New alliance helps find jobs

MEENA RUPANI
Staff Writer

With Florida’s current job market and the difficulty it has shown college graduates looking for employment, the FIU Alumni Association has teamed up with an organization called Career Campaigns that specializes in assisting qualified candidates on their search for a stable job.

“Florida has the fourth worst job market in the country but we are hoping to see hiring beginning at the end of this year,” said Dan Nelson, the founder and CEO of Career Campaigns.

The organization, which also shares a partnership with the University of South Florida, believes their assistance is necessary during this tough economic time to help those who are struggling to find long-term career opportunities.

According to Nelson, once job candidates are put into the Career Campaigns database they will create a 30-second commercial detailing their assets, educational background and employment history. The candidates also complete a leadership personality profile.

Although having both a

BUNDLE UP!

MEGAN KELLY/THE BEACON

Freshman Pedro Velezquez (left) and freshman Alexa Escalante (right), gather to stay warm on a cold night outside of Lakeview South Jan. 4. Cool temperatures will continue throughout the week as South Florida experiences the longest stretch of cold weather since January 2001.

US airport rules not enforced

ERIN MCCLAM
Associated Press

On the first day of what was supposed to be tighter screening ordered by the U.S. for airline passengers from certain countries, some airports around the world conceded Monday they had not cracked down.

The United States demanded more careful screening for people who are citizens of, or are flying from, 14 nations deemed security risks. But enforcement of the U.S. rules appeared spotty.

“Everything is the same. There is no extra security,” said an aviation official in Lebanon, one of the countries on the list. The official spoke on condition of anonymity because he was not authorized to speak publicly.

The Obama administration ordered the changes after what authorities say was a failed attempt by a Nigerian man to blow up a jetliner bound from Amsterdam to Detroit on Christmas Day.

The U.S. Transportation Security Administration said the enhanced screening techniques would include full-body pat-downs, searches of carry-on bags, full-body scanning and explosive-detection technology.

In Nigeria, one of the nations on the U.S. list for additional security, there were long lines on the first day of the new rules. At the airport in the capital of Lagos, Mune Ooniowas, a 24-year-old student, said she had been told to show up more than seven hours ahead of time for a flight to Atlanta.

A Nigerian official pledged that everyone
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would be patted down at the country’s inter-
national airports. In Lagos, guards wearing 
lace gloves combed through bags, spending more 
than a minute on each one. 

But at international airports in Lebanon, 
Syria and Libya, all on the list, there were 
no visible changes in screening. And several 
European governments, including Germany, 
France and Spain, said they were still 
studying the rules before tightening security 
any further than the steps they took after the 
fatal Christmas attack.

“We will continue to work with our airline 
and international partners to ensure they meet 
both international and TSA security stan-
dards,” TSA spokesman Greg Soule said.

Among the 14 nations are — Cuba, 
Iran, Sudan and Syria — that the U.S. govern-
ment considers state sponsors of terrorism.
The list also includes Afghanistan, Algeria, 
Iraq, Lebanon, Libya, Nigeria, Pakistan, 
Saudi Arabia, Somalia and Yemen. 

Passengers arriving at U.S. airports on 
international flights described a wide range 
of screening methods — from being sepa-
rated by gender and patted down to nothing 
more invasive than normal airport security. Lydia Habhab, a consultant for the World 
Bank who flew from France to Amsterdam 
and on to Detroit, said she was subjected to 
a full-body scan and her luggage was opened 
and inspected.

“I felt personally violated, but I under-
stand why the procedures are necessary,” she 
said. 

Passengers on a charter flight from Havana 
to Miami said they did not notice any addi-
tional security in either Cuba or the United 
States.

“It was the same as always. There was no problem,” said Adriana Vallester, 46, who was returning from a holiday visit to her 
family in Cuba.

A U.S. intelligence official said the govern-
ment had moved the names of dozens of 
people onto its terrorism watch list and its 
no-fly list after reviewing the government’s 
database of suspected terrorists. 

The man arrested in the Christmas inci-
dent, Umar Farouk Abdulmutallab, had been 
in a database with about 550,000 other terror 
suspects since late November. But officials 
said the government did not have enough 
information to put him on the no-fly list.

