Scholars explore race, history

Event aims to promote an ‘Afrocentric’ point of view

DAVID BARROS
JULIO MENACHE

Getting Schooled: The film may look like fun, but is actually for from one.

Is the world globalized? Are we free from race? How will President Obama change the world?

These were some of the questions posed to attendees of a symposium that addressed the implications of Barack Obama as the nation’s first African American president and globalization from an ‘Afrocentric’ perspective.

The African and African Diaspora Studies Department, which celebrated its move from the Biscayne Bay Campus to Modesto Maidique Campus, hosted the event held Oct. 30 in the Graham Center Ballrooms.

The symposium was titled “Globalization, the Crisis of Capitalism, and the Obama Presidency.”

Jean Muteba Rahier, director of the AADSD, was the first to address the audience.

“We want to turn the page on the Eurocentric view of history,” Rahier said.

Each panel was comprised of an invited speaker and two other panelists from FIU who would critique the guest lecturer’s presentation or academic work.

The first plenary, titled “Monopoly Capitalism and the Obama Presidency,” was presented by Amiri Baraka, author, playwright and poet.

The poet laureate of New Jersey began his presentation wondering why the word crisis was in quotation marks in the symposium’s program and title.

“Why did we begin from the word crisis?” said Baraka. “I was wondering, don’t they believe it?”

Baraka blamed former President George W. Bush for allowing individuals and corporations to own more than one form of media, such as newspapers and radio.

“Since Bush II, it is impossible for intellectuals and their role in establishing scholarship on the matter,” Rahier said.

Each panel was comprised of an invited speaker and two other panelists from FIU who would critique the guest lecturer’s presentation or academic work.

The first plenary, titled “Monopoly Capitalism and the Obama Presidency,” was presented by Amiri Baraka, author, playwright and poet.

The poet laureate of New Jersey began his presentation wondering why the word crisis was in quotation marks in the symposium’s program and title.

“Why did we begin from the word crisis?” said Baraka. “I was wondering, don’t they believe it?”

Baraka blamed former President George W. Bush for allowing individuals and corporations to own more than one form of media, such as newspapers and radio.

“Since Bush II, it is impossible for intellectuals and their role in establishing scholarship on the matter,” Rahier said.

The film The Virgin Diary, an independent film, is as part of its annual Muslim Film Festival.

The festival, which was held Oct. 28, occurs twice a year across various colleges and universities; this is the first time the event was held at FIU.

“The purpose of the event was to create awareness and spread knowledge,” said Sarnar Raul, vice president of Project Nur at FIU.

The film The Virgin Diary focused on the idea of virginity, specifically in Islam.

It features two women who are in search of answers about virginity from Islamic religious teachers.

Many social opinions of Muslim people in the film surface, such as the idea that a woman should be married by the age of 16, and all intimacy is forbidden before marriage (i.e. a kiss on the hand).

By the end of the film, it is discovered by a different religious teacher of Islam that a kiss on the hand is permissible before marriage as long as the two individuals are promised to be married.

The film was followed by a discussion led by Aba Javadzadeh, a professor of sociology at the University.

“Many cultures have problems with virginity, not just Islam,” Javadzadeh said.

Javadzadeh also discussed the commodification of virginity as a means of patriarchal control over women, resulting in the oppression of women in Islam.

Sept. 30 at 7:30 p.m. in the Panther Suite will be the next event.

“This film allows us to critique the concept of virginity in Islam,” Javadzadeh said.

He went on to say that the entire idea of virginity was constructed by men for women to prove their purity to them.

The commodification of a woman’s virginity also creates controversy between women trying to keep their virginity, allowing men to remove themselves from the discourse about the problem. This perpetuates the idea of commodification of virginity and competition among women.

Javadzadeh also discussed the lengths women go to restore their virginity through surgery.

“Nothing social can be resolved individually,” Javadzadeh said when asked to inquire about resolving the issues of virginity in Islam.

The FIU chapter of Project Nur began this semester, and is supported by the National Project Nur Organization based in Washington D.C.

The goal of the club is to dispel the negative beliefs concerning Islam.

Nur means light in Arabic and light is most commonly associated with knowledge, which fits the organization’s motto, “new light on campus,” according to the organization’s Web site.

Project Nur is supported by a non-profit organization called the American Islamic Congress, which was created after the Sept. 11 attacks because of the ignorance surrounding Islam and Muslims.

