THE BEACON
A Forum for Free Student Expression at Florida International University

Vol. 21, Issue 90  www.fi usm.com  Wednesday, April 15, 2009

SPOTLIGHT

AT THE BAY  PAGE 3
Take a study break with an MRD donated History field trip.

OPINION  PAGE 4
CUBAN: Can Babson’s natural strength include our safety?

SPORTS  PAGE 2
Junior transfer benefits from familiar surroundings.

WEATHER

LOW: 67  HIGH: 79
Partly cloudy. Isolated t-storms.

UPCOMING EVENTS

Robert Frost Poetry Festival, April 15. Thank You Can You Help? Meet us at the bay to be shocked by the best of the best. Robert Frost is his name and words are his game, obviously we are not poets. This event is happening at Bay West Heritage House & Robert Lab.

Miami Latino Gay Film Festival, April 16, 7:30pm. Enjoy the most specifi c film festival ever created at Florida International University. Sponsored by the Cuban American Student Organization and the Department of Hispanic and Latino Studies.

The University recently hired a fi rm to head a presidential search for a base salary of $500,000, with $180,000 in annual operating funds allowed to the fi rst fi ve fi gure contract terms for the new University president.

For the complete calendar, please see page 1 or visit fl.usm.edu/calendar.

STUDENT SERVICES

Kersters (left).

RGU

SFC-UP Monetary fund donations enabled under revised code

DAVID BARROS
Senior Staff Writer

Revised versions of the Student Government Financial and Elections Codes were passed during the April 13 meeting of the Student Government Council at University Park Center Ballrooms.

The new version of the Financial Code, passed unanimously, requires all events paid for by Activities and Services Fees to be free for the student body unless they are Student Government Association sponsored concerts or events. Robert Chung, SGC-UP comptroller, presented the changes to the bill during the meeting. He also announced the SGC-UP Finance Committee still had $6,000 left from a budget exceeding $25,100 for the 2008-2009 fi scal year.

“This is the kind of oversight and accountability we’ve all been looking for. I’d just like to thank all Republicans in SGA for this fi scal conservative,” said David Dial, senator for the College of Nursing.

Elections Code revisions included the permissi on of monetary funds to be donated to SGA candidates during elections. In the previous version of the code, students were unable to receive monetary donations.

OPINION

HOAX

Homosexuality is not a novelty that must be tolerated, contrary to what the UK psychology association claims.

WEATHER

WEDNESDAY

January 8 storms LOM 66 HEIG 86

THURSDAY

Partly cloudy LOM 67 HEIG 85

FRIDAY

Monthly coldest LOM 67 HEIG 79

FEES raise financial concerns

DIANA JORDAN
Staff Writer

Students and the University community were invited to attend the Activity and Services Fee public hearing April 13, in order to voice their opinion regarding the possibility of an increase in the fee.

The A&S Fee Committee held the forum in the Graham Center Ballrooms.

The forum was conducted in order to help touch base with students regarding the new fee increases that will be imple mented for those who began attending the University from Spring 2008. The majority of students who attended the forum felt the increase comes at an inopportune time considering the recent economic woes they incur, which according to most, are paid out of their own pocket.

“I have to fi nd a way to pay 15 percent of my tuition on my own and, if fees continue increasing, that will obviously become harder,” said Vanessa Garcia, a freshman health services administration and business major.

Other University fees and economic woes students are facing were addressed as well. When the topic of the technology fee arose, Student Government Council at University Park President Arthur J. Meyer said he was the only person to not vote for its increase because although “an increase in fees is needed to sustain campus life,”

FEE, page 2

Student club raises environmental awareness

PAGE 5

Please see the complete list on page 6 or visit fl.usm.edu/calendar.

ENDS

ENDS

Search page 2

Athletic Director Pete Garcia has hired eight new coaches in 12 sports since arriving at FIU in 2006. Most notably, Garcia has plucked football coach Mario Cristobal and baseball coach Turtle Thomas from the University of Miami and Arizona State, respectively.

