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SPOTLIGHT

AT THE BAY, page 3

AT THE BAY, page 2

Cheerleading gets financial boot

Jorge Valens, Asst. News Director

The FIU cheerleading program has been eliminated as part of Athletics’ $1 million budget cut for the 2009-10 fiscal year. “This economy has forced us to make some very tough choices,” said Athletics Director Pete Garcia in a written statement to Student Media. “The decision to discontinue our cheerleading program was one of them.”

The decision to eliminate the program comes after the University’s move to cut all funding to the Golden Panther Band. According to Athletics’ budget, the program would save about $78,000 annually by eliminating the program. However, former head cheerleading coach, Maria George, told Student Media that the budget for the cheerleading program is about $25,000.

George said she offered Athletics to coach the program for free and without an operating budget, but Athletics declined the offer. Kelch said the department would still need money to run the program, even without George’s salary and operating budget, and that Athletics would be open to keep the cheerleading team if they were able to secure a recurring sponsor.

“Cheerleaders are now engaging in fundraising events to save the program. The Golden Dazzlers, the University’s competitive dance team, will continue to be funded by Athletics and will fill the void left by the cheerleading team during games.”

NEW LAB TO HELP WITH LOCAL TRAFFIC

Else Pug, Staff Writer

Heading to school through the Palmetto Expressway to catch a 8:30 a.m. class might create more delays than expected. Luckily, engineering students and researchers at FIU’s new traffic research lab have the solution.

The Integrated Intelligent Transportation System Laboratory, which opened last April in the Lehman Center for Transportation Research in FIU’s Engineering Center, will allow students to develop and implement technology to facilitate transportation.

Javier Rodriguez, executive director of the Miami-Dade Expressway Authority, said that congestion is a major issue in Miami.

“We are an urban and highly congested area which has experienced a lot of growth,” he said. “Although we are in a full-right now because of the economy, this research will help us keep ahead of the game.”

The $150,000 research facility, part of a joint effort between the Florida and the University Department of Transportation, is a small-scale replica of the SunGuide Transportation Management Center located near Dolphin Mall.

The research lab is equipped with a video wall, central software, intelligent transportation system devices, servers and operator workstations.

Live feeds projected on two video walls displaying real-time traffic at Interstate 95 and 75. Dolphin and Palmetto Expressways and the Turnpike monitor traffic volumes, congestion, time and speed of passing vehicles as well as collisions.

Furthermore, several electronic sensors along the road give accurate estimated travel times according to congestion levels.

RELIGIOUS DPT., page 2

Religion department temporarily dodges cuts

Christopher Lazaga, Staff Writer

The most recent department to dodge the falling axes of the current economy crisis and budget cuts has been the College of Arts and Science Religious Studies Department.

On June 12, the Board of Trustees voted unanimously to postpone the cutting of four programs, including the Religious Studies Department, until the next board meeting that is scheduled for September. The move gave the department heads as well as President Modesto Maidique and President-designate Mark Rosenzweig time to look for other ways to fund the programs through fund-raising activities and to come up with alternative plans.

In the original budget reduction plan proposed in 2008, the Religious Studies Department was safe. However, after additional cuts for the upcoming fiscal year, which included complete elimination of visiting faculty lines, class size increases and additional cuts for next year’s summer program, CAS Dean Kenneth Froton and his colleagues concluded that the budget could not be balanced without departmental restructuring and even eliminations.

Furton then recommended the closure of the Religious Studies Department. “[My decision] was based on a variety of factors including comparisons to benchmark institutions of which most do not have independent Religious Studies Departments,” Furton said.

According to Furton, he and his colleagues concluded that there were no expendable programs in CAS, and any department closure would have many pros and cons.

Benchmarking with other institutions, or taking note of the budget reduction processes of other state university system schools undergoing similar hardships, was a way, Furton said, to maintain objectivity in the face of difficult decision making.

The department cut would not have eliminated religious studies from FIU completely, but would have instead eliminated its bachelor’s degree and converted it to a smaller, less diverse program within the new School of International and Public Affairs.

