Shockingly, similar cases have arisen in Tennessee and Georgia within the past years, totaling 10,555 veterans who possibly could be exposed to the viruses.

As of April 1, 2009, 3,174 veterans had received their test results. One person tested positive for HIV, five for hepatitis B and 11 for hepatitis C. None of these results were from Miami.

As Miami veterans brace for news, I can only imagine their thoughts and accusations. Imagine for a second feeling sick to your stomach every time you eat. You go to the doctor and are told that a colonoscopy will identify the problem and your doctor could then treat your illness.

Three months later you receive a letter in the mail that brings to light the fact you have cancer. You are the least of your worries.

We go to doctors to feel better, not to construct potentially fatal diseases.

Garcia owes University community at-large an apology for behavior

In hospitals throughout the country of the epidemic, a wave of carelessness spreading throughout the country that needs a cure — a safe, uncontaminated one.

This is an epidemic, a wave of carelessness spreading throughout the country that needs a cure — a safe, uncontaminated one.

To women matters, the Miami Veterans Hospital ran different inspections of its equipment before discovering the contamination. On December 22, 2008, the DVA warned affiliated hospitals throughout the country of the problem after being informed of the contaminations in Tennessee and Georgia. The Miami Veterans Hospital ran its tests and claimed they were clean.

More thorough inspections in March revealed the opposite.

So whom can we trust when the hospitals are making such dangerous mistakes so regularly? Of course there is human error to take into account, but does that really apply in this situation?

It is not one isolated case where one individual forgot to clean an instrument and a patient was infected (although that is not acceptable either). This is an epidemic, a wave of carelessness spreading throughout the country that needs a cure — a safe, uncontaminated one.
Glory the Fab Four originally
inal albums, in all of the hi-fi
were released. Subpar quality 80's CD transfers
asking for since the day after the
Beatles fans have been
tracks is something that
raphy will be released,
Beatles' original discog-
biggest day for Beatles fanatics in
New remasters not so Fab for die-hard fans

The idea of hearing the orig-
remastering of the
Sept. 9, 2009 will represent the
Wishing Well, a charity created in
of the Phi Sigma Sigma Foundation.
The sorority also formed Janelle's
Phi Sigma Sigma also contributes to
This year the sorority raised more than
The sorority also formed Janelle's
memory of Janelle Bertot, a fellow sister,
Sigma embodied who we were as a
committed, we believed Phi Sigma
and based on their history, beliefs and
we were as a
Sigma's Delta Kappa chapter, celebrated
The sorority held its Founder's Day
visit the Campus Life Office in
sorority, Phi Sigma Sigma formed, according to
Sigma has taught me you
formed a local sorority called Chi Delta Epsilon,
which benefi ts the Children's Miracle
which benefi ts the Children's Miracle
Sisters can be found in many of the
Phi Sigma Sigma taught me you
fi ve sisters who died of carbon monoxide poisoning
memory of Janelle Bertot, a fellow sister,
who died of carbon monoxide poisoning
Sigma has taught me you
must always push yourself and be all you
must always push yourself and be all you
We interviewed three organizations and
Not only does Phi Sigma Sigma raise
National Kidney Foundation by way of
National Kidney Foundation by way of
not only do Phi Sigma Sigma raise
in the preparation of their
first bands to really take a
drive to convey the message, "aim high,"
Gamma, the perfec-
tionist and driving force
behind the first Beatles
rerelease of the mille-
Let It Be ... Naked.
Oneto.

Phi Sigma Sigma formed, according to
For I am, I can do
Phi Sigma Sigma taught me you
must always push yourself and be all you
must always push yourself and be all you
Sisters can be found in many of the
University's organizations including
Student Programming Council, Go
Team and peer advising, according to

"I wanted them to see how proud I am,
that I had the opportunity to be a part of
FIU's history by starting the first national
sorority," Tomassi said. "I don't think in
my wildest dreams could I have hoped for
what we have today. I wanted our chapter
to survive the test of time but we have
more than survived – we have thrived."
To learn more about Phi Sigma Sigma, visit the Campus Life Office in

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Oneto.
April brings drought in hip-hop music, releases

It’s really hard to write this right now. Please, somebody give me something to say. This month may be the hardest month in hip-hop I can remember. I’m sure everybody is relieved that Mims’ Guilt hit the shelves a few days ago. I’m sure all 11 Mims’ fans in the nation are satisfied. But there are other fans that will be satisfied in the coming weeks.