Authorities say Abdulmutallab tried to 
bring down Northwest Flight 253 by igniting 
explosives concealed in his underwear, 
but the material failed to detonate, causing only 
a small fire. Passengers put out the fire and 
restrained Abdulmutallab.

While screening for international flights has been tightened since Christmas Day, there have been few changes at domestic airports. 

On Sunday, officials at the Newark airport 
emptied a terminal and forced passengers to 
walk through screening again after a man passed through a security checkpoint 
with a weapon. His identity and whereabouts 
remained unknown Monday.

The failed Northwest attack has led to calls 
for wider use of full-body scanners, now in 
regular use at only a few U.S. airports. Dutch 
officials announced Monday they would 
buy 60 more of the scanners.

 Hawaiian adds both parties

Another student, Malena Torres, would 
also be open to any assistance she can find 
after graduation.

“I think that the Alumni Associa-
tion could help me in finding a job or at 
guiding me in my career path,” said 
Torres, a senior majoring in interna-
tional relations. “I’m really worried 
about finding a job after graduation; the 
job market is really competitive and the 
economic situation is not helping either.”

So far, the agreement between the two 
organizations has just begun; however, 
the workshops have commanded a great 
turnout, according to both Wiles and Nelson.

According to Nelson, the employers 
who choose to use the Career Campaigns 
services are required to pay a fee to the 
company.

However, Career Campaigns will be 
returning a percentage of this revenue 
back to the Alumni Association.

“They receive a job and are 
allowed to use the Career Campaigns’ 
services free of charge, also the associa-
tion turns a profit,” Nelson said.

Both Wiles and Nelson are still hopeful 
that the Alumni Association will generate 
benefit for FIU alumni.

If not, the agreement can be terminated 
at any time, according to Wiles.

“We are like Facebook, Schwab and 
eHarmony rolled into one and we hope 
that in the end the alliance is going to 
work,” said Nelson.


CORRECTIONS

In the Jan. 4 issue, the article “Big name sequels dominate 2010 game’s releases” incorrectly stated the game Mag release as Jan. 2. The game Mag will be released Jan. 26.

The Beacon will gladly change any errors. Call our MMC office at 305-438-2709 or BBC at 305- 
919-4722.


**Replacement dean chosen**

JORG VALENS
News Director

The University has appointed a professor as the new interim dean of the Graduate School.

Kevin O’Shea, professor for the Department of Chemistry and Biochem-
istry, will be replacing 
interim Provost Douglas 
Wartzok.

O’Shea, who has been a part of the University since 1991, O’Shea served as the chair of the Grad-
uate Council of the Faculty 
Senate and as the director of the graduate program for 
the chemistry and biochem-
istry department according 
to University e-mail sent 
to faculty and staff by Interim Provost Douglas 
Wartzok.

The e-mail added that 
during his time, he “has 
mentored 50 undergraduate 
students, postdoctoral fellows and 
visiting faculty in his 
research laboratory.”

O’Shea’s research focuses 
on applying and 
analyzing the impact of 
reactive oxygen species on 
health and its effects on 
humans.

“His goal is to under-
stand the basic reactions 
between ROS and impor-
tant biological molecules in association with specific 
human disorders and 
diseases,” Wartzok said.

He added that O’Shea’s 
extension also seeks to inves-
tigate “the reactions of ROS with organic pollutants and 
toxins as potential water treatment applications.”

University Graduate 
School will commence in 
the Spring.

Wartzok closed his state-
ment by asking University 
faculty and staff to welcome O’Shea and “assist him in 
his desire to continue the 
positive trajectory of grad-
uate education at FIU.”


**Job services for FIU graduates**

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commercial and profile seems unorthodox,” 
Nelson explains that “what employers see, 
hear and feel indicate whether they are 
going to hire you.”

Nelson has been working along-
side Duane Wiles, the executive 
director of Alumni Relations at FIU, to get 
the word out to students of this new partner-
ship and what it will do for the student 
community.

“We informed alumni via e-mail and 
social networking sites (i.e. LinkedIn, My 
Panther Connection and Facebook) and 
recently sent a press release,” Wiles said.