The national organization is devoted completely to spreading awareness and advocating the advancement of human, civil rights, social justice, tolerance, understanding and coexistence.

The goal of the organization is to eliminate the negative surrounding the religion as a whole, stemming from ignorance.

“I love working with Project Nur, I think it’s a great cause,” said Maryam Shkik, president of Project Nur at FIU. “It’s trying some times because I am a full-time student and I take time out to do this, but I want to create a positive image for Islam.”

There will be eight film screenings during the next Project Nur Muslim Film Festival, and the next event will be a cultural Bazaar on Nov. 6 at 7:30 p.m. in the Panther Suite in the Graham Center.

Students do not have to be Muslim to get involved in Project Nur and can find more information on orgsync.com or on Facebook group, Project Nur.
Mooro & the Cuban race groups

SYMPOSIUM, page 1

one corporate monster to grab all forms of the media and thus dominate popular opinion with one mindless cry," he said.

Baraka also criticized Israel for setting up what he calls an "apartheid state." He claimed that the reason the U.S. has not found Osama Bin Laden is directly tied to U.S. oil interests.

Baraka, a Marxist-Leninist, argued that Obama is bringing social democrac,

called for and the need for a "people's democracy" in order to bring socialism.

"We the people elected Obama. We must demand more from him," Baraka said.

The next plenary speaker, Yale professor of anthropology Karumi Clarke, focused her presentation on global capitalism and the rule of law.

Clarke spoke on President Obama's recent trip to Africa, in which he called for Africans to solve their own problems and to end corruption. But she questioned many of the factors that led to some of the instability.

"Obama's criticism of corruption has its limits. It is also the fault of multinational agents," Clarke said.

She said that multinational corporations must be held accountable and must examine the openings of "plunder that have allowed the West to thrive."

She also criticized the International Criminal Court for unfairly targeting Africa in its prosecutions, and questioned the logic of having individual culpability in massive abuses of international law.

Following a lunch break during the middle of the day, the symposium continued.

Carlos Moore addressed the crowd.

Mooro, a black Cuban exile and independent writer, discussed racial relations in Cuba throughout the history of the island with the emphasis on the period since the mid-20th century.

Mooro said that a new Cuban elite community had been formed in the nation during the early 20th century, and though many went into exile following the beginning of the reign of Fidel Castro, the same elite community remained.

"It's difficult to find any Cuban leader. I'm not talking about mid-level people, I'm talking about top echelon, who is black. Less than 30 percent of Cuban leaders are black. And at the very top, you don't find anyone that black. The last one, Juan Almeida, just died, and his post was symbolic," Moore said.

Mooro's lecture went over its allotted time, so he was unable to present the second part of his presentation which was going to mention his solutions to these issues.

Quickly outlined, he called for the black population in Cuba to reach out to African American organizations and churches to create a stronger identity.

The final plenary of the day, entitled "An Identity of Passions," was presented by Francis Abiola Irele, visiting professor of African and African American studies at Harvard University.

Mooro presented a brief history of African and African American intellectuals and writers such as W.E.B. DuBois, Langston Hughes and Marcus Garvey, and their role in establishing the identity of their race and the importance of African and African American studies.

"The works of people like Steve Biko, whose concept of black consciousness helped to form the rights movement in the U.S., help to constitute the assertion that there is an African Renaissance," Irele said.

At the end of the symposium, Mooro stated what he felt the importance of the event was.

"It's an important event because it allows us to examine all the different issues. They're all occurring to populations all over the globe; whether it's the Sudan or Cuba or the collapse of the Republic of Congo, all of these issues will affect our lives not just because they affect American foreign policy, but the direction that the world is going in," Moore said.

Al Pen, a history major, had mixed reactions to the symposium.

"I thought it was good from a historical perspective, Baraka was an important figure in the black power movement. I was really impressed. There was some stuff I might not agree with, but in retrospect you need to get people with different opinions in FIU. It reminded me of the plenary we had a few months ago. I believe they should do more stuff like this in FIU," Pen said.

Resolution rewording suggested

SGC-MMC, page 1

“...It puts us in a tough position,” Rionda said. “I can affect the way the rest of the year goes, and our plans.”

The SGC-MMC president also said that he wasn’t clear regarding exactly how the senate suggested the student government leader’s ability to look into the issue.

He asked the senate if they meant to form a committee, or hire a third party opinion for the last administration and the Oxendine report. The report looked into the viability of having one president, but the search found it was not valid.

Rionda said during the meeting that he would be open to contracting another such consultant to look into both governments under the new constitution.

Senator from the College of Arts and Sciences Adam Johnson, one of the sponsors of the resolution, refused to explain his sentiments. Johnson, one of the sponsors of the resolution, refused to eliminate the Senate’s position. Senator, Sholom Neisstein, that attempts to eliminate the Senate’s position happened every year, and reiterated the goal of the resolution was to unite SGA with bringing both councils together.

Senate Speaker Helena Ramirez suggested that a line from the resolution that states “a system with one unified student body leader” be taken out to avoid unnecessary controversy.

Sponsoring Senator from the Honors College Vignesh Doraiswamy said he would be in favor of a rewording, but not of a renaming.

“Once again, it is just one of the options being presented,” Doraiswamy said.

Engineering Senator William-Jose Veliz told the senate he felt the resolution would create animosity in a time where both campuses could be working on other things.

Nursing Senator Alejandro Garcia grew impatient with the time spent on the debate.

“We are beating a dead horse, we have the votes to pass this,” he said, then motioned to end the debate to get to the vote.

The resolution originally passed on the senate Oct. 19 with a vote of 20 for and six against. Rionda vetoed the resolution within a week.

This time the vote was closer, with a count of 14 for and 11 against. It did not meet the two-thirds requirement to overturn the veto.
Escape the recipe rut with this tart twist on a holiday classic

By BIANNA ROJAS

FOODGASM

A long while ago, I was with a group of friends at a local diner. We were all resting after a long day of work and decided to order some dessert. Our waiter suggested that we try the apple pie, and I thought it sounded delicious. To my surprise, however, it turned out to be very dry and uninteresting. It was a far cry from the apple pie that I had ever had before. So, I decided to try my hand at making an apple pie at home. I wanted to create a dish that was both delicious and unique.

To start, I gathered all the ingredients I would need: apples, sugar, lemon juice, cinnamon, and a pie crust. I then peeled, cored, and sliced the apples into thin wedges. Next, I mixed the sugar, lemon juice, and cinnamon together and poured the mixture over the apples. I then arranged the apples in the pie crust and baked them in the oven for about 30 minutes. The result was a flavorful and moist apple pie that was much better than the one I had at the diner. I was so happy with the outcome that I decided to share my recipe with others.

Here's how you can make your own apple pie:

Ingredients:
- 5 medium apples
- 1/4 cup sugar
- 2 tablespoons lemon juice
- 2 tablespoons cinnamon
- 1 pre-made pie crust

Instructions:
1. Peel, core, and slice the apples into thin wedges. Mix the sugar, lemon juice, and cinnamon together.
2. Pour the mixture over the apples and toss to coat them.
3. Arrange the apples in the pie crust.
4. Bake in the oven at 375°F for about 30 minutes or until the crust is golden brown.

Serve warm with a scoop of vanilla ice cream for a delicious dessert. Enjoy!

Happy cooking!
GRE a scary requisite for future grads

So I took the Graduate Record Exam on Halloween—and what a frightening experience that was. And by “frightening” I mean absolutely ridiculous.

In this corner, we have the Educational Testing Service—a.k.a. ETS. Its Web site proclaims that its “sole mission is to advance learning.”

Hrm. Last time I checked, I thought its mission was to drive students to insanity or carbide (death by carbohydrates).

ETS is responsible for a number of tests which plague our existence as students and prospective graduate school applicants. The company creates exams for Advanced Placement courses, the dreaded SAT and its accompanying subject tests, as well as the awful GRE.

For the record, I did not prepare extensively for the test; my commitments to my classes (on a full-time schedule), honor societies and this very newspaper kept me too busy to study. But as far as I can tell, this shouldn’t be a test you study for. Like the SAT, the general GRE aims to measure “verbal reasoning, quantitative reasoning, critical thinking and analytical skills.”

In other words, it’s the SAT’s bigger, meaner older brother who’s ready to take your lunch money.

It’s scary.

But what’s even scarier is what we believe about the GRE: that the test is a huge determining factor within academic applications, and that a bad score would ruin anybody’s chances in getting into graduate school.

This is simply not the case.

Others believe universities utilize “cutoff” scores in order to whittle down their applicant pools and make selection easier.

From all of the universities I’ve researched for graduate programs, most of them acknowledge that while the GRE is a factor admissions committees consider when reviewing applications, it is merely a single factor of many.

In fact, from what I’ve read, the most important facets of a strong application are letters of recommendation, personal statements and grades.

While it may seem daunting to attain stellar letters and A’s, it’s very doable. If graduate school is in your future, consider cultivating relationships with your professors early on in your academic career. This would guarantee recommendation letters that go beyond “He (or she) got an A in my Fall 2008 course.”

Take genuine interest in their research and make yourself known in class.

Chances are, the more involved you are with a class, the more you’ll put into it, so good grades are sure to follow.

 Granted, some programs may place more emphasis on general GRE scores—but even then, they would probably focus on only a fraction of the overall score.

I would imagine that an admissions committee for a particular mathematics program would scrutinize GRE general and subject test scores in that particular section more closely than a committee reviewing applicants to other programs.

The GRE is a standardized test. What does it measure? How well you take a standardized test. It shouldn’t gauge, in any way, how well you would succeed within a given graduate program.

I’m not saying don’t take the test seriously. By all means, study for it, and if you have the financial liberty, take prep courses.

But remember that the GRE is only one test—a necessary evil we have to deal with.

Getting Schooled appears every Wednesday.
On-campus vegetarians look for dining options

JANET CAREAGA
Staff Writer

Students often complain about the lack of eating options on campus, but some have fewer options than most. Whereas many students can eat almost anything from any of the over 10 eating locations on campus, vegetarians are more limited.

"It is sometimes a lot harder to find stuff to eat on and off campus since there isn’t such a good variety of food," said Vanessa Gomez, a sophomore majoring in biomedical engineering. “All the places in school offer one vegetarian meal so, unless you alternate between places, you’re stuck eating the same food over and over again.”

Campus eateries offer a few vegetarian options. Subway offers the Veggie Delight sandwich and Burger King has veggie burgers. Pollo Tropical has its side sampler and pizza is a good option from Beezeway Cafe. Sushi Maki has veggie rolls and Einstein Bagels has many meat-free options. Fresh Food Company has an entire vegetarian section.

FIU’s newest addition, Jamba Juice, is a great option for vegetarians. They can order fruit smoothies and add soy protein to get the daily dose they miss out on from not eating meat.

Panther Stop also sells soy milk, cereal, trail mix and many other things that are vegetarian-friendly. Even with these choices, some still feel the lack of diversity.

Off campus, several things can be turned into a vegetarian meal. For example, Taco Bell will replace the meat in their meals with beans if asked to do so.

KFC also has vegetarian-friendly offerings such as macaroni and cheese and mashed potatoes. Other restaurants aren’t so accommodating.

"Wendy’s is one of the most vegetarian-friendly places ever. The only eating options there are like hip-hop – my parents, for instance – were claiming Outkast among their favorite bands.

This was mostly because of what I call “The ‘Hey Ya’ Moment.” It was the last time in the decade that everyone in America seemed to be on the same page. The song reached the top of the Billboard Hot 100 singles chart and was safely in the top 50 of the hip-hop chart, the Latin Pop Airplay chart and the Modern Rock Track chart, making it one of the last universally shared musical experiences of the decade.

Obviously their musical output and success is one of the main reasons why they are my choice to define this decade. To some extent, they also represent the music industry as a whole. Big Boi represents the business side of the industry. He’s always been the more grounded of the two, more interested in continuing to release records and keep the whole machine moving. On the other hand, Andre has always come off as the more artistic of the two, taking advantage of the opportunity to have a disc of music all to himself when they released the Speakerboxx/The Love Below album by creating a sprawling, beautiful mess of an album that touched on everything from acoustic ballads to futuristic hip-hop.

Although I prefer Andre’s contributions, this isn’t an endorsement of one side or the other. However, as the divergence between the two continued, you saw the strain it put on their relationship.

As a result, they have essentially been working as two separate entities since 2003. Although it’s certainly not their fault, with the evolution of the industry and the breadth of choices available, we probably won’t see anyone like Outkast for a long time.

Despite recent hiatus, hip-hop duo defines a decade in music

Their last album was released more than three years ago, they haven’t had a single in Billboard’s top 10 since George W. Bush’s first term, and aside from some guest spots and the occasional appearance on a mix tape, they’ve pretty much been a nonentity for a good part of this decade.

Despite all of this, when looking back at the last decade in music, as The Beacon will be doing as the year winds down, you have to think Outkast is the defining group of the 2000s.

Thus is the state of the music industry in 2009. For four years at the beginning of this decade, Outkast was the most ubiquitous musical force around. Andre 3000 and Big Boi were consistently seen as pushing the bounds of what a hip-hop group could do and, at their peak, they were everywhere. People who didn’t even want to listen to hip-hop – my parents, for instance – were claiming Outkast among their favorite bands.

"The ‘Hey Ya’ Moment.” It was the last time in the decade that everyone in America seemed to be on the same page. The song reached the top of the Billboard Hot 100 singles chart and was safely in the top 50 of the hip-hop chart, the Latin Pop Airplay chart and the Modern Rock Track chart, making it one of the last universally shared musical experiences of the decade.

Obviously their musical output and success is one of the main reasons why they are my choice to define this decade. To some extent, they also represent the music industry as a whole. Big Boi represents the business side of the industry. He’s always been the more grounded of the two, more interested in continuing to release records and keep the whole machine moving. On the other hand, Andre has always come off as the more artistic of the two, taking advantage of the opportunity to have a disc of music all to himself when they released the Speakerboxx/The Love Below album by creating a sprawling, beautiful mess of an album that touched on everything from acoustic ballads to futuristic hip-hop.

Although I prefer Andre’s contributions, this isn’t an endorsement of one side or the other. However, as the divergence between the two continued, you saw the strain it put on their relationship.

As a result, they have essentially been working as two separate entities since 2003.

Since that time, has there been an ubiquitous musical act like Outkast? I think it’s part of the evolution of the music industry. With file sharing and the Internet offering, it has become increasingly more difficult to become as big as Outkast was.

With the almost limitless and easily attainable music choices available now, I’m not sure anyone can reach the type of place in our culture that Outkast attained in this decade.

In being the defining artists of the decade, Outkast also represents the death of the massively popular and universally recognized musical act they personified for the early part of the 2000s. It’s certainly not their fault, but, with the evolution of the industry and the breadth of choices available, we probably won’t see anyone like Outkast for a long time.

Pop & Circumstance is a biweekly column discussing all things pop music.
Alternative diets present challenges

MARGO BARTLETT
Contributing Writer

Due to our declining economy and recent cuts in educational funding, the average student is in need of more money. Some students are also parents and professionals and are performing a juggling act in order to keep their lives balanced. There is little room in their schedules to work more hours or get a second job. Luckily, there is a Web site that provides a way for students to work from home and in their spare time.

Mechanicalturk.com, run by Amazon, provides accurate information based on human – rather than artificial – intelligence. It is run on the premise that there are certain tasks that humans are more qualified to handle. A human intelligence task, or HIT, is a job that a requester needs completed. Many of the HITs require that the potential worker take a qualification test to see if they meet the criteria to complete the task. If the qualifications are met, they can begin to work on various types of tasks that are covered under that particular test.

A few of the HITs available include transcribing portions of a conversation, translating a reading passage, or correctly identifying images and categorizing them appropriately. These tasks are deemed to be better completed by a human being than by a computer.

Upon completing the task, the worker is awarded a certain amount of money that the requester has set. The worker may also provide a bonus to a worker that completes a certain task and who is very efficient at completing the HITs that are assigned to them. The worker is then allowed to deposit the money received into a bank account or use it toward a purchase from Amazon.com.

The site includes a helpful log that helps the worker keep track of all the HITs submitted, including the number of HITs that are completed, returned, and abandoned. The number of approved and rejected HITs are also kept in this log. Some requesters require that they maintain a certain approval rate percentage in order to continue completing tasks for them.

The approval rate is drawn from the total amount of task completions that are approved by the requester from the worker. If a HIT is rejected, they have the option to contact the requester directly for an explanation. Mechanicalturk allows the worker to set their own schedule. However, each HIT has a certain amount of time allotted for the completion of each task. If they cannot complete the task during that time or if they find that it is too difficult, it is best that they return it so that someone else may have the chance to complete it.

The Web site is very easy to use and understand. It runs smoothly and tasks generally do not take long to complete. Since it is an offshoot of Amazon.com, it minimizes the likelihood of being scammed. Compared to other sites that provide the same kind of service, Mechanicalturk.com does not require a payment to get started. Since it is an offshoot of Amazon.com, it minimizes the likelihood of being scammed. To sign up as a worker, visit www.mturk.com. To submit HITs that you need completed visit www.request.mturk.com.

The Web site is very easy to use and understand. It runs smoothly and tasks generally do not take long to complete. Once the available qualification tests are taken, the system could be customized to only show the tasks that they are qualified for rather than showing the complete repertoire of tasks. The site also features a search bar so that they can further tailor their results. The site provides direct contact to the requesters and also provides a plethora of information to those who are just getting started or need general information.

The Web site is very easy to use and understand. It runs smoothly and tasks generally do not take long to complete. Once the available qualification tests are taken, the system could be customized to only show the tasks that they are qualified for rather than showing the complete repertoire of tasks. The site also features a search bar so that they can further tailor their results. The site provides direct contact to the requesters and also provides a plethora of information to those who are just getting started or need general information.

The site includes a helpful log that helps the worker keep track of all the HITs submitted, including the number of HITs that are completed, returned, and abandoned. The number of approved and rejected HITs are also kept in this log. Some requesters require that they maintain a certain approval rate percentage in order to continue completing tasks for them.

The approval rate is drawn from the total amount of task completions that are approved by the requester from the worker. If a HIT is rejected, they have the option to contact the requester directly for an explanation. Mechanicalturk allows the worker to set their own schedule. However, each HIT has a certain amount of time allotted for the completion of each task. If they cannot complete the task during that time or if they find that it is too difficult, it is best that they return it so that someone else may have the chance to complete it.

The Web site is very easy to use and understand. It runs smoothly and tasks generally do not take long to complete. Once the available qualification tests are taken, the system could be customized to only show the tasks that they are qualified for rather than showing the complete repertoire of tasks. The site also features a search bar so that they can further tailor their results. The site provides direct contact to the requesters and also provides a plethora of information to those who are just getting started or need general information.

The site includes a helpful log that helps the worker keep track of all the HITs submitted, including the number of HITs that are completed, returned, and abandoned. The number of approved and rejected HITs are also kept in this log. Some requesters require that they maintain a certain approval rate percentage in order to continue completing tasks for them.

The approval rate is drawn from the total amount of task completions that are approved by the requester from the worker. If a HIT is rejected, they have the option to contact the requester directly for an explanation. Mechanicalturk allows the worker to set their own schedule. However, each HIT has a certain amount of time allotted for the completion of each task. If they cannot complete the task during that time or if they find that it is too difficult, it is best that they return it so that someone else may have the chance to complete it.

The Web site is very easy to use and understand. It runs smoothly and tasks generally do not take long to complete. Once the available qualification tests are taken, the system could be customized to only show the tasks that they are qualified for rather than showing the complete repertoire of tasks. The site also features a search bar so that they can further tailor their results. The site provides direct contact to the requesters and also provides a plethora of information to those who are just getting started or need general information.

The site includes a helpful log that helps the worker keep track of all the HITs submitted, including the number of HITs that are completed, returned, and abandoned. The number of approved and rejected HITs are also kept in this log. Some requesters require that they maintain a certain approval rate percentage in order to continue completing tasks for them.

The approval rate is drawn from the total amount of task completions that are approved by the requester from the worker. If a HIT is rejected, they have the option to contact the requester directly for an explanation. Mechanicalturk allows the worker to set their own schedule. However, each HIT has a certain amount of time allotted for the completion of each task. If they cannot complete the task during that time or if they find that it is too difficult, it is best that they return it so that someone else may have the chance to complete it.

The Web site is very easy to use and understand. It runs smoothly and tasks generally do not take long to complete. Once the available qualification tests are taken, the system could be customized to only show the tasks that they are qualified for rather than showing the complete repertoire of tasks. The site also features a search bar so that they can further tailor their results. The site provides direct contact to the requesters and also provides a plethora of information to those who are just getting started or need general information.

The site includes a helpful log that helps the worker keep track of all the HITs submitted, including the number of HITs that are completed, returned, and abandoned. The number of approved and rejected HITs are also kept in this log. Some requesters require that they maintain a certain approval rate percentage in order to continue completing tasks for them.

The approval rate is drawn from the total amount of task completions that are approved by the requester from the worker. If a HIT is rejected, they have the option to contact the requester directly for an explanation. Mechanicalturk allows the worker to set their own schedule. However, each HIT has a certain amount of time allotted for the completion of each task. If they cannot complete the task during that time or if they find that it is too difficult, it is best that they return it so that someone else may have the chance to complete it.
Goalkeeper play pivotal in Sun Belt tournament run

SUN BELT, page 7

Thaisa Moreno leads the team with seven goals and Katrina Rose was second with five. Another aspect the Golden Panthers have excelled at in 2009 is overtime play, having gone 2-0-3 in overtime games, including two overtime victories in conference play.

In addition, FIU’s goalkeeping improved compared to its 2008 statistics, with save percentage rising from 0.734 percent to 0.798 percent.

The increase can easily be attributed to the addition of freshman goalkeeper Kaitlyn Savage. The 5-foot-10 freshman from Fox Island, Wash., allowed only 1.03 goals per game and 76 saves, giving her a save percentage of 0.826 percent.

The Golden Panthers are ranked third in the Sun Belt Conference for shots, points, assists and are fourth in goals allowed. The Golden Panthers play their first match of the Sun Belt Conference tournament on Nov. 4 against UALR at 10 a.m.

The tournament is being held in Boca Raton, Fla., on the Florida Atlantic University’s main campus.

Freshman midfielder a dreamer, fighter

ANA DIAZ
Staff Writer

At the age of nine before a vital match, Sebastian Frings was ill, but he went against his father’s wishes and played anyway. In the end he contributed to a 5-2 win by scoring four goals.

“The coach said, ‘I must have him. I need him for his corner game and free kicks,’” said Sebastian’s father Wolf- gang. “And I told the coach, ‘I do not want my son to play ill.’”

After high school in his home country of Germany, Sebastian Frings went against his father’s wishes once again, packed his bags and decided that the FIU’s men’s soccer team could use his skills.

“It wasn’t easy for me, it is a great distance between Germany and Miami, but for me it is important that he is happy. It’s not good to keep your son away from what he wants. It’s his life, not mine. I love him, ask his mother, the same feelings we love him therefore we are here to see what he is doing and see if he is happy and successful,” said Wolfgang Frings.

Fring’s parents have been a great impact on his life, especially when it came to his first love, soccer.

“My parents mean everything to me, my dad always supports my dreams,” the Golden Panthers freshman said. “He always stood by me even if I had a bad day. He builds me up and my mom is a great mental support for me. I wish I could have them here in Miami.”

Fring’s is the leading scorer for the Golden Panthers this season with eight goals.

“I am here at FIU because I can play soccer and get a degree as well. In Germany you cannot do both. Also, my mother told me to have a safety and advised me to get an education in case I ever got a bad injury. It can happen to anyone.”

During a match in high school, Frings suffered an injury, tearing three liga- ments in his right ankle.

Consequently, he couldn’t play for half a year which led him to take a risk, leave Germany and pursue a degree, while still playing at an elite level in college.

Wolfgang Frings at one time in his life had to take his own risks to reach his dreams as well.

Fring’s ‘father used to work

for an insurance company but didn’t quit his job from one day to the next. “He didn’t have a job and he wasn’t rich or anything. It was just me, him and my mom. Then he went into broadcasting, it was what he always wanted to do. He’d rather go after his dreams than have a safe job. That is how I am, I’d rather go after my dreams than do some- thing safe,” said Sebastian Frings.

Sebastian’s father played a major role in giving him mental strength and heart for soccer.

“I saw him play all these years and grow up,” his father said. “He kept playing better and better, and I also saw his mistakes. I told him that I believed in him and that he could do better. He is a fighter, not everyday, but when it is important.”

From a young age, Sebas- tian enjoyed playing against boys two to three years older than him by his house.

“I would play there all day and everyday. My parents had to say, please come in. They had to force me to get off the field. I would have played the whole night. Those were my best memories, it was being and fun. No pres- sure, just playing,” Sebastian said.

For Frings, the far distance of home has been an issue, as long as he is on the soccer field doing what he loves most, he is happy.

“My home is the soccer field. I’m not from Germany. I’m not from anywhere. When I am on the field, I feel at home. It’s my home is the soccer field. I’m not from Germany. I’m not from anywhere, “Sebastian said. “When I am on the field, I feel at home, like a marriage. It is like my wife because it means every- thing to me.”

Regardless of the climate and environment change, Coach Munga Eketebi anticipates a lot from the freshman midfielder.

“We have still have yet to see the best of Sebastian,” Eketebi said.

Fring has no plans for the future, just success on the field.

“I don’t want to regret anything, when I am 60 years old I want to say I did the most with my soccer,” he said.
CARDENAS, who led the team in goals (6) and games and get the No. 1 seed. I exceeded my Pappas said. “Never did I expect to win nine think her team would be the top seed. Sun Belt Conference tournament, but she didn’t women’s soccer team would qualify for the Marina Pappas hoped the Golden Panthers a fight in the early stages of Conference record.

When the Louisiana-Monroe they might have Panthers were coming to town for a trip. The team adopted this motto during the 2009 season. “We all joked that we would come in the middle of a three-game road chestnutt said. She went back to Fresno, Calif. be with her family. Without their leading scorer, the Golden Panthers’ chances of winning the Sun Belt Conference looked grim, but they were unwilling to give up on the 2009 season. “It wasn’t an option for us to just roll over and die. Some new girls this year helped us push it,” said midfielder April Perry.

One of the big wins Perry mentioned is the 1-0 overtime thriller against Western Kentucky on Sept. 27. That win started a chain reaction as they started knocking off other big name schools like Denver, Troy and Louisiana. The team ended up with a 11-5-3 record. The team that was ranked toward the bottom of their conference last season is now the No. 1 seed in the Sun Belt Conference tournament. Perry said a new formation helped make the group more team oriented. “Since we started using this new formation of three up top, we started winning games and started gaining more confidence,” Perry said. At the end of the season last season, the team combined for a total of 10 assists. The Golden Panthers finished the regular season with 21 assists and 1.53 goals per game compared to the team’s .83 goals per game in 2008. “Once we started winning games at the beginning of the season we got that feeling that you don’t want to lose,” Perry said.

### Volleyball team still perfect after three-game road trip

JOEL DELGADO Staff Writer

When the Louisiana-Monroe Warhawks that the Golden Panthers were coming to town for a Halloween match, they might have thought they were in for a horror-filled night. They weren’t far off. The Golden Panthers (23-2, 13-0) dismantled the Warhawks (3-25, 0-13) in three sets on Oct. 31, as they came within three matches of finishing with a perfect Sun Belt Conference record.

Louisiana-Monroe gave the Panthers a fight in the early stages of the first set, but FIU would run away with the set on the shoulders of Olga Vergan’s five first set kills. Coach Danijela Tomic inserted a different kind of lineup in an attempt to lighten the load on her players in the middle of a three-game road trip. “We had a totally different lineup against ULM,” Tomic said. “We wanted to give our starters some rest and give a chance to those who don’t normally play.”

The Golden Panthers were able to shut down Louisiana-Monroe in the second set, jumping out to a 10-2 lead on their way to building a 2-0 match lead. The Warhawks refused to go away silently and fought hard in the later stages of the first set and the second set, posting a 10-2 lead on their way to building a 2-0 match lead. The Warhawks refused to go away silently and fought hard in the later stages of the first set and the second set, posting a 10-2 lead on their way to building a 2-0 match lead. The Warhawks refused to go away silently and fought hard in the later stages of the first set and the second set, posting a 10-2 lead on their way to building a 2-0 match lead.

With the victory, the Golden Panthers came one step closer to achieving one of their main goals for the season: going undefeated in conference play. “ULM can be a dangerous team,” Coach Tomic said. “They beat New Orleans not long ago and they probably thought they had a chance to beat us.”

FIU came out strong, never giving the Ragin’ Cajuns an opportunity to get their offense going in the first set. Louisiana would make the second match more interesting, and the Golden Panthers pulled through halfway through the stanza with the help of an offensive outburst from Yarimar Rosa to extend their lead to 2-0. The Ragin’ Cajuns refused to go away, fighting into the later stages of the third set before FIU would pull away to close out the match. Rosa led the Panther offense with 14 kills with Isadora Rangel chipping in with 11 kills of her own. Jovana Bjelic continued to perform well on defense, posting a team-high 12 digs to go along with her 10 kills on offense.

After the match was completed, the Golden Panthers were happy to return home after a grueling weekend of travel. “We were glad it was over,” Tomic said. “This was the toughest traveling weekend we’ve had all season. It’s tough, but we were glad we got three wins in three days.”

The Golden Panthers close out their regular season Sun Belt Conference schedule on the road against Western Kentucky and Middle Tennessee this weekend. “Our team is looking forward to the challenge,” Tomic said.