All 52 Asher Roth fans, most of who are college students, will be relieved to know his album is finally here. But that will probably blow as much as Vlade Divac did when he still played basketball. Wait, there is light at the end of the tunnel ( cliché, but it fits the awkward moment). Mike Jones has a new album arriving later in the month.

I think all hip-hop fans can find comfort in Hell Rell’s newest release on Fontana records. After all, he is one of the hardest dudes to look at in the industry. Yakmouth is coming out soon.

The last thing I heard about that dude was that The Game ended his career. OK, Crumb Snatcha, Bubba Sparxxx and Fat Joe are all due pretty soon, The Game ended his career. OK, Crumb Snatcha, Bubba Sparxxx and Fat Joe are all due pretty soon, so is anybody excited? I’m done. Just like April is already done for me and the first half of the month isn’t even through.

So let’s move into May, where there are some promising projects on the horizon. Though even May is mostly tough to like. The first is Philadelphia Freeway 2. Freeway get’s the first half of the month isn’t even through.

The most interesting arrival, deep into May, is Eminem’s Relapse. Eminem told us to kick him off stage if he was ever rapping at this age, and he told Moby he was too old when he recorded music at 36. But we can let that go cause he is Marshall, and Moby is Moby. Eminem can still take a beat, eat it, let it out and eat it again just to make sure it’s dead, and he is definitely better off coming back than resting on four albums. The first off, “We made you” is what we’re used to hear about the overall quality of an album (see last column). Unless somebody surprises the landscape, those two records are all I have.

Dear Summer: Please take us out of our lives.

Moment of Clarity addresses the current state of hip-hop every other Monday.

Despite improved quality, price tempers excitement

TOWERS, page 5

fear of gaining distortion and losing the rest of the sound.

The remasters promise to return the original, intended booming bottom end, and this is great for me. As I’ve always felt the bass on the Beatles’ music is the most important element.

So, needless to say, the promise of high quality, digitally remastered CDs is enough to convince me to shell out for the box set, as I am a sucker for all things Beatles and have bought each release since I can remember.

However, I’ve invested so much in this band both financially and emotionally that I feel manipulated a bit. Apple Corps knows I’m going to spend the money on this even though I could very easily download it for free at high quality anyways.

Sure, they’ve added some fancy packaging, but that just serves to distract from the fact that it’s ultimately the same albums I’ve bought before.

And the whole run up to the release has been littered with pretty obvious attempts at drumming up free publicity for their release, from rumors of unreleased tracks seeing the light of day so far (to dice on that) to a one-off reunion between McCartney and Ringo Starr last weekend.

It would be nice to think that the surge of recent Beatles-related news was just a coincidence, but it can’t be brushed away. Everyone knew these remasters were coming for some time, and the fact that they’ve kept it a “secret” while allowing details to leak out about the development and process of the remastering bothers me.

The Beatles fan base is the most devoted of recent Beatles-related news was just a coincidence, but it can’t be brushed away. Everyone knew these remasters were coming for some time, and the fact that they’ve kept it a “secret” while allowing details to leak out about the development and process of the remastering bothers me.

The Beatles fan base is the most devoted fans in the nation are satisfied. But there are other fans that will be satisfied in the coming weeks.

What: Bahamian Student Organization – Meeting
When: 3 p.m.
Where: GC 343
Contact: 305-348-2285

What: Philosophy Club – Meeting
When: 3:30 p.m.
Where: GC 314
Contact: 305-348-2285

What: Haitian Students Organization – Meeting
When: 6:30 p.m.
Where: GC 150
Contact: 305-348-2285

What: Italian Club – Meeting
When: 7 p.m.
Where: GC 1223
Contact: 305-348-2285

What: Classical Music Performance
When: 8 p.m.
Where: Herbert & Nicole Worth- halm Performing Arts Center
Contact: 305-348-0496

JOIN OUR STAFF!
Stop by one of our offices located in GC 210 and WUC 124.
At age 12, Andrew Carbonell decided to help his father fill a void.

His father, Alfredo, had not raced professionally for 10 years and found himself wanting to race once again. Bonding through racing go-karts, the father and son hobby evolved into a professional career that Carbonell never imagined possible.

"It all started out as just a father-son hobby and it has taken off very quickly," the FIU freshman said. "In reality, it all started because my father wanted to get back into racing. He had done it in the past and we wanted to get back into it for fun."

Now as a 19-year-old student, Andrew finds himself with a full-time ride participating in the full season for the 2009 KONI Challenge with Freedom Autosport in the Street Tuner class.

The KONI Challenge is a NASCAR-owned racing series that competes on road courses around the nation, using cars that include Porsche, Ferrari, Mini Cooper, Ford and Mazda.

Carbonell began his racing career in the Homestead-Miami Speedway and quickly won several championships, including the 2005 Florida 125cc title. While Carbonell was rising up the ranks, his family watched in awe.

"My mom doesn’t get too worried," he said. "She will often in a while and ask how it’s all going, but she went through all of the hard times when my dad raced. I have two brothers and one sister and I’m the only one who has any interest in racing."

In addition to all of this, Andrew was invited to Chilucal, Mexico for the Easykart 100cc race where he proceeded to set a new track record in 2005.

Andrew had quickly shown that he was competitive and had the drive, attracting the attention of the vice president of Operations at Homestead-Miami Speedway, Albert Garcia, whom Andrew’s father knew as well.

Next thing he knew, Andrew found himself with a summer job at the track, keeping him close to where he felt most at home. Being around racing is all it took for Carbonell to decide that this was what he wanted to do professionally.

In 2006, Andrew’s career took a fast track when he earned his racing license from the Skip Barber Racing School, and he began racing in the Spec Miata class of the Sports Car Club of America.

He set track records at Sebring International Raceway, Moroso Motorsports Park and Homestead, and finished seventh in the 2007 SCCA Mazda MX-5 Cup Championship.

In addition, he achieved another career milestone in his first professional race in 2007, when he participated in the SCCA Pro Racing Playboy Mazda MX-5 Cup. From there, Andrew started numerous Grand-Am KONI Challenge races, including the Fresh From Florida 200 at Daytona, where he co-drove with actor Patrick Dempsey.

He ran an even season with a high of five and an error led the three runs, 5-1.

The Blue Raiders broke the shutout with a runner on base to go ahead by four runs, 5-1.

FIU 3, MTSU 1

Pitcher Kasey Barrett couldn’t match Jennifer Gniadek’s no-hitter, but she came pretty close.

Barrett finished off the sweep with her 13th complete game of the season on Saturday as FIU defeated Middle Tennessee 3-1.

Barrett (12-9) struck out nine and allowed an earned run. The win capped off the three-game sweep of MTSU and allowed an earned run. It’s her second straight game without allowing an earned run. The win capped off the three-game sweep of MTSU and FIU’s first sweep since 2007. The Golden Panthers improved to 24-22 (8-8, Sun Belt) and matched their longest winning streak of the season with five.

"It won’t be too odd racing against my son. He has a load of talent, and I don’t expect him to give me any room for error," said the elder Carbonell.

For the rest of his career Andrew wants to accomplish one thing.

"I just want to continue to follow my dream of becoming a professional race car driver," he said.

#Pitching duels silence offenses

**BASEBALL, page 8**

but in the third and fourth inning they began to get on base against the Golden Panthers’ No. 1 starter. In the bottom of the third inning, the Blue Raiders broke the shutout with an unearned run. However, he would get into trouble again in the fourth when he gave up a walk and two singles with two outs. This tied the game at 2-2.

The Blue Raiders would not cross the plate again as Rembisz shut down MTSU for the next 4 1/3 innings. It was a 2-2 game until the top of the eighth, when Mike Martinez led off the inning with a home run. Michael Vargas capped off the three-run inning with a solo blast of his own to set.

Head coach Tortie Thomas took Rembisz out of the game for R.J. Fondon in the ninth with a runner on base. Fondon got the only two outs, but the Blue Raiders snatched off to another early lead, 1-0.

**FIU 3, MTSU 1**

Pitcher Kasey Barrett couldn’t match Jennifer Gniadek’s no-hitter, but she came pretty close.

MTSU 6, FIU 3

Three Golden Panthers’ errors hurt starting pitcher Tom Eben’s already shaky night. The starter gave up 14 hits in six innings and six runs, but half of the runs were unearned. The result was a 6-3 loss at the hands of the Blue Raiders who avoided the series loss on April 10.

The Golden Panthers got off to another early lead, 1-0, but the Blue Raiders matched the lead away with a productive third inning. Four singles and an error led the three runs, two of which were unearned.

Unfortunately for the Golden Panthers, Blue Raiders starter Kenneth Roberts did not allow them any big innings. Instead he spread out three runs throughout seven innings of work. And the Blue Raiders pitching staff would not let another run score.

The Blue Raiders’ conference record improved to 12-5 and the Golden Panthers are right behind them in the standings at 9-5.
GARCIA, page 1

Athletic director to attend counseling

LEILANI LAUREANO
Contributing Writer

The Golden Panthers swept their first opponent since 2007 when they defeated the Sun Belt Conference for Middle Tennessee State University Blue Raiders on April 10-11 due to dominant pitching.

FIU’s pitching held MTSU to only two runs and eight hits over 23 innings including a Jennifer Gniadek no-hitter in the second game.

The Golden Panthers are riding their second five-game winning streak of the season.

FIU 1, MTSU 0
Junior Lauren Spiers singled in the bottom of the ninth to win the first game of the series 1-0 against Middle Tennessee on April 10.

Junior Kasey Barrett struck out a career-high 13 batters and completed her second shutout of the season.

Barrett (11-9) threw her 12th complete game and allowed two hits in the entire game.

The Golden Panthers (22-22, 5-8 Sun Belt) had 13 hits. FIU also left a season-high 15 runners on base.

FIU struggled to get runners to score, especially in the bottom of the fourth. After three consecutive singles by Spiers, Ashley McClain and Jessica Landau, FIU had the bases loaded with no outs. Blue Raiders’ pitcher Lindsey Vander Lugt was able to get out of the jam and FIU stranded the runners.

In the bottom of the fifth inning, senior Kim Rodriguez singled and became the Golden Panthers’ career leader in total bases with 341, the record previously held by assistant coach Jennifer Owens.

With bases loaded in the bottom of the ninth, Spiers singled to left to score Bell for the walk-off, game-winning run.

FIU 5, MTSU 1
Freshman pitcher Jennifer Gniadek just wanted to get a win.

In the process she recorded her first career no-hitter against the Blue Raiders. It is the sixth no-no in FIU history and the first since 2003.

“It felt great,” Gniadek said. “The win always comes first, but the no-hitter was in the back of my mind.”

Gniadek (9-9) struck out five batters and had one earned run on a wild pitch in seven innings.

FIU (23-22, 6-8) played a well-rounded game with great pitching, strong defense and timely hitting to sweep the double-header 5-1.

“Pitching has been our strength throughout the year, but we haven’t necessarily played the defense behind them,” said head coach Beth Maidique.

Soberon from second and added another run to extend FIU’s lead to 2-0.

Sun Belt foes split first two games

SSRGIO BONILLA
Asst. Sports Director

The Golden Panthers’ strong starting pitching gave their bullpen much needed rest against the No. 2 Sun Belt Conference team-Middle Tennessee State University.

Scott Rembisz pitched into the ninth to capture the first win of the series, but Tom Ebert could not overcome 14 hits and three unearned runs.

FIU 5, MTSU 2
After giving up a combined 24 runs in their last two games, starter Scott Rembisz decided to close the door vs. the Blue Raiders. The Golden Panthers (20-10, 9-4 Sun Belt) came away on top of a tight contest decided in the last two innings 5-2 on April 11 on the road.

Rembisz struck out a career-high 10 batters, allowed just two runs (one earned) and he is now 5-0 with a 2.84 ERA for the season.

With a 2-6 lead, Rembisz was mowing down Blue Raiders batters.

TENTH TIME’S A CHARM

WINNING STREAK: Luset Brito won her match against University South Florida’s Irene Rebhenger. No. 40-ranked Golden Panthers defeated the Bulls 6-1 on April 11.