After reassigning former men’s basketball coach Sergio Rouco to another position in the department, Garcia has reached into the National Basketball Association to fill his most recent vacancy. And by grabbing Isaiah Thomas from the New York Knicks’ front ofﬁ ce, FIU made a splash April 14 with the addition of the former NBA coach. Thomas, a basketball star.

JONATHAN RAMOS
Asst. Sports Director

THOMAS, page 8

FINANCIAL OFFICE

Rouco to another position in the department. Garcia has reached into the National Basketball Association to fill his most recent vacancy. And by grabbing Isaiah Thomas from the New York Knicks’ front ofﬁ ce, FIU made a splash April 14 with the addition of the former NBA coach. Thomas, a basketball star.

THOMAS, page 8

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THOMAS, page 8
Possible fee increase met with mixed student reactions

FEE, page 1

he argued, "elected officials need to look at these fee increases in another light and understand the repercussions. We need to make them understand where we’re coming from."

Several students then voiced their concerns over economic increases in general by explaining that although $1.50 increase per credit may not seem astronomical on paper, in reality, the total adds up.

"One of the main reasons I came to FIU was because of its relatively low tuition," said Fernandez Garcia, a junior human resources major. "Now to take classes in the summer, however, I need to pay somewhere in the high $800s, which I’m paying out of my own pocket."

Several students explained they have had to reduce the amount of credits they will take this summer in order to schedule more time to work to save money for the Fall semester.

The discussion and answer section also touched upon students’ doubts and hesitations as to whether fees are allocated wisely and whether any difference in campus life can be seen with a fee increase.

Art Hertiott, a chemistry emeritus and Honors College professor, then provided an administrator’s point of view.

"One of the difficulties the University has had with student life is the fact that everyone is a commuter student. campus offices, he said, the University “has worked hard throughout the last 15 to 20 years for student life to improve and has seen an enormous change."

In his opinion, these kinds of expenditures on student activities have given the school more life and spirit and, he said, are necessary in order to compensate for University students not typically remaining on campus after class.

Some students, however, such as Vignesh Doraiswamy, a senior and biology and religious studies major and SGC-UP, said that the increase in fees is necessary.

"Unlike the technology fee, the student Activity and Services Fee will benefit students directly," Doraiswamy said. "In the end, it will provide for a better educational environment and it is a $25 sacrifice everyone can make. All it takes is refraining from buying that new pair of shoes."

The Fee Committee will make its decision public on April 17.

MENA RUPANI
Staff Writer

Alpha Xi Delta-Theta Xi, one of the oldest women fraternities, announced its new philanthropic partnership with Autism Speaks. This is the nation’s largest autism science and advocacy organization, according to the Alpha Xi Delta press release.

The April 2 announcement outlined various events that the women fraternity will hold in conjunction with the organization.

In the United States, it is estimated that one in every 150 children will be diagnosed with autism, according to the Autism Speaks Web site.

This rate is rising by 10 to 17 percent annually. To prevent the gradual increase of this disease, the organization is dedicated to raising awareness, funding research, prevention and treatment.

According to a press release sent by fraternity headquarters, the fraternity and its more than 135,000 members across the country will work to raise autism awareness and financial support.

Sandra Perez, a junior English major and the vice president of programs for the Alpha Xi Delta chapter at FIU, is also in charge of the community service events.

This organization in providing awareness, researching for a cure and making the lives of those... affected... as comfortable as possible.

Sandra Perez, vice president Alpha Xi Delta Theta Xi chapter scheduled for June 13.

According to Perez, this event is open to women and men. There will be teams made up of five individuals competing for the Fuzzy Football Champion title. The event will be held in Tropical Estates Park.

"Last summer alone this tournament rose more than $7,000 for The Learning Experience School, a local school that deals with children who have autism," Perez said.

In addition, Melissa Saha- tin, member of Alpha Xi Delta chapter, explained that this chapter will participate in Autism Speaks’ most popular event, Walk Now for Autism. “Alpha Xi Delta’s large membership base will offer Walk Now for Autism mobile volunteers plus,” said Sahatin, a gradu- ate student in the Higher Education Program. The chapter will also continue to work with other organizations to assist children with autism.