The proposed cuts would have also eliminated half of the current faculty and saved roughly $600,000 per year ($2.4 million over four years).

The proposal to close the Department of Religious Studies garnered...
Act to help student immigrants

Senator Bill Nelson (D), is rallying against the deportation of 23-year-old Walter Lara, who, July 6 deportation has caused protests in the South Florida community.

According to The Miami Herald, Nelson mentioned in a letter to immigration officials that Lara, and people like him, were the target of the DREAM act.

The act, co-sponsored by Nelson and Senator Mel Martinez (R), would grant select immigrants who graduated from U.S. high schools conditional permanent residency.

Lara earned high marks in both high school and college, and graduated from the Miami Dade Honors College in 2007, ultimately becoming a computer technician.

Senator Nelson has urged Homeland Security officials to make a decision regarding Lara’s immigration status before July 6.

The Beacon will gladly change any errors. Call our UP office at 305-348-2709 or BCC at 305-919-4722.

CORRECTIONS

In the issue dated June 24, the info box accompanying the article titled “Program closures postponed,” stated that the B.S. in Recreational Therapy was cut during a Board of Trustees meeting. The board, in fact, voted to cut this program, which are tracks under the Recreation and Sport Management degree.

Students contribute to traffic solution

The Palmetto Expressway in morning rush hour is an area especially sees a lot of problems,” said doctoral student Patricio Alvarez, who contributes in the lab.

“Having this facility allows for us to better analyze the data and quickly diagnose what is causing the problem and decide the best course of action.”

Using communication and information technology, students collect data of traffic patterns and behaviors in order to create simulation models of traffic accidents and evaluate alternatives to reduce delays on a congested roadway.

The researchers will participate in local and state projects in collaboration with the Florida Department of Transportation, which contributed key equipment seen in the research facility, according to Mohammed Hadi, professor of civil and environmental engineering and director of the research lab.

“The solution might not be just to add a lane to ease congestion,” Hadi said. “We look to implement technology to optimize highway operations.”

The research center will also serve as a back-up to traffic management center as researchers and students provide feedback to the Transportation Management Center.

“We will devise ways to improve their operations, we really try to make their job easier,” Alvarez said. “I see it as my way of helping society by making their trips quicker and more reliable.”

Halit Ozen, a visiting researcher from Turkey said he likes seeing the effects of his ideas and decisions immediately when traffic data becomes clear.

After three years in FIU, he hopes to take his knowledge to Turkey.

رنين أنتوني، الذي يمثل نظام الاتصالات للطوارئ، قال: “نحن نعمل على التعرف على المشكلات، ونستعد لحلها، ونعمل على تحسين الوضع العام.”

وقال إن الفريق يعمل على استكشاف أشكال مختلفة من التحديات، ويجدد التحديات بشكل متكرر. وقد أظهر الفريق الكثير من الدقة والتفاني في عنصرين أساسيين: الاتصالات وتقنية المعلومات.

Fund raising: next step for program

RELIGIOUS DPI, page 1

much attention and even attracted a gifted from world-renowned spiritual leader, the Dalai Lama. “He’s Holiness generously donated $100,000 and offered to help us with fund raising," said Nathan Katz, chairperson at the Religious Studies Department.

“In our deeply interconnected world, understanding and appreciation of diversity of religions is critical in fostering a culture of genuine tolerance and peaceful coexistence,” wrote the Dalai Lama in a letter from his office in India.

According to Katz, the $100,000 gift will go toward a new endowment campaign.

The campaign, with a goal of $5 million, will be used to fund the department’s activities such as research, scholarship and graduate assistantships, yet will remain separate from the department’s operating budget.

“The existence of the department is not related to this fundraising. However, the strength and future growth of the Religious Studies Department will depend on attracting community support,” Katz said.

Cheerleaders explore survival options

The Golden Dazzlers have 18 members and perform at all basketball and football games as well as events such as Midnight Madness and Freshman Convocation.

Their style, however, is more focused on hip hop and jazz dance routines rather than traditional cheerleading routines.

According to Athletics’ budget, the Golden Dazzlers expenses are about $6,000 less than the cheerleading team.

George said she thinks that Athletics wanted to go in a different direction.

“The cheerleading team is currently exploring alternative options to raise funds.”

“We’re looking into other avenues to see if we can get enough support throughout the FIU community and the community in South Florida to help us stay as an organized sport,” George said.

The cheerleading team is currently seeking corporate sponsorships and has organized various fund-raising events on and off campus.

On June 24, the team set up in the Graham Center Pit to collect donations and raise awareness about their situation.

They also partnered with the Phi Gamma Delta fraternity the following day for a fundraising party.

Lastly, on June 26, the cheerleaders organized a car wash.

Fliers have been posted in various spots throughout the Graham Center, informing students about the different ways they can help and a schedule of their fund-raising events.

Student government has become aware of the cut and is discussing options with Athletics.

“We are looking at all alternatives in helping maintain the cheerleading program,” said Student Government Council at Modesto Maidique Campus President Anthony Rionda. “We understand the position the Athletic Department is in cutting their budget but [we are] working our best to help this program continue.”

The cheerleaders, both veterans of the program and newcomers, are responding to the cuts with surprise and disappointment.

“The cheerleading program is unique and it is very important for students and the university,” said a student who wished to remain anonymous.

“Stadiums have a role in our society and they are important for the community,” said Erika Otero, a senior.

“Also, we need the cheerleaders to support our school spirit,” said Jenny Mesa. “We were looking forward to the new season, and now it looks like we won’t be able to have it.”

“We are really excited about this,” said co-captain Jenny Mesa. “We were looking forward to the new season, and now it looks like we won’t be able to have it.”

A new organization, the “Cheer Revolution,” has been formed to support the cheerleading team and help them raise funds.

“We are going to Daytona, Florida for college nationals next year, which is like the Rose Bowl of our sport,” George said. “They’re cutting a program that produces award-winning cheerleaders.”

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“I’m still in shock,” said co-captain Jenny Mesa. “We weren’t prepared for it.”

According to veteran cheerleader Erika Otero, however, this is just a minor setback.

“We really are title hungry,” she said. “This is going to be a stepping stone but we are going to make the most of it.”

The final option for the team is to limit the amount of competitions they attend and become a student club, which receives funding from the Council for Student Organizations.
Rec Center offers kayaking, field trips for young campers

ANDREA CRUZ
Staff Writer

Children are running around campus, invading bathrooms, Panther Square, and making the entire building smell of popcorn and pizza.

For the 13th year, the Biscayne Bay Campus Recreation Center is hosting the FIU Summer Academy for children ages 4 to 14.

“The University has so much to offer, as far as a summer camp,” said camp counselor Elise Withers. “The facilities and space give the kids a lot more opportunities than if they were at a normal camp.”

Camp activities include kayaking, basketball and soccer, as well as drama and arts and crafts. But the camp emphasizes on instructional swimming, according to Christina Reddick, Aquatic Center coordinator.

“Learning to swim is a critical need in general,” Reddick said. “Even on this campus, there are college students who can’t swim.”

More than one out of four drowning victims is under 14 years old, according to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention Web site.

“The facilities and space give the kids a lot more opportunities than if they were at a normal camp.”

All camp counselors and staff are CPR and first aid certified by the American Red Cross, according to Reddick. All staff members also received risk management and conflict resolution training.

“One of the kids in our group didn’t know how to swim, and had never been out on a kayak before,” said Withers, a junior advertising major. “This week, he went out for the first time and he was super excited about it.”

Camp swimming activities were disrupted during the pool renovation, which forced the Recreation Center to close the Aquatic Center for two years and made it difficult to run the summer camp, according to Reddick.

“The parents were expecting a swim program,” she said. “It was a challenge to have that reputation and the ability of programs for students.