Nelson was also featured in two work-
shops held at FIU describing the “Art of 
Marketing,” a field that Nelson has been a 
part of for 30 years.

Students also voiced their opinions on 
whether or not they would be willing to 
use the services of the Alumni Associa-
tion and Career Campaigns to assist them 
following graduation.

“I think that the Association could 
help me network, not necessarily find me 
a job but connect me to other graduates 
with different experiences,” said Jennifer 
Fuentes, a senior majoring in political 
science and philosophy.

Jessica Torgas, a junior majoring in 
English, was also eager to learn about the 
new partnership and how it can help her 
achieve her career goal.

“Yes I would definitely be open to 
the Alumni Association assisting me in 
finding a job. It won’t hurt. I am a 
nervous person, especially since I want to 
become a teacher,” Torgas said.


**Revamped job search services**

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also be open to any assistance she can find 
after graduation.

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eHarmony rolled into one and we hope 
that in the end the alliance is going to 
work,” said Nelson.
Students and their parents adjust
Eric Feldman. Strachan, Gabrielle Wheeler and Kimberly Lauriston, Demi Fabiana Ferrer, Judi Julmisse, Bay Campus peer advisors are on Jan. 4.

food, and enthusiastic applause in the U.S. "To address the fastest growing minority and advertising agencies recruiting Hispanics casting. "We have become a feeder school to of the Department of Journalism and Broad-

Hispanic community," said Teresa Ponte, chair cast-media outlets as well as a large and diverse to the most important Hispanic broad-

program at FIU, since Miami is home to approximately 16 percent of the U.S. population, thought-leadership institutes" in the

ultimately become one of the "premier Studies will address issues that relate to the Hispanic market communications, and the new Hispanic Communication Studies, headed by Figueredo and Ponte, will build on that foundation.

Our goal is to further and enhance the current Hispanic-market-driven research agenda at FIU on critical issues affecting the U.S. Hispanic community, specifically focusing on the way these issues are communi-
cated to internal and external audi-

cues. FIU is uniquely positioned to house this institute since it graduates more Hispanic students than any other university in the U.S. " said Heather Raci-Hermudez, Marketing Director for SJMC.

Currently, approximately 50 students are enrolled in the program. To register for the program, students will have to register for courses after discussing their interests with Figueredo or Ponte.

2010 peer advisors chosen
MIKIALA C. TENNIE
Staff Writer

A loud reception, barbecue food, and enthusiastic applause greeted the selection of new peer advisors for the spring semester on Jan. 4.

This semester’s Biscayne Bay Campus peer advisors are Nardo Dorin, Shannon Douglas, Fabiana Ferrier, Judy Jolmisse, Kimberly Lauriston, Demi Marroquin, Ana Perez, Anastasia Straza, Gabrielle Wheeler and Eric Feldman.

Peer advisors help new students and their parents adjust to life at FIU. The advisors participate in and help plan all orientation events throughout the year-long term. These advisors play a large role in welcoming transfer students.

Vicky Owles, associate director for Campus Life, presented the new advisors to the student body in Panther Square. Each advisor received a certifi-
cate noting their new position.

"Being a peer advisor is a great honor. This group was chosen because it’s a great group of students; they have the highest GPAs of any group," Owles said.

Peer advisors are chosen based on a strict selection process. Students interested in peer advising must first understand the ethical standards associated with the job. Chosen applicants participate in a day-long selection workshop, at which finalists are chosen and inter-

viewed one by one.

After the interview, only 35 out of 200 applicants for both MMC and BBC are selected. Kimberly Launston, a newly hired peer advisor finds working with new students to be the most rewarding part of the job.

"I look forward to helping freshmen and helping them get acquainted with the campus," Launston said.

SJMC debuts new Hispanic Communications program
LAURA DE LA FE
Staff Writer

With Hispanics now comprising approximately 16 percent of the U.S. population, the School of Journalism and Mass Commu-
nication has created a new program allowing the fastest growing minority segment in the U.S. access to research and distinguished speakers that will prepare them to communicate with their community.

The Hispanic Communication Studies will address issues that relate to the Hispanic community in the United States. Its directors expect it to even-
tually become one of the “premier thought-leadership institutes” in the U.S. Hispanic community.