“We are also going to continue working hand-on with organizations such as Good Hope Equestrian Center, that provides activities for children with autism,” Perez said.

The partnership with Autism Speaks is one that Perez said will continue in the years to come.

Perez, who plans to oversee many more events that pertain to autism, wants to make her sorority’s dedi- cation to Autism Speaks known.

“The Alpha Xi Delta-Theta Xi chapter at FIU will support Autism Speaks 100 percent,” Perez said.

Select associations give extra funds

SGC-UP, page 1

donations but could receive terms from organizations and businesses.

The new code also requires University-wide e-mails be sent to students if technical difficulties occur during online voting during elections.

"It will allow potential candidates from not being locked out of elections due to financial difficulties. Also, since there are still limits to the amount of money raised, it’s not like people can take advantage of this," said Chris Cabral, student for the College of Arts and Sciences and one of the authors of the bill.

College of Law Senator Jeffrey Molina introduced an amendment to the $725 to the Sports and Entertain- ment Law Society to aid in sending officers of the club to the 2009 Sports Lawyers Asso- ciation Annual Conference. Two other appropriations were also passed during the meeting.

Dial presented an appropriation to give $1,200 to the Caribbean Student Association for transportation costs for the Florida CSA Annual Conference.

The budget division Senator Krishna Aurora introduced a similar appropriation bill to award $2,000 to the Future Business Leaders of America for registration costs for a business summit in Anaheim, Ca. during the Summer term.

Last Monday’s meeting was the final meeting of the 2008-2009 SGC-UP Senate term.

Incoming senators will take their seats on May 1 along with SGC-UP President and Vice President Krista Rios and Mykaelle ‘Myka’ Figueireido.

The April 15 SGA meeting will be a joint session of the executive and legislative branches.

Salary to be higher than national average

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The Chron-
**Take Back the Night '09**

**BENNY YAKIN**

**Contributing Writer**

Academy Award winner and gay activist Dustin Lance Black broke down into tears when he first watched _The Times of Harvey Milk_, a documentary about the life and assassination of San Francisco’s first openly gay elected councilor. On April 16, Black will talk to students at the Biscayne Bay Campus in the Mary Ann Wolfe Theatre at 6:15 p.m. He said he “just want to do something with this, why hasn’t anyone done anything with this?”

Black said to David Lamble of the Bay Area Reporter during an interview published Feb. 21, 2008.

In February 2009, he won the Oscar at the 81st Academy Awards for Best Original Screenplay for _Milk_, the movie he wrote inspired by Harvey Milk, the openly gay politician who rallied the gay community during the 1970s in an effort to bring equal rights to everyone regardless of sexual orientation. The lecture, sponsored by the Biscayne Bay Campus Student Government Council Lecture Committee, Office of Campus Life & Orientation and the Office of Multicultural Programs and Services, is free for students, faculty and staff.

“I think it’s really good that he’s going to be coming,” said Daniel Anzueto, senior psychology major. “I was pleasantly surprised when the Lectures Committee chose him. I’m excited to meet him.”

Anzueto, who is also vice president of Stonewall 2 BBC, a student club and BBC Lesbian Gay Bisexual and Transgender Queer Questioning Straight Ally, also believes Black’s visit will allow Stonewall 2 BBC to pass along its message to more students.

“It will help get our message out to the FIU community and the community at large about equality,” Anzueto said. “Not a lot of people know who Harvey Milk was and part of Stonewall 2 BBC’s mission is to educate.”

Black, born in 1974, is an openly gay activist who grew up in San Antonio, Texas in a Mormon household.

Questioning his sexuality after finding the works “…and I’m gay! I’m gay!” said Lorrie Bellot, a graduate assistant who works for Campus Life.

The breakfast will take place in Cafeteria Loggia, the space located behind the Wolfe University Center, on April 20. The event starts at 10:30 a.m., with breakfast being served at midnight and scheduled to finish at 2 a.m.

Traditional midnight breakfast fare such as eggs, pancakes, coffee, bacon and juices will be provided.

“Everythings comes with the works … The pancakes with strawberry syrup, whipping cream and chocolate chips,” Bellot said.

To go with the decade theme, the music played will all be from the ‘80s and will range from pop and rock songs to television theme songs from shows such as the “Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles,” Bellot said that impersonators of ‘80s stars such as Michael Jackson and the actors of the show “Miami Vice” may also make guest appearances.

“We want to keep a few surprises,” said Pam Duque, management seniors, “I'm excited to meet him.”

“We want to bring back all the cool stuff from the ‘80s and bring you back to when you were a kid,” said Lorie Bellot, a graduate assistant who works for Campus Life.

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Questioning his sexuality after finding himself attracted to a neighborhood boy...

With the Oscars just recently occurring, and Dustin Lance Black having one of the finest award acceptance speeches, we just thought that he would be of great interest to a lot of people,” said Brittany Brewer, an Edward Diocis, the theater and attendees who have not seen the film will have the chance to do so.

Freshman journalism major Mauricio Dicis said he will be in the audience on April 16.

“I can’t wait. For someone so young, he has achieved so much in such a brief period of time,” Dicis said. “I stand behind him 100 percent.”

For more information on this event, call the Office of Campus Life & Orientation at (361) 919-3804.

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**Thank you for reading**

**Milk’s award-winning screenwriter to lecture**

**ATE THE BAY**

**Wednesday, April 15, 2009**

**THE BEACON**

A Forum for Free Student Expression of the Florida International University

**Contact Us**

Pamela Duque
BIC Managing Editor
pd@fiu.edu
The Beacon – 4

READ THIS NOW!

Nuke today, gone tomorrow

Nuke today gone tomorrow

The problem is that the more verifying we do these days, the harder it is to trust.

Homosexuality is not an ailment

A poll recently conducted in the United Kingdom reported that a significant number of psychiatrists have treated and were willing to treat their patients for homosexuality. Essentially, they are attempting, at the behest of the patient, to make them straight.

The researchers questioned more than 1,400 mental health professionals on whether they would accept a patient’s request for sexual orientation counseling, if requested to do so. Although only one in 25 (4 percent) said that they would do so, one in six (17 percent) reported having assisted at least one client to reduce their gay or lesbian feelings, usually through therapy.

From the outside, this seems horrifying. There is no real data on how helpful and safe such treatments could be. This cult of psychiatrists is practicing, for all intents and purposes, behavior modification on homosexuals; and it has a very uncomfortable similarity to the way it once was with the eugenics movement.

One of the professors conducting the poll even notes, “There is very little evidence to show that attempting to treat a person’s homosexual feelings is effective and in fact, it can actually be harmful.”

As such playwright Molàire said, “Nearly all men die of their remedies, and not their illnesses.”

That much is obvious. In a black and white world, mostly everyone understands that singularly treating homosexuality as something to be cured is wrong. Homosexuality is probably innate and there from birth, though nobody is sure.

A cure for homosexuality would be the psychiatric equivalent of having a lobotomy. Burthe who are approaching these therapists are not just homosexuals. They’re unsure bisexuals, recon- ciliatory homosexuals and maybe confused heterosexuals. They are the borderline, the shades of gray in the area of gay. It’s about the homosexuals who might be straight and the heterosexuals who might be gay. Their sexual admixtures and the affecting social conditions are not always easy to throw a label on, and their positions are not always concrete.

In this, maybe the therapist can help – with the “other stuff.” The purpose of therapy has always seemed – to me – to counsel you in outline to guide you through a process of accepting yourself, establishing things that you may want or need to change, and verifying whether you are able to change them.

If a homosexual wants to decide ultimately if they are gay or not, therapy may help do this, or at the very least deny who they are more thoroughly.

The larger tragedy looming over all these paths is that even feel compelled to go to therapy because of their sexual orientation. They have no disease and are seeking a cure for what is very obviously a social disease – intolerance.