The FIU Summer Academy runs from June 8 through July 17, it is open from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. with pre- and post-care available for an additional weekly fee of $25. The camp cost is $225 per week, a total cost of $1,050 for the six-week session, including a field trip to Islands of Adventure in Orlando. Around 160 campers attend every week, according to Reddick.

In addition to the FIU Summer Academy, two new programs will be implemented this year at BCC:

The FIU LEGO camp and the FIU EcoAcademy. Both will run from July 20 through July 31.

The FIU LEGO camp and the FIU EcoAcademy are one of the programs that bring in an estimated 200 students, according to Reddick.

“The summer camp programs are one of the programs that bring in students to know the University better,” she said. “When the time comes to apply to college, they remember FIU. They are familiar with it and have that warm fuzzy feeling. It is not something out of reach, and they are willing to fill out that application.”

Regeneration for the LEGO camp and EcoAcademy is still open, but spaces are limited.

The Recreation Center would not disclose the amount of money generated from the camps, despite several attempts.

For more information, contact Reddick at (305) 919-4549.
Students deserve less administrative apathy

RICK MARTINEZ
Online Director

FIU sure has a lot to be proud of, just check out its new achievements board at http://www.fiu.edu. Some key ones to mention: top 100 business school, one of the largest public universities in America and a brand new collegiate-style logo (which I love, by the way).

However, there is one thing missing in that list of achievements: the respect of the FIU student body.

It’s hard being reminded of the bureaucracy, the politics and the closed doors all around campus. I hate thinking that this is the university I once dreamed of going to. I hate hearing, “Welcome to FIU,” whenever I have a complaint about the way things are run. I hate knowing I’ve caught myself saying that phrase to others more than once.

The administration can manufacture the image it wants, but the administration must work for the students, not for itself, in order to make that image a reality.

It makes me wonder: Does anyone in the higher-ups care about the students? Unfortunately, if they do, it is not apparent. People have tried to make them care – or at least show it – but too often faculty and staff are afraid to come forward and talk. And the students’ voice is small, because when an administration treats its student body like trash, its students will never care.

President Maidaqué certainly hasn’t earned the respect of the University’s student body, which is apparent in the online rallying against the renaming of University Park campus in his honor. Although he was the University’s leader during the period of most of FIU’s growth, I’ve met many who feel like they can’t credit Maidaqué for it.

Why? Because Maidaqué, along with his administration, built the structure with no foundation, an image with no basis.

Fortunately, people are finally starting to look at what’s happening here. The students are craving to have that school pride, and they are realizing that in order to be proud of FIU, things must first change.

When students expressed their support for President-delegate Mark Rosenberg, they called for change, just like they’re doing rallying against the naming of the Modesto A. Maidaqué Campus along with the cutting of the cheerleading program.

This student passion is something new for FIU; the student body has been notorious for being apathetic.

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Despite all of this, FIU won’t feel complete. I hate hearing, “Welcome to FIU,” when I have a complaint about the way things are run. I hate knowing I’ve caught myself saying that phrase to others more than once.

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Local theater challenges convention

MONICA PUERTO  
Staff Writer

Ensemble, Experience, Engagement

That’s Unhinged Theatre’s motto, according to FIU alum Michael Leon, the company’s founder and artistic director.

Unhinged Theatre is a theatrical company based in South Florida where actors (mostly FIU alumni) and students come together to express their artistic abilities and give the audience a new take on theatrical performances.

Michael Leon started the company in August 2008.

“I had wanted to work with a group of artists that I felt comfortable with and I respected their work. I felt that as a group we could work together in order to put up productions that we cared about and wanted to put our own take on them,” Leon said.

Unhinged Theatre just produced their first classical play called Gaslight, which ran from June 26 to the 28.

For Isbelia Duran, who graduated from FIU in 2004 with a bachelor’s in theater, this was her first performance with Unhinged.

Duran heard about the company through a fellow actor who went to school with the company members.

“I wanted to be a part of this endeavor because I found it exciting. I love the fact that this company has ‘out-of-the-box’ ideas and goals,” Duran said.

She is excited to be among hardworking individuals who work together with a common goal: producing great theater.

“The energy is charged and goes through many changes throughout the play, keeping the audience engaged,” Duran said.

Duran played the role of Elizabeth in Gaslight, which she found challenging her to become a better actress since the character appeared to be duplicitous and was very complex.

Keeping the audience engaged is one of the main goals of Unhinged Theatre.

Dixon Gutierrez, an original member of Unhinged Theatre who will be graduating with a B.A. in acting from FIU, says the show was an experiment to see if they could keep an audience in suspense like they do in movies without the luxury of editing.

“We don’t really have that luxury in the theater. What came up through rehearsals was we had to make sure that we were feeling that suspense and anxiety and hopefully pass that on to the audience,” Gutierrez said.

Unhinged Theatre has offered challenges to the actors through the roles they play in the performances.

For Gutierrez, the challenge of his role as the detective in Gaslight was the language of the show.

“It’s this is a period piece so it’s very wordy and very eloquent, certainly more than I’m used to.

“Some thoughts or sentences will go on for quite a while for instance, so it was kind of tough at first to keep the energy and the intent going through the whole line and just taking your time with it.”

The future goal of Unhinged Theatre is to move toward performing original work, in part because it would be more cost effective.

According to Leon, “Money has become a great issue and all of these plays are published, meaning they have royalties we need to pay. So part of our decision to go in a new direction with original work is because of our lack of funds.”

Leon states that they have a lot of ideas for creating new pieces and is looking forward to developing them.

For more information about Unhinged Theatre, e-mail UnhingedTheatre@gmail.com.

MOMENT OF CLARITY

Auto-Tune creates annoying trend

Artists have failed more often with Auto-Tune than they have succeeded with it. Most notably, T-Pain and Kanye West have made millions while incorporating the device into their music. But there is also the horrible sound of Lil’ Wayne, 50 Cent and others that spoiled any enjoyment to be wrung from this trendy vocal effect.

The absolute worst example is the single “Blame it” by Jamie Foxx, which gives me road rage when the radio continues to play it over and over (CD player in the car broke down, tough times).

That stupid attempt at music sounds like the vocal effect. “Blame it” by Jamie Foxx, which was turned up to 11th gear, gave me a lesson in how some things are so wrong.

“Your beat too tight, your colors too bright, your voice too light.”

What Jay is trying to do is bring balance back to hip-hop in a time where light talking rappers have now overstayed their welcome.

Sure, it is a breath of fresh air to have different artists with different styles and concepts on the scene. Hip-hop is a way to express yourself, in whatever way that may be. But lyricism has been overtaken by the corny, Auto-Tune assisted melodies that you hear on the radio all day.

It isn’t necessarily a shot at Kanye West, though. In an interview with New York radio station Hot 97, Jay alluded to Kanye being one of the only artists who has successfully incorporated the vocoder into his songs – even though Kanye is best when he is rapping, which he has bounced back into of late. D.O.A also calls for a return of some of the darker music that used to be a staple in hip-hop.

“I might wear black for a year straight, I might bring back Versace shades.”

Take a look at what two of the most promising artists at the beginning of the decade have become. Wayne and 50, both more inclined to their darker roots at the start of their careers, have become pop stars. Both are smart and talented individuals, but this was not their music evolving over time, it was a gradual change to fit trends that have made them popular which has lost them respect.

The death of Auto-Tune is in the best interest of music and should only be used sparingly by those who can use it well, like T-Pain and West.
Theater professor tries to create thoughtful individuals
DAVID BARRIOS
Staff Writer

It would be safe to say that Professor Phillip Church’s table is a menagerie. On top of his desk lie several stacks of papers: teaching plans, assignments for class, advertisements for the Alternative Theater’s upcoming production of Reeler Madness. At the top lies a flyer for a new project called U-Life. The multi-part television series originally created, according to Church, will follow the lives of an ensemble cast of actors or if they’re going off into their own projects. There are plenty of teachers whose aims are simply to present dramatic material during the fall. But Church is quick to discuss the nature of acting and what separates the professionals from those who “go off into acting.”

“The problem with the acting thing is that everybody thinks it’s about feeling something. But the feeling is much right now, but I just like the idea that it’s about … this house and having to prove it. It’s so interesting that we’re doing it at this particular time,” Church said.

The Cherry Orchard, an adaptation of the Anton Chekov play about an aristocratic Russian family returning to their estate before it is foreclosed. “I can’t talk about the play too much right now, but I think it’s about … this house and having to prove it. It’s so interesting that we’re doing it at this particular time,” Church said.

The company producing it, Alternative Theater, was established by Church several years ago. Their first production was an adaptation of William Shakespeare’s A Midsummer Night’s Dream, adapted to a modern setting and featured everything from video images projected on the stage to illusions to Hurricane Katrina. The goal of the Alternative Theater is to present dramatic material during the summer and give opportunities for more actors to perform on stage.

“I’ve worked with him for a long time. I’ve known him since I was a student here. He was my teacher, he’s so much of a free spirit. He has a very creative intuition,” Paraja said. Church is also respected among many actors in the department, in part for his emphasis on character research.

“It’s very big into research. Even what [the character] ate for breakfast, if it helps you,” said Kat Moreno, one of the actors in the theater program.

Church is also respected among students majoring in advertising.

“Mountains are to be climbed with as little effort as possible and without desire. To live only to some future goal is shallow. It’s the sides of the mountain which sustain life. Here’s where things grow,” Church from a worn copy of the book.

Perhaps it is for his penchant for doing out such deep thoughts that has made Church popular among many faculty members and students within the department.

Marina Paraja, manager of the department’s costume shop, says Church is an inspiration to her. “I’m a costume designer but I also direct. But my direction skills could do better,” Mena said.

Church’s directorial skills are evident across the campus. He played central roles in many faculty and student productions for the past several years. For more than 20 years, Church has directed many plays, including Waiting for Godot, As You Like It, and The Cherry Orchard.

It was Keleher’s third attempt at making history while at a party with friends. He was off work and placing them on the official snail cookie sheet. In total, Fin secured the Guinness World Record with 45 snails slithering across his face, completely startled expectations.

“I closed my eyes and covered up my mouth with … well, I sucked my lips to so that they could crawl on that,” Keleher said in an interview with local CBS affiliate, WCSB. “I thought I could totally beat that because I’m not grossed out by snails like most people are.” Keleher went on to say, taking an obvious jab at most people’s aversion of having snails slithering on their face. At the time this article was written, most people were not available for comment.

The Keleher’s plan was to impress family, friends, and representatives from the local media. “As Keleher made three attempts at making history while at a party celebrating his birthday, his family and representatives from the local media were on hand to watch the event and cheer him on.”

The crowd of a half dozen roared in delight, as the person with the most snails on his face was declared the winner.

Keleher added to the rest of the students and faculty members were on hand to witness the event and cheer him on. “I thought I could totally beat that because I’m not grossed out by snails like most people are.” Keleher went on to say, taking an obvious jab at most people’s aversion of having snails slithering on their face.

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Baseball team’s APR fix is a long time coming

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Maryland’s mascot?

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Volleyball star in high spirits after win

That’s even more challenging to me because I know I have to do my job to stay there [on the court] and not go back to the bench; I like it.

Yarimar Rosa

FIU/Puerto Rico Outside Hitter on being relegated to the bench

Baseball’s leader may be noticed by other programs

He’s a professional, and will do whatever it takes to turn his team into a winner as long as he’s here.

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All-American learns from international play

The Golden Panthers’ volleyball star and three-time All-American, Yarimar Rosa, found herself in unfamiliar territory: on the bench.

In the second round of the 2009 VIII Pan-American Women’s Volleyball Cup match, Puerto Rico vs. Mexico, Rosa did not play until the score was 16-15 in favor of Puerto Rico. This is something she is not used to at FIU, where Rosa has started all 92 of her matches played over the last three years.

She earned her team a point as soon as she entered the game, and Puerto Rico had no problem putting away Mexico in three sets (25-18, 25-15, 25-21).

Starting from the bench did not insult Rosa; it gave her more motivation to earn playing time.

“That’s even more challenging to me because I know I have to do my job to stay there [on the court] and not go back to the bench; I like it,” Rosa said in the post-game conference.

Coming off a record year in which she led the volleyball team to season-record 28 wins, Rosa is now representing her home country of Puerto Rico.

She finds herself on a team ranked 19th in the world.

When the time came for the national women’s volleyball team of Puerto Rico to fill the slots for their team for the Pan-American Cup, Rosa was selected for the second consecutive year.

Her team finished in fourth place in last year’s games. That is the best finish for Puerto Rico in the tournament’s history.

Rosa hopes she can be a difference and help lead her country to a better result.

SAME SUCCESS, DIFFERENT TEAM

For Rosa and Puerto Rico, their second round challenge was the Mexican national team.

Playing in front of an equally balanced crowd at the BankUnited Center, Rosa played the majority of the match, but came off the bench unlike previous matches for FIU.

Puerto Rico coach Humberto Rodríguez said Tatiana Encarnación, the player who started ahead of Rosa, was not performing at her full potential.

“For a moment, I got the impression that Tatiana was playing under her normal level. It seemed like an appropriate time to let Yarimar play, who had been training well; the switch worked out for us,” Puerto Rico coach Rodríguez said during the post-game press conference.

And work well it did, as once Rosa entered during the first set, Puerto Rico went on a 9-3 run to capture the first win and set in motion the second postseason championship.

She earned 11 points for the match, which was a tie for the second best mark on the team.

Team captain Vílmarie Mojica assessed her team’s performance.

“We had a better game collectively,” Mojica said.

“We attacked well from the middle and the corners of the net. Little by little, we’re getting a better and more of an established team.”

Puerto Rico then defeated Peru 3-0 (25-17, 25-19, 25-23) the next day. Both teams entered the match undefeated, and Puerto Rico improved to 3-0.

“Peru came out strong and battled back,” Puerto Rico captain Mojica told teamusa.org.

“However, we prepared a lot for this match with a great scouting report.”

Rosa’s journey continues as Puerto Rico battles for their first Pan-Am Cup title at the BankUnited Center. The tournament winds down until its conclusion on July 4.

LOVE OF THE GAME

For Rosa, the championship provides experience.

ROSA, page 7

Baseball program avoids severe penalties

When the NCAA released its Academic Progress Rates one year ago, the baseball team accumulated a four-year average of 873 en route to its second historical penalty, which limited them to 16 practice hours a week.

In light of the most recent report released this past May, the program’s four-year average remained at 873, which would’ve resulted in severe historical penalties.

However, the school filed a historical penalty waiver for baseball looking to get relief from penalties, on the grounds that the program has shown great improvement.

As a result of the waiver, the NCAA released FIU of the occasion three penalty and once again handed baseball an occasion two penalty. Had the University not filed the waiver, the baseball program could have faced postseason banishment, a reduction in scholarships awarded and renewed and had its regular season and practice times limited as well.

APR Specialist Monique Garcia said the school was not satisfied with the single-year results but remains optimistic about the program.

“It’s huge, because baseball is going into a historical three penalty, and last year they did not lose one point in eligibility,” she said. “But they are coming off of a very low multi-year number. It’s going to take a long time to fix baseball.”

The APR is a system the NCAA uses to forecast roughly how many student-athletes from each program are on pace to graduate.

Each student-athlete is worth up to two points: one point for staying academically eligible and one point for staying enrolled with the institution.

The APR scores are calculated by dividing the team’s accumulated points by the maximum number possible. That number is then multiplied by 1,000.

Head coach Turtle Thomas is not allowed to comment due to NCAA rules.

Although the team achieved a 917

873 Baseball team’s four-year average APR score.

873

Baseball team’s four-year average APR score.