“IT makes sense to establish this program at FIU, since Miami is home to the most important Hispanic broad-

Hispanic media outlets as well as a large and diverse Hispanic community,” said Teresa Ponte, chair of the Department of Journalism and Broad-
casting. “We have become a feeder school to the media news as well as public relations and advertising agencies recruiting Hispanics to address the fastest growing minority segment in the U.S.”

“Our location as well as the significant number of award-winning Hispanic professors in our faculty places us in a unique position to establish such a program,” added Professor Fernando Figueredo, chair of the Department of Advertising and Public Relations. “Seventy percent of the students we graduate from the SJMC are of Hispanic heritage, and univer-
sity-wide at FIU, we graduate more Hispanic students than any other university in the country.”

SJMC already has courses set up that cover Spanish-language journalism and Hispanic market communications, and the new Hispanic Communication Studies, headed by Figueredo and Ponte, will build on that foundation.

“Our goal is to further and enhance the current Hispanic-market-driven research agenda at FIU on critical issues affecting the U.S. Hispanic community, specifically focusing on the way these issues are communica-
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cues. FIU is uniquely positioned to house this institute since it graduates more Hispanic students than any other university in the U.S.” said Heather Raci-Hermudez, Marketing Director for SJMC.

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SNAKE CHARMER

Dayanna Camare, a Senior in Hospitality Management, handles a python in Panther Square for Campus Life’s Cirque du Sol Bay event Jan. 4.
Terrorists will adapt to any new security methods, devices

DAVID A. BARRIOS
Opinion Editor

On Sunday, Jan. 3, travelers walked through a metal detector into the security checkpoint of the airport terminal at Newark Liberty International Airport. It is the latest example of the dilemma that we now face: how to feel secure in a time when there is no security.

In their haste to call the conference a success for their sponsor terrorism and “countries of interest” will be subject to increased scrutiny of screening旅客s entering the U.S. These enhanced screenings would include full-body pat-downs, carry-on bag searches, full-body scanning and explosive detection technology.

The United Nations on this list include a venerable who’s who of terrorist harboring nations including Afghanistan, Algeria, Iraq, Lebanon, Libya, Nigeria, Pakistan, Saudi Arabia, Somalia and Sudan.

All those traveling into the U.S. are also subject to possible random extensive methods. It’s a good start in terms of security but it’s fair to note that individuals flying on domestic, not international, flights were not made to execute the most deadly terrorist attack on American soil on Sept. 11, 2001.

In an Associated Press article dated Jan. 1, 2010, Michael Boyle, an airline industry analyst, stated that pat-downs done by TSA agents for domestic flights can be highly ineffective.

“When have people hold up their arms and just pat them — like I’m really going to carry a bomb there. But the deal is not legally binding to any nation and does not commit them to emission cuts capable of creating any actual global change. The conclusion then is simple; there was disappointing the general public as well as that of the other 20 countries not included in the negotiations. Under the accord, developing nations would be provided with $10 billion a year for three years to help them develop clean energy and to deal with droughts, floods, and other impacts of climate change. Also, all countries would have to produce their individual plans for the reduction of carbon dioxide.

But the deal is not legally binding to any nation and does not commit them to emission cuts capable of creating any actual global change. In fact, the cuts already agreed upon would not help avoid any potentially dangerous effects of global warming.

The U.S. plans on reducing emissions by 17 percent from the 2005 levels and China plans a cut of 40 to 45 percent from the same year. These two countries are the world’s largest carbon polluters.

In 2007, China alone was responsible for two-thirds of the global carbon dioxide emissions. Both countries were expected to produce the larger cuts as seeing as they produce the most pollution.

In addition, the Chinese government refuses international monitoring of its emissions. Obama was criticized for not being more proactive not offering more cuts despite his involvement in negotiating the accord.

The executive director of Greenpeace International, Kumi Naidoo, believes the accord is not enough and that the job of the world leaders is not done.

“We have seen a year of crises today, but today it is clear that the biggest one facing humanity is a leadership crisis,” he said.

In fact, other world leaders included in the conference were not exactly happy with this accord. Leaders of Bolivia, Cuba, Nicaragua and Venezuela attacked the accord, saying that it would not help global warming and that it was secretly negotiated by only five of the 25 nations.

“A gross violation has been committed today against the poor, against the tradition of transparency and participation of equal footing for all parties of the convention and against common sense,” said Sudanese ambassador Lumbumba Di-Aping.

In their haste to call the conference a “success” for completing its goal of developing a treaty to replace the Kyoto Protocol, Obama and his peers only succeeded in isolating other nations.

This non-binding treaty will only serve as a band-aid to the president’s desk as soon as possible.”

ANA AROCHA
Staff Writer

What could have resulted in great publicity and even greater support for President Obama, whose approval ratings have been swiftly dropping, resulted in the exact opposite due to his impotence.

This past December, President Obama met with other world leaders in Copenhagen, Denmark to decide on a legally binding treaty that would succeed the Kyoto Protocol coming into effect in 2012.

The Protocol is linked to the United Nations’ Framework Convention on Climate Change to reduce the amount of greenhouse gas emissions.

After two weeks of negotiations, instead of extending his stay in Denmark, Obama assembled a group of world leaders from China, India, Brazil and South Africa and settled a deal that fell short of the expectations set for the Copenhagen Conference. The accord, which was signed in disassociating the general public as well as that of the other 20 countries not included in the negotiations. Under the accord, developing nations would be provided with $10 billion a year for three years to help them develop clean energy and to deal with droughts, floods, and other impacts of climate change.

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In their haste to call the conference a “success” for completing its goal of developing a treaty to replace the Kyoto Protocol, Obama and his peers only succeeded in isolating other nations.

This non-binding treaty will only serve as avoidable protocol, not as a potential cure for global warming.
New series resurrects the Captain

In 1985 the fastest man alive, The Flash, ran himself to death trying to save an infinite number of earths from total destruction. And in 1992, Superman was beaten to death by a horrible monster named Doomsday.

These are just two names from the extremely large list of superheroes that end up dying just to sell comics.

The issues that told the story of these deaths sold out nationally - the latter brought Superman and his tragic end to TV screens and local news stations across the world. With all of the success the death of heroes brings to the comic book industry, people tend to overlook the strongest part - that they keep coming back.

The most current example involves Captain America who died in 2007 during the finale of the Marvel Comics story arc, Civil War. Captain America was the highest selling comic book of March that year. After his death, many fans complained that no one would be able to fill the role of the super hero par excellence, and yet Marvel decided to put Captain America's old sidekick, Bucky, in the role. For three years, Bucky has been the Captain and gained the loyalty of lots of old Captain America fans.

This makes me wonder why the company has decided to revive the original Captain. The story of his return is told in a six-issue, limited series entitled Captain America: Reborn, with the biggest part of it all being told in a single issue one-shot called Captain America: Who Will Wield the Shield?

Both the series and the one-shot have their merits as comics. The art is interesting, intriguing and is prominent when comparing the gritty realism in Reborn with the classic style in WW84, which is akin to comic art of the 60s and 70s. The writing is compelling too. Team-ups of classic Cap villains and allies partaking in giant action scenes make it all feel like a summer blockbuster.

Despite these good qualities though, it's hard for a fan to not feel swayed in the purchase of these comics. Comic book companies have often complained that no one would be able to fill the role of the super hero par excellence, and yet Marvel decided to put Captain America's old sidekick, Bucky, in the role.

The rebirth of Captain America seems to be falling into this trend and is even doing a sloppy job of it. WW84 comes out before the final issue of Reborn does, even though the former is supposed to be an epilogue to the entire story. One might say that this was due to Marvel's rush to get content out to the fans who want to buy these issues whether it's in order or not.

In the end, the true merit of Captain America's return can only be judged in the long run after seeing what the character is used for. Until then, Captain America: Reborn and its aftermath are entertaining reads for fans of the hero, but the issues do not deserve the grandeur that Marvel is hyping them with.

Panel Panel is a weekly comics column written in tandem by Sean Gonzalez and Pablo Pinston. Look for it every Wednesday.

The Wolfsonian-FIU will soon allow visitors to see just what the museum has to offer before even stepping foot inside.

An exhibition called “The Art of Illumination,” which will use lighting and digital technology to expand the museum’s reach and visibility, will use its exterior walls.

“People are very visual and it will make it another attraction that will be known on South Beach along with its other allure of nightlife, the beach and dining,” said Maria Rodriguez, a junior majoring in advertising. “It’s a great idea to bring in new crowds and invite the regulars to see the place through a different perspective.”

Located on 10 Street and Washington Avenue, The Wolfsonian is FIU’s museum and research center in the heart of Miami Beach.

The building itself does not have the same South Beach look. In fact, it is currently a storage building, in a bright light city that, according to Director Cathy Leff, conveys a message of “go away.” That message is contrary to what The Wolfsonian wants to display, which is why it has planned to turn the building inside out.

“The purpose is to convey images on the outside so people know what is inside. We want the energy from within to project outside and give identity to the building, but also to provide and engage with a broader community using design,” Leff said.

The concept was created by a lighting designer from New York back in 2005, but the project never moved forward due to lack of funding. Thanks to a recent $500,000 grant from the John S. and James L. Knight Foundation, the museum will finally have the funds needed.

The Knight Foundation is a nonprofit, philanthropic organization incorporated in the state of Florida since 1990 when it moved from Akron, Ohio. The Knight Foundation invests millions of dollars in making art accessible to the community.

The “Art of Illumination” project proposal was one of three The Wolfsonian submitted and one of 20 submitted by South Florida cultural institutions and artists. It was awarded the second highest grant.

It will take three years to complete. The displays will come in different formats: interactive, digital, photographs, video and moving text.

“Other well-known buildings, like the New York Times building in New York by architect Renzo Piano, have similar displays that bring attention to them,” said Daniel Quindemil, a senior majoring in architecture. “It will help The Wolfsonian stand out and people will notice it more now.”

In addition to standing out and decorating the building, the exhibition will also have educational value like the indoor exhibits.

Some of the displays will be digital reproductions of pieces already inside the museum, other contemporary works and works that show the purpose of the museum. According to Leff, it will support the role that the power of design plays in people’s lives.

“It all has a basis in education and allows exhibition on exterior walls that will project to the community the richness of the content within the building,” Leff said.

For more information on the upcoming “Art of Illumination” displays or other exhibitions at The Wolfsonian, visit its Web site www.wolfsonian.org.

The site was created by Felix Miller and Martin Stiksel. The pair was running an online record label at the time and they wanted to find a way to share independent music with listeners.

They brought their idea for Last.Fm to Richard Jones who had been working to find a way to track the type of music that he and his friends listened to the most in a project called “Autoscrobbler.”

Signing up and making a music profile on Last.Fm is free. Finding artists on the site using the search bar is easy to do. Once you find the artist, there are many ways that you can enjoy their music.

A radio station will be created and you will be able to listen to songs from the artist that you search for, as well as similar artists.

Free MP3 downloads are also available for some artists.

As you listen to music, you can also read biographies and news clips about the artists.
YOU’RE IT

Junior Yanet Gomez, advertising major, shoots down her opponent during a game of laser tag in the Graham Center Ballroom lawn on Jan. 4 as part of Week of Welcome.

Members can post questions and provide tips to other users. You can also follow Last.Fm on Twitter and Facebook.

There are also Last.Fm applications available for download to your iPhone or iPod touch, although scrubbling directly from devices is not available.

The site was recently made available for use on Xbox Live by Gold members.

The software that Last.Fm uses must be downloaded to your computer.

This proves to be very vital because even if your browser crashes, you will still be able to enjoy its features.

The Web site is very easy to use. Any help you may need can be found in the FAQs section, which provides answers to a number of problems a user could incur.

If the solution to the problem is not there, posting the question in the forum is another option.

Last.Fm is a fun, versatile way to listen to the music that you love and the music that you have yet to discover.

It brings people together from all over the world who want to share and enjoy music.

The Beacon does not receive free goods or services in exchange for positive reviews.

‘Scrobbling’ helps site users keep track of their favorites

links to iTunes, Amazon and eBay are available so that you may purchase a song or album. User-created groups are found on the artist’s page as well.

A feature called “scrubbling” allows the songs you listen to on your computer to be synced with your Last.fm music profile. It will show you the types of music that you listen to the most and other users will be able to see those songs.

For those who love to attend concerts, the events section will provide current and future performances by your favorite artists. You can search by artist name, venue or date. Most events have links available to ticket vendors.

Last.Fm is not just a music site; it is also part social networking site. It is available in 12 different languages and accessible around the world.

The community section provides users with a way to stay connected via forums and groups that they can create.

Diversions is back! Be sure to check it out every Wednesday.

To solve the sudoku puzzle, every row, column and 3x3 box must contain the numbers 1-9 only once. Check your answers in Friday’s issue.
Team seeks consistency at home

JOEY CRUZ
Staff writer

Entering the thick of the conference schedule, FIU coach Isiah Thomas and the Golden Panthers will face the University of Louisiana at Monroe on Thursday, Jan. 7 at the U.S. Century Bank Arena. FIU is 4-13 on the season, while ULM holds on to a 6-9 record.

FIU and ULM both share a 1-3 record in the Sun-Belt conference. After losing back-to-back conference games (South Alabama and New Orleans), the Golden Panthers will look to bounce back at home and finally attain that elusive second conference win.

ULM is just 1-7 on the road, which should give the Golden Panthers a chance to come away with a victory against the Warhawks. Thomas has stated earlier this season that his team would like to establish a covered home court advantage, but have not been able to create that thus far with just two wins in five contests at home.

Three-point shooting will be key in the contest as FIU shoots a poor 26 percent from beyond the arc, while ULM shoots at a steady 38 percent clip.

OFFENSIVE LINE

The offensive line is argu-ably the biggest need for FIU coming into 2010, and locals David Delsoin and Stanley St. Jean are currently commited as reinforcement.

Delsoin has coveted size at the position (6’6”, 270 lbs) and St. Jean is considered a raw but athletic prospect with considerable upside.

Seniors Mario Caraballo, Brad Serini, and Cedric Mack are likely to start inside, along with Rupert Bryan and Dave Istanich at the tackle spots, but FIU does not boast proven backups at any position on the line.

Bluestein said Delsoin is a sleeper with massive potential, and Ty Frierson are the strength leaders in rebounding margin.

The Golden Panthers struggle with is winning the turnover battle. FIU is averaging 13 turnovers a game, but are also stealing the ball eight times a game.

The Beacon – Wednesday, January 6, 2010

"We continue to be frustrated with our injury situation and we can’t get a break," said Russo. "We’re hoping to have Marquita play some minutes and help us out while we face more injuries.”

Aside from the frustrations, Russo is pleased that her team’s defense continues to improve.

SWAT TEAM

Center Maja Krajacic has been a solid starter in her junior year, blocking almost three shots per game. The 6-foot-4 defensive machine currently paces the Golden Panthers and leads the conference for shots blocked almost three per game. Right on Krajacic’s heel is Elisa Carey, who has also continued to show her effectiveness on defense by averaging 2.6 blocked shots and 9.3 rebounds per game, which is good for third and fourth in the SBC, respectively.
**Promise seen with new verbal commits**

Just one year after generating buzz with a surprising five-win season in 2008, the Golden Panthers swimming and diving team returned to the pool this weekend. With the 2009-2010 season well underway, FIU has hit its full allotment of 25 scholarships in that if they pan out, could play anywhere in the conference.

**FIU INVITATIONAL**

The Golden Panthers swimming and diving team hosted one event and competed in another at FAU, seeing some success during the winter break.

**JOEL DELGADO**
Asst. Sports Director
The Golden Panthers swimming and diving team competed on Dec. 18 at the FAU Invitational against conference rival Florida Atlantic, Clemson, Western New Mexico and Findlay.

Several Golden Panthers had successful meets, including Namiko Shibata who finished first in the 1-meter springboard and third in the 3-meter springboard.

Two FIU freshmen posted career highs in the 1000 yard freestyle with Krissy Melka finishing eighth for the Golden Panthers, clocking in at a career-best 11:02.92 while Lauren Smith touched in at 11:19.50 for a tenth place finish.

Kyle Derr, who finished ninth in the 1000 yard freestyle, led the way for the Golden Panthers in the 500 yard freestyle, coming in 11th place with a time of 5:22:47.

The No.1 FIU squads finished ninth in the 400 yard medley relay and the 200 yard freestyle relay while the No. 2 squads finished 11th in both events.

**FIU INVITATIONAL**

The squad returned to action on Jan. 3 to begin the 2010 Invitational as the Golden Panthers hosted American University, Air Force Academy, Carnegie Mellon, Eastern Michigan, Florida A&M, Georgia Southern, Georgia Tech, Grambling State, Illinois State and Northern Iowa.

“It was a great opportunity to open the new year and it’s a great set up for our athletes to compete against some of the top teams in the country,” said Coach Noemi Lung-Zaharia. “It’s the perfect tune up for the rest of the season and it’s exciting to see what some of our players are capable of.”

The Golden Panthers finished fourth in the 500 yard freestyle relay in addition to a seventh-place finish in the 200 yard butterfly relay and a seventh-place finish in the 400 yard medley relay.

Eastern Michigan compiled 118 points to 120.5 for the Golden Panthers, allowing the Golden Panthers to take 17th place overall in the SBC West division.

The squad returned to action on Jan. 8 at 2 PM as they host Indiana State River City College and Brown and then take on FAU on Jan. 9 in Boca Raton.

**WOMEN, page 7**

**RECRUITING, page 7**

**Sports Director**

After matching last year’s win total midway through this season with six, the FIU women’s basketball team might feel relieved.

However, the Golden Panthers will try to overcome their longest losing streak of the season, which is currently at three, as they host Sun-Belt conference opponent Louisiana-Monroe on Wednesday, Jan. 6 at the U.S. Century Bank Arena.

FIU (6-9, 1-3 Sun-Belt) is coming off a 46-39 loss to Sun-Belt conference opponent New Orleans.

The defeat marked the team’s lowest scoring output of the season, which was previously 48 points against Denver on December 14.

“We couldn’t hit anything,” said FIU head coach Cindy Russo. “We took some good shots but few would fall for us.”

Meanwhile, Louisiana-Monroe (7-7, 1-3 SBC) is also coming off a loss, which was against conference opponent Arkansas-Little Rock.

Jesse Carrier is the Warhawks’ main threat, averaging 11.4 and 4.0 rebounds per game.

The guard also leads her team in three-point field goal made with 26.

Louisiana-Monroe ranks fourth overall in the SBC West division standings while FIU sits in last place in the East.

The Warhawks are averaging 60.5 points per game and giving up 63.2 to their opponents while the Golden Panthers offense totals just over 62 points, which is good for seventh place in the conference.

Monika Bosilj is currently leading FIU in scoring with 11.3 points per game. The senior needs just eight more treys to capture the school record for career three-point field goals made.

FIU continues to struggle this season.

**STEPHANIE GABRIEL**

**Sports Director**

The Golden Panthers suffered a 3-9 campaign in 2009. An under performing defense was compounded by a slew of injuries that held the team back for much of the season.

Although the season was a setback in many ways, FIU continues to impress on the recruiting trail as it relates to the Sun Belt conference.

Head coach Mario Cristobal is in the process of putting together his third consecutive class ranked among the top three in the SBC, according to rivals.com.

While the incoming class, based on nonbinding verbal commitments, is not ranked in the top half nationally, it is easily considered to be among the best in the conference.

Miami Herald recruiting analyst Lynn Blutstein said there is a lot to like about the list of future Golden Panthers.

“I think they are doing better than most would think,” he said. “They have some players, that if they pan out, could play anywhere in the country.”

No longer hampered by NCAA sanctions, FIU has its full allotment of 25 scholarships in 2010 and trails only Troy in conference class ranking roughly a month before signing day.

Recruiting Roundup will be taking an in depth look at FIU’s class every week until signing day on February 3. A look at FIU’s current verbal commitments on offense and how they affect the outlook of the depth chart:

**QUARTERBACK**

Fletcher High signal caller Jake Medlock will likely be the only quarterback FIU brings in for this class.

A three-star prospect on the rivals five-star scale, Medlock held scholarship offers from Virginