Mario Cristobal cannot be pleased. This is not how the season was supposed to go. Before the season, there was seemingly realistic talk about making a bowl game. The building of the FIU jumbotron was to begin post haste. It was easy to get caught up in it, especially after the Golden Panthers managed to hang with the Crimson Tide of Alabama for much of their first game.

If FIU was a stock, it would have been trending upwards with a little green arrow next to it. And then it took a small step back against Rutgers, but even then, you had the defense step up and play pretty well against a tough offense. All you had to do was wait for the Golden Panthers to get into the part of their schedule that was at their level, and watch out, college football world. And then the stock crashed. The bubble burst.

First, there was the home opening loss against Toledo, in which the Golden Panthers showed an absolute inability to stop the run and were torn up for 566 yards and 41 points. Then the Warhawks of Louisiana-Monroe again put it to the Golden Panthers on the ground, getting them for 304 yards and 48 points.

Now is the time for Panthers to turn around season
Mirmiran awarded Engineer of the Year

DEAN, page 1

at FIU, and we must be a force behind economic development for South Florida as a whole, and the engineering community in particular,” Mirmiran said.

“We can do that by making sure that our research addresses their prevalent issues, and that we develop a prepared workforce for their companies.”

“The College of Engineering and Computing is already South Florida’s leading resource for education and research in the community.

It is the 22nd largest undergraduate engineering program in the country. “Being recognized by your colleagues is humbling and rewarding at the same time,” Mirmiran said in a press release. “It means that what you have done has had an impact on the community and is a reflection of the quality of engineering program that we have at FIU.”

Mirmiran obtained his bachelor’s degree in civil engineering at the University of Tehran and a master’s and doctorate degrees in the same subject from the University of Maryland.

He has received many other awards including the NASA Tech Briefs Award and the NSF Faculty CAREER Development Award.

He has also been elected fellow of both the American Society of Civil Engineers and the American Concrete Institute. Mirmiran also holds two patents on innovative composite construction systems.

The Federal Highway Administration and Departments of Transportation of Florida and Ohio are among the institutions that have supported Mirmiran in his research.

He has also received continuing funding from the National Science Foundation.

He has held academic appointments at the University of Central Florida, the University of Cincinnati and North Carolina State University.

“I certainly hope that our current students land in good engineering jobs and some tomorrow’s leaders in their engineering profession,” Mirmiran said. “It is my belief that our students are well prepared to take on the world and make it a better place through their engineering and ingenuity.”

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To volunteer in the FIU Relay for Life, contact Dr. Dalrymple in the Center for Leadership and Service at Beverly.Dalrymple@fiu.edu.

Contact the ACS regarding employment opportunities at www.acsca-reers.org or www.cancer.org.

“Being recognized by your colleagues is humbling and rewarding at the same time.”

Amir Mirmiran, dean
College of Engineering and Computing

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Club shares coming-out stories to celebrate sexual diversity

MELODY REGALADO
Staff Writer

Rainbow balloons filled Panther Square, and colorful bracelets and pins were worn proudly to celebrate a day of openness for the lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender community.

In honor of National Coming Out Day on Oct. 11, Stonewall 2 BBC hosted an event Oct. 7, featuring tables with representatives from local organizations, and a variety of events and guest speakers to celebrate the day.

“This event provides an outlet for students who aren’t comfortable coming out to know that they have support here,” said Vicky Owles, associate director of Campus Life and Orientation, and adviser for S2B.

S2B, a student organization at the Biscayne Bay Campus that supports the LGBT community, wants to raise awareness, educate and provide a safe space for students of the community.

Attendees received lunch and made their way around each table collecting the multicolored beads that each organized group presented. The mission of the club showed videos and read coming-out stories on stage.

Shane Windmeyer, a leading advocate on campus issues, hosted a “webinar.” Former North Miami Mayor Kevin Burns, who is openly gay and also running for the U.S. Senate, spoke with the crowd during the lunch held in Room 159 of the Wolfe University Center, where the group gathered for a personal experience. Each student got a pin representing the variety of programs available on campus.

“I try to support as many students from as many different backgrounds as I can to show them that there’s a place on campus where they can be comfortable,” she said.

Among the organizations present were the National Gay and Lesbian Task Force, SAVE Dade, Sunshine Cathedral, AQUA Foundation for Women, Equality Florida, PrideLine Youth Services, and YES Institute.

The National Gay and Lesbian Task Force aims to arm the LGBT community with ideas and empower them to fight for civil rights. "I believe being here today is important because I wish I had known about an organization like this while growing up," said Frank Cerulo, development assistant for the organization, to The Beacon. "It would have empowered me to come out sooner and know I wasn’t alone.”

SAVE Dade, SafeGuarding American Values for Everyone, is an organization focused on outreach programs and policy advocacy for equality laws, said Joseph Mosradian, community coordinator, to The Beacon.

Sunshine Cathedral has a ministry that serves the LGBT community, with 80 percent of the congregation being gay while only 20 percent is straight. According to Reverend Michael Diaz, there is a strong sense of fear of the church from the LGBT community, and his ministry wants to teach the community about what the Bible says and doesn’t say about homosexuality.

We don’t want to convert anyone. We are a progressive church that in our way are open to all sexual orientations and gender identities,” he told The Beacon.

The day's events were created to educate and inspire the University's community, said Daniel Anzueto, S2B president and a senior psychology major.

"Today represents being proud of who you are and not being ashamed,” said Tommy Melis, a junior public relations major and historian of S2B. "As humans, we are all entitled to be respected as equals, and we’ve come far, but we have a long way to go.”

A question and answer session was also held at the end of the day in a teleconference forum between University President Mark B. Rosenberg and the faculty, staff and students of the University.

Anzueto and Rosenberg responded by saying that he doesn’t believe in a label system that separates students, and his main concern is student education and graduation.

"I’m devastated. I feel like I’ve been working for the past four years for nothing because the University doesn’t support me,” he said. "The event turned out amazing, but just heard that they don’t care. That’s what I got from him.”

MELODY REGALADO/THE BEACON

LET IT SHOW: Daniel Anzueto, S2B president, reads a story about coming out at the National Coming Out Day at the Wolfe University Center on Oct. 7.

Club creates more committees, announces new blog

MAUREEN NINO
Staff Writer

Members of the Student Government Council at the Biscayne Bay Campus announced Sept. 30 three new committees: the Operational Review Committee, the Rules, Regulation and Judiciary Committee, and the Senate Communication Committee.

“The council created three new committees: the Operational Review Committee, the Rules, Regulation and Judicial Committee, and the Senate Communication Committee,” said Tassy III, SGC-BBC mass communications and journalism major and a representative for The Beacon.

SGC-BBC Chair Robert Tassy, Committee Chair Rules, Regulations and Judiciary Committee

“Let’s create a Progressive higher education system where we can educate and inspire the local community,” said Robert Tassy III, SGC-BBC mass communications and journalism major and a reporter for The Beacon.

We want to communicate with the students any way we can

Robert Tassy, Committee Chair Rules, Regulations and Judiciary Committee

The committee will help students any way they can, said Tassy. “This will help students find out what is going on immediately.”

Currenty, SGC-BBC has a Web site, which is currently being updated, a Facebook account and a new blog: The Daily Jolt.

The Daily Jolt is a blogging site where University organizations can post flyers, updates and links to other sites.

“It is free, so it does not cost the students anything,” said Tassy. “It’s a better way to get out to the students.”

Students, however, could ask the committee to make announcements through a University organization.

“As a student, you may visit The Daily Jolt and find weekly updates on SGA events being held within the campus.”

If you want an insider look into our meetings and senator surveys, this is the perfect place to go check out as a student,” said Tanha Dil, SGC-BBC justice.

In an effort to go green, SGC-BBC is also in the developmental stages of setting up other Web sites in collaboration with The Daily Jolt to post flyers and help cut back on print flyers, Neistein said.

“We have cut back exponentially from previous years. We are now on a mission that we always print on ton of paper and money,” he said.

The Daily Jolt will help student leaders increase student engagement and conserve paper, Dil said.

Even though the Web site is fairly new, she said that with the right marketing strategies, SGC-BBC will have great success communicating with fellow members and encouraging students to get more involved with upcoming events, lectures and meetings.

“The Daily Jolt is in its early stage, and like all big projects, it takes time to see big results,” said Tassy. “If you want to know what is going on, that is where you need to go.”

For more information, visit: http://bcbe.fiu.edu/dailyjolt/
Anti-smoking initiative unfair

The comfort of air travel has disappeared

FRANCESCA COSTA
Contributing Writer

When I think of flying, I think back to a flight my mom and I took 10 years ago. It was an overnight trip and I was extremely cranky. The attendant, noticing my discomfort, asked if I wanted dessert or something to make me feel better. I declined and he brought me a chocolate sundae you could possibly imagine, cherry and all.

These days, however, I haven’t received anything but an air-pocked bag of peanuts. I solemnly stare at my bland snack and wonder what happened to the good old-fashioned flying experiences that I held dear. Prior to Sept. 11, you could usually fit into a one-quart plastic bag. Your stress level has now reached its pinnacle, and it’s not going to get any better.

You’re not allowed to carry nail files, scissors, or my favorite… knitting needles. You’re not allowed to kick your suitcases because they need to be searched. God forbid if you, like me, just dump all your clothes in a suitcase in a messy pile; bras and underwear all over and they must go. You’re not allowed to carry chocolate sundae you could possibly imagine, cherry and all.

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Active Minds aims to promote mental health

For more than five years, Active Minds at FIU (in its various incarnations) has been working to break the stigma behind mental illness, spread awareness and promote mental health among student. And at this time, the club is seeking to find out about the national organization Active Minds, and soon the FIU chapter of Active Minds was born.

Active Minds was originally started in 2004, at the University of Wisconsin-Madison, by a former member of CAPE. The organization now has over 200 chapters on campuses all over the country, according to its website, Activeminds.org.

The FIU chapter of Active Minds seeks to spread understanding of mental illness and to promote mental health, according to Meca. The club aims to inform students that they can be completely free of mental disorders but lack a positive mental health.

“Living a mentally healthy life is one where the individual is happy, it is able to work and function well with others, deal with the different stresses in their lives, live more in the now, and enjoy the different moments in a mindful way and see themselves in positive ways,” said Meca, a psychology major.

Meca decided to be a part of the organization after having a personal experience with mental illness.

“I have been able to take control over my life, but it was not until much later that I was able to freely talk about what I went through,” Meca said.

The organization also serves as a support group for people close to those with mental illness.

“I joined Active Minds because I have a friend who has bipolar disorder, so it is very close to my heart. I love the club’s idea of promoting mental health,” said Courtney Johnson, the club’s community service coordinator.

This year will prove to be a very instrumental one for Active Minds at FIU, according to the members. One of the main projects planned for the Fall semester is the Out of the Darkness Community Walk, which raises money for the American Foundation of Suicide Prevention. It will also work with the Counseling Center to plan more workshops, screenings and a “Finals Oasis” to help students deal with the stress of finals week. It plans to encourage students to make use of the services provided by the Counseling Center.

Through the many events and activities Active Minds hosts on campus, it remains true to its mission.

By bringing mental illness out into the open, it destroys the stigma surrounding it and allows those experiencing some of these issues to be able to talk about it openly and seek help.

“While we aspire to change the world, we aim to change it one person at a time,” Meca said.
Organization attempts to help ‘invisible’ children

ISABEL MAZA  
Staff Writer

For the past 25 years, the people of the African Republic of Uganda have been living through one of the longest wars in Africa’s history. The government of Uganda has been fighting against the Lord’s Resistance Army, and despite the government’s efforts, the two million citizens of Uganda have been caught in the middle.

Since the start of the war, the Lord’s Resistance Army has been abducting children from their homes and turning them into soldiers. Ninety percent of the Lord’s Resistance is made up of abducted children, according to InvisibleChildren.com.

Invisible Children was started in 2003 after three young filmmakers from southern California traveled to Africa. There, they uncovered the tragedy and horror of the war in Uganda and turned their findings into a documentary titled “Invisible Children.” Since the documentary was shown in the United States, it has been a huge success. The group has raised a tremendous amount of money, all of which goes directly to helping the children of Uganda.

Invisible Children seeks to help the child soldiers in Uganda by telling their story and raising funds to help them. The organization also works with the Ugandan government to improve the quality of life for the children and families affected by the war.

The organization was started by college students and has continued to thrive on college campuses throughout the nation. “I chose to start Invisible Children at FIU because there is very little awareness about this problem in South Florida,” said president and founder, Dorian Santos. “FIU is a perfect place for people to get involved and continue spreading awareness.”

At FIU, the club focuses on fundraising and raising awareness of the suffering and troubles of the Ugandan children.

“My favorite part about Invisible Children is that, as the founding PR Chair, I’ve been able to shape the image of the organization from scratch and turn it into an eventDriven organization that has been recognized around campus in the mere one year since we started it,” said Lianamar Davila Sanabria, a communications major.

Many of the major events the club hosts are related to the Invisible Children national events. One of these events was the Rescue, in which participants abducted themselves in place of the Ugandan children and wrote letters to the American government. The FIU Invisible Children club made all the preparations and organized the event.

Another major event that will take place this semester is a visit by the Invisible Children “roadies.” These roadies are people selected from all over the country to travel from city to city for three months spreading awareness about Invisible Children. The roadies will be visiting FIU on Oct. 18. They will be showing a new Invisible Children film at 8 p.m. in GL 100. Free food and drinks will be provided and official Invisible Children merchandise will be sold at the event.

Members of FIU’s Invisible Children range from those who have been involved with the organization since high school to those who had never heard about the war in Uganda before, according to Santos.

“Before I joined Invisible Children, I never knew what was going on in Uganda. I had seen things in movies but I was never aware that it was real, and 10 times worse,” said member and hospitality management major, Amanda Fraga.

The members are united by their passion and commitment to the cause.

“My favorite part about being a part of Invisible Children is working with people that are just as passionate and motivated as I am,” said Santos, a psychology major.

All FIU students are encouraged to attend the Invisible Children events, even if they are not members. The club will continue to raise awareness and fundraising for the cause as long as the war in Uganda continues and the children are subjected to this tragic lifestyle.

Is It Worth It? will be back next Friday.
Recent play has team optimistic about season

CHRIS GREEN
Staff Writer

The Golden Panthers women’s soccer team is coming off of the best start to their conference season since 2004.

Whether the team is satisfied with their current 2-1 conference record is debatable.

At this point last season, the team was 0-3-1 and still searching for its first win.

However, defender Katrina Rose’s recent play has her coach and players believing they can have its first winning season under Thomas Chestnutt.

“We came into conference playing really hard,” said Rose. “We challenged a lot of good teams so to get it now after we’ve been playing so well is really special.”

However, when looking back to how the team has played in the past few matches and their respective outcomes, players are left looking for answers as to what went wrong.

After holding a 2-0 lead for most of the game, FIU gave up two goals in the final three minutes to allow the Mean Green to come away with a tie.

“We sort of let it slip but there’s still a lot of positive to come out of it,” said senior midfielder Amy Jackson.

Coaches need to make adjustments to save season

TOWERS, page 1

Can it get any lower? Can Cristina manage to salvage anything from a season that is quickly looking lost?

MUST WIN

FIU’s opponent for tomorrow’s game is the Western Kentucky Hilltoppers, a team making their debut as a Football Bowl Subdivision team, quickly looking lost?

This has to be a statement game for the Golden Panthers. They absolutely have to win this game, and it should be emphatic. This team needs to start building some confidence.

So far this season, they’ve shown an inability to run the ball with any kind of consistency, and the Hilltoppers allow almost 300 yards per game on the ground. If Darriet Perry, Darien Mallary and Daunte Owens aren’t able to get it going this week, offensive coordinator Bill Legg might as well abandon the run now.

The Golden Panthers have also struggled to stop the run, and this might continue to be a problem this week. The Hilltoppers have scored four touchdowns on the ground, and will look to do that again this week to keep pressure off their redshirt freshman quarterback Kawuan Jakes.

COACH CALL OUT

It is time for the Golden Panthers to live up to the preseason promises. You have to question how the team has managed to take such a big step back from the 2008 season, and some of the blame has to fall on the coaching staff.

The same problems that have plagued the Golden Panthers from the beginning (an inability to run the ball, or stop the run) have not been fixed through four games, and while some of it goes on players not executing, some also has to be on the coaches.

If FIU can’t beat WKU, not only do you have a team taking a massive step back by losing to a team they are supposed to be better than, but you are then looking at a very tough three game stretch facing tough conference foes Tiny, Arkansas State and Louisiana.

COACH CALL OUT

It is entirely possible the team could lose their first eight games if they don’t take care of the Hilltoppers, and that would be massively disappointing.

Forget thoughts of bowl games and postseason glory, we’re at the point where FIU just needs to win a game before the bottom completely falls out.

The Fair Art Museum/Professional International University
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Miami, FL 33179
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Target Wednesday After Hours

Meet the Artists
Eduardo del Valle and Mirta Gomez, En Vida
Naejett Altur, I am not a testimony
The evening will include traditional Indian dance by Rashmil Venkat of the Shlok Reddy Association of Performing Arts of India.

Eduardo del Valle and Mirta Gomez, the Cuban-born husband and wife team, have worked collaboratively for more than thirty years, receiving international acclaim for their photographs of subjects in a state of flux and in translation.

Naejett Altur’s video installations reflect her interest in a broad range of art media, societal issues and social unrest. She lives and works in Mumbai, India.

Target Wednesday After Hours

November 4, 2009 6 p.m.

The Mystical Arts of Tibet and Dr. Nathan Katz lectures. Mandala sand paintings are painstakingly created by monks by Dr. Dzongsar Khyentse Rinpoche. This artistic tradition of Tibetan Buddhism ranks among the most unique and exquisite forms of Asian arts. In Tibet, this art is called chokhor dagpa, which literally means “flowers of ordered positions.”

The presentation and demonstration of the creation of traditional sand mandalas will include a sand mandala which will be disassembled by the monks.

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VOLLEYBALL: FIU 3, FAU 0
Golden Panthers stay perfect vs. conference

JOEL DELGADO
Staff Writer

It wasn’t exactly the way Coach Danjelica Tomic and the Golden Panthers (15-2, 5-0) expected their match against rival Florida Atlantic (3-11, 2-4) to unfold, but it was enough to get the job done.

The Golden Panthers were able to extend their win streak to eight games and remain undefeated in conference play with a three-set sweep over the Owls on Oct. 6.

“This game was harder than we expected,” Isadora Rangel said. “We thought we were going to win more easily than we did. We had to focus and do our job.”

The Owls were able to get off to a fast start in the opening set, jumping out to an early lead due to sloppy play by FIU.

“We didn’t show up to play,” Tomic said. “I came out so flat. They played the way we expected them to play. Once we started serving strategically we started winning. It was just up to us to play.”

FIU got back on track and finished strong, dominating the rest of the first set and carrying their strong play into the second set. Sabrina Gonzalez, who had nine kills on the match, had a strong performance that helped her team climb out of their early struggles.

“We were too relaxed,” Gonzalez said concerning the team’s play at the beginning of the first set. “Coach told us we needed to regain ourselves and play our game.”

Both teams were locked in a back-and-forth battle in the third set that went down to the wire, taking extra points to decide the set.

But the Golden Panthers proved to be too much for FAU, sending the Owls back to Boca Raton with their fourth consecutive loss.

The match featured a more balanced attack from FIU with Yarimar Rosa leading the way with 13 kills in addition to Rangel’s nine kills.

Natalia Valentin, who leads the conference in assists, had team-high in assists (35) and digs (18).

FOOTBALL PREVIEW: FIU VS. WKU

GROUND GAME
Golden Panthers face weak run defense

JONATHAN RAMOS
Asst. Sports Director

Golden Panthers Coach Mario Cristobal has repeatedly reiterated throughout this season that establishing a running game is critical to their success.

Quarterback Paul McCall has echoed the same sentiment for an FIU team that is ranked last in the Sun Belt Conference in rushing yardage.

Against Western Kentucky (0-4, 0-1 SBC) on Oct. 10, the Golden Panthers (0-4-1) will take a shot at the worst rushing defense in the SBC when they look to get their first victory of the season.

“It starts up front with the offensive line,” McCall said. “They did a great job protecting [against ULM on Oct. 1] and we threw the ball 46 times, which is more that you want to throw in a game.

Sometimes it has to be like that and you have to use the pass to set up the run but when you go against a defense like that you have to run the ball. They have a good secondary, just like Western Kentucky this week.”

The Golden Panthers found success against Toledo on Sept. 26 on route to a season best 148 yards, but have averaged less than 100 yards per game on the season.

“Both sides have to get a push up front to be successful,” Cristobal said. “For us to be a good defense, guys have to be able to control the line of scrimmage.

For us to be a good offense, our offensive linemen have to control that as well. We spend countless hours with them working on technique and explosion.”

Cristobal is hoping the work will begin to pay bigger dividends against WKU, who is playing its first season in the SBC.

Senior running back Daunte Owens received a season-high six carries in the loss to ULM, which is the most significant role he has had this season.

“STEPPING UP”

Owens only had 17 yards vs. ULM, but he had 7 and 12-yard runs. After the ULM contest, Cristobal said Owens played his way into the rotation and is healthy from offseason injury.

“It’s nice to see him stepping up,” McCall said. “I would like to see him get a lot more carries. He’s got to have to have a great game and we have a lot of guys back there between him [Darriet Perry and Darrian Mallary].”

McCall said that Owens is a threat to break big plays, a change of pace from the capable but different Perry.

Owens has just 62 career carries, joining an inexperienced backfield that is still searching for consistency.

EMERGING
WKU quarterback Kawaun Jakes has taken over the position following an injury to Bradon Smith, and has completed 33 of 45 passes.

The versatile Jakes has also run for 95 yards for the Hilltoppers. ULM quarterback Trey Revel led another 52 yards on the ground while passing for 273.

“You have to play assignment football. It really showed up in the first quarter [against ULM] when we played assignment football and were disciplined in that and made the tackles that we’re supposed to make,” Cristobal said.

In the second quarter, the exact same play, exact same defensive calls, time to make a play and we didn’t. We have to and that’s very clear. Even though there are a lot of young players playing, part of getting better is being in those situations and making a play.”

 Tight end Dudley LaPorte is out for the season with a broken foot. He played in two games and caught one touchdown pass vs. Louisiana-Monroe.

• Eric Kirchenberg is out for the season with an abdominal injury.

• Junior Meritle is expected to make a return sometime in November.

MEN’S BASKETBALL SCHEDULE

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<td>North Carolina</td>
<td>Chapel Hill, NC</td>
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<td>Fri, Nov 13</td>
<td>Monmouth</td>
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<td>Mon, Nov 30</td>
<td>Bowling Green</td>
<td>Tallahassee, FL</td>
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