Unfortunately, no cure exists for that ailment.
Club promotes environmental action

LAUREN AGOSTO  Staff Writer

Going green isn’t the latest craze - it’s been the main focus of a small group of students on campus for more than ten years. Students for Environmental Action first began in the late 1990s, disbanded for several years after that and returned in Fall 2008. Since its return, the organization implemented a single stream recycling program on campus, which allows paper, plastic, glass and aluminum to be disposed of in the same bin.

“We provide different opportunities for students to engage in environmental action, for example by going dumpster diving or having events open to FIU students to raise awareness for students who don’t know about issues that are going on in our environment and how they can take that into consideration when furthering their careers,” said Stephany Alvarez, co-president of SEA. “It’s important for students to get involved now so they can learn how their actions are affecting our environment and how they can make a difference in their field, even doing little things like using recycled paper.”

The main goals of SEA are to create awareness about environmental issues, locate resources and events for active involvement and promote a healthy environment at FIU.

“This is the first green initiative club at FIU. It has been the first to show FIU students that going green is actually one of our priorities right now at FIU and also at a national level,” said Karen Pannocchia, graduate advisor for Students for Environmental Action. “We do have students involved with that and they can do something about it.”

SEA hopes to use FIU as a leading example to the rest of the nation and familiar with budget deficits and program cuts, by reducing our expenses, we could allocate more money to actual education purposes, professors and programs, thus making FIU better in every aspect: not only academically but also by becoming a great example to the rest of the community,” said Carolina Cabal, secretary of SEA.

On April 6, the first day of Earth Week 2009, FIU’s Students for Environmental Action held its “Focus on Green Energy Day” at the University Park campus. Its main purpose was to inform students about the harmful consequences of the energy sources currently being used like coal, nuclear energy and oil. Some consequences of the widespread use of these resources are pollution, depletion of the ozone layer, climate change, destruction of natural habitats and major health problems.

The organization is trying to implement a “Green Fee,” a fee of about $0.75 – $1 per credit enrolled in. A committee comprised mostly of students and some faculty and administration members will manage the funds brought in by the Green Fee.

Better energy efficiency in buildings, the acquisition of solar panels and photovoltaic cells, bioconversion of wastes into energy, plus many other technologies, will help FIU excel in the now-national effort of achieving energy independence from non-renewable, dirty and dangerous sources,” Cabal said.

In order to find out students’ opinions, SEA has been surveying FIU students to find out what they think of the new Green Fee. According to Cabal, the surveys have shown an overwhelming support of the fee.

The group also participated in Power Shift 2009 in Washington, D.C., where students from all over the nation united to lobby Congress for climate change policy and action, which proved successful with Congressmen Henry Waxman and Congressman Ed Markey introducing the American Clean Energy and Security Act, a landmark climate and energy bill.

“We can’t wait to meet more new people: the more we are, the more hands that can work together to achieve a just, clean and more positive world,” Cabal said. “Please unite our efforts. Let’s change the world, starting with our school!”

For more information about Students for Environmental Action, please contact sea@fiu.edu.

It’s important for students to get involved now so they can learn how their actions are affecting our environment and how they can make a difference.

Stephany Alvarez, co-president, Students for Environmental Action

 promises to yourself
are the first to go

EDDITH SEVILLA  Asst. Life Editor

As the weeks and months of this Spring semester diminished, my weight did not.

At the start of the semester, I vowed to lose 30 pounds – 15 of which I had gained since the onset of my relationship with my boyfriend Charlie.

I asked you, my readers, to join me as I embarked on this journey. I wrote about Web sites, exercises, health and more to keep us motivated. I read health articles, went to health fairs and even worked out at the University Park Campus gym – not a pleasant experience to say the least, but that’s a story for another day.

And through it all, life happened. Between the demands of my job, school work and my personal problems, losing weight took the back burner.

There are no excuses for this. But then again this is not a column on how sorry I am for not meeting my own expectations. Rather, it is a personal account of my struggles with losing weight while my partner shed the pounds.

Charlie unknowingly embarked on this journey. He asked you, my readers, to join me as I embarked on this journey. I wrote about Web sites, exercises, health and more to keep us motivated. I read health articles, went to health fairs and even worked out at the University Park Campus gym – not a pleasant experience to say the least, but that’s a story for another day.

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Charlie unknowingly embarked on this journey. He asked you, my readers, to join me as I embarked on this journey. I wrote about Web sites, exercises, health and more to keep us motiva
In these times of economic tribulation, rarely is the question asked: Are Disney films turning our children into murderous buccaneers? And are our leaders doing enough to protect us from our Johnny Depp-tinged, blood-thirty kids?

These are questions our leaders have been all too eager to ignore. In the first few months of his presidency, Barack Obama has focused almost exclusively on the economy, healthcare and foreign policy. Not once has he patrolled the waters off our coastline to beat back the hordes of pirates no doubt waiting to pifer our valuables, ransack our homes and reclaim the rum of their captain, Morgan.

While Obama has been wise to stock his cabinet with veterans of sea combat – including Hillary Clinton, who killed three pirates off the coast of Bermuda in 1983 – he has still left our country vulnerable to attack. As former Vice President Cheney has warned us, the impending closure of the detention center at Guantanamo Bay has emboldened our enemies who know that once our island military base is closed they can once again rule the sea.

Florida International University is especially vulnerable. One of our campuses sits at the shores of Biscayne Bay, with virtually no protection from pirate siege. Biscayne Bay Campus is likely a very tempting target for pirates, who would no doubt appreciate the nice scenery and quality dining options.

Close inspection of the coastline near BBC finds no warships or sentinels overlooking the water, and its student government council is currently completely without a navy. A fleet of determined pirates could no doubt overtake the Wolfe Center in a matter of minutes.

Unsuspecting students would be pressed into service of their new overlords and BBC would become America’s third largest pirate-controlled university campus. While SGC’s vice president was reluctant to comment about the growing pirate threat, University Park SGC President Arthur Meyer was happy to share the details of his administration’s maritime security policy.

“We have our own Golden Panther SEALs patrolling our parks and lakes,” Meyer said, alluding to the team of swimming assassins who lurk throughout campus for our protection.

The SEALs’ movements are so stealthy that many students are completely unaware of their existence.

The Beacon asked one student how he felt about the well-armed military force that silently watches over our every move, prepared to subdue any pirate at a moment’s notice if one should threaten a student, administrator or faculty member.

“What are you talking about? What the f**k?” said Douglas Reilly, a junior theatre major.

While the Golden Panther SEALs (GPS) are heavily armed and dangerous (to pirates), Meyer assures that his security policy is environmentally friendly. Meyer noted that the highly trained squadron of deadly warriors is taught to respect campus wildlife.

“Be aware that they are under strict orders not to harm the ducks,” Meyer said.

While the pirate threat is currently under control at FIU, it has been steadily growing over the past few years. According to the International Maritime Bureau, pirate attacks soared dramatically in 2007.

What else happened in 2007? Disney released the hit movie Pirates of the Caribbean: At World’s End, the third film in a trilogy focusing on these ship dwelling killers. Coincidence? Perhaps. Yet there can be no doubt that the films glorify these buccaneers. Pirate life in the films is portrayed as "fun" and "adventurous," ignoring the real life problems of their sinful lifestyle, like scurvy and venereal disease.

Thanks to the pirate apologists at Disney, our children are being raised to admire these depraved miscreants.

Hopefully, if our leaders remain mentally friendly. Meyer noted that the highly trained squadron of deadly warriors is taught to respect campus wildlife.

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Hopefully, if our leaders remain vigilant and if more concerned Americans work to raise pirate awareness, we can ensure that Biscayne Bay Campus remains safe, children will abandon their dreams of a life of piracy and Disney will finally release an accurate pirate film: Pirates of the Caribbean 4, The Curse of the Inflamed Genitalia.
FIU welcomes sixth hoops head coach

ACHIEVEMENTS OF ISIAH THOMAS

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- Second overall pick, 1981 NBA Draft
- Twelve-time NBA All-Star
- Two-time NBA Champion
- 1990 NBA Finals MVP
- National Basketball Hall of Fame Inductee, 2000
- Executive Vice President, Toronto Raptors 1994-1998
- Head Coach, Indiana Pacers, 2000-2003, record 131-115

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What a surprise: Isiah Thomas, in becoming the FIU head coach becomes the first Hall of Fame player to become a college head coach, after enshrinement.
Golden Panthers drop series finale; New Orleans next

LEILANI LAUREANO
Staff Writer

After two years of battling epilepsy at Presbyterian College, junior pitcher Paige Cassady transferred to FIU to play for head coach Beth McClendon, the pitching instructor she met nine years ago.

Now, Cassady is back under the tutelage of the only coach who understood her.

“She has taught me everything when it comes to pitching,” said Cassady. “I owe her a lot.”

McClendon helped Cassady battle health issues for several years. Cassady was diagnosed with epilepsy and had three seizures while at Presbyterian. One of the seizures occurred during a game, while Cassady was pitching.

“The doctors gave me medicine for the epilepsies, which made me depressed,” she said. “Then they gave me anti-depression medicine. It was a rough two years.”

Cassady said she did not enjoy her time at Presbyterian, not only because of the health issues, but because the coaching staff didn’t understand her.

“The coaches did not know how to push me,” she said. “They pushed me in a way that I would take it personally, and it did not make me a better pitcher.”

But McClendon knows how to motivate her. Cassady said her new coach understands her health problems, but doesn’t take it easier on her.

“Coach knows how to push me,” Cassady said. “She knows I will not give up and quit.”

Cassady’s father had arranged tours before we bring him in.”

For the Blue Raiders, Drew Robertson was a strong leader and has a bright future.”

SERGIO BONILLA
Asst. Sports Director

Down 11-2, the Golden Panthers had little hope of coming back.

They hit themselves back into the game against Middle Tennessee University State Blue Raiders, but they fell short in the last game of the series.

The Blue Raiders defeated the Golden Panthers 13-9 on April 12 at Murfreesboro.

For the first time this season, the Golden Panthers lost a three-game series.

They lost to the team that was sitting directly above the Panthers in the Sun Belt Conference standings coming into the series. FIU’s record stands at (20-12, 9-6, Sun Belt) and MTSU is (24-8, 13-5) on the season.

Starting pitcher Corey Polizzano could not make it through three innings as he gave up eight runs, seven earned.

Blue Raiders’ starring pitcher fared better than Polizzano, but he did not have an easy five innings of work. He gave up three runs and walked five Golden Panthers.

The Panthers scored in six of the game’s nine innings.

Brett Wilson had an ugly win and an ugly win is better than a pretty one any day of the week. He was struggling in the first and then got the reverse pick to get out of the inning,” head coach Steve Peterson told goblueraiders.com. “We just have to be better out of the bullpen. Woods did a good job but we have to get help in the bullpen before we bring him in.”

Each team had to use five different pitchers to finish the deciding game of the series.

Both teams had several hits, but the Blue Raiders had six hit go for extra bases.

For the Blue Raiders, Drew Robertson was a triple shy of the cycle. Nathan Hines and Grant Box had two hits each and Zach Hudson had a two-run homer.

“One of the lowest points in my career was knowing that Cassady was unhappy at Presbyterian,” McClendon said. “I owe her a lot.”

McClendon makes her nervous, though. She does not want to disappoint her coach and mentor.

“The hardest part is that coach knows what I am capable of, and I do not want to let her down,” she said.

Cassady has hardly disappointed the Golden Panthers with a 3.92 ERA, and McClendon said she’s grateful for having Cassady on the team. She said Cassady is a great addition to the team, on and off the field.

“Cassady is a daily example of how to work hard and how to be a great teammate,” McClendon said.

“She is a strong leader and has a bright future.”

The most significant outcome of the series is how the Panthers went from the third spot to the fifth spot in the conference standings. Troy University and the University of Louisiana-Monroe currently hold the third and fourth spots, respectively. Troy is 10-5 and ULM is 11-7. The Golden Panthers face New Orleans, the last place team in the Sun Belt from April 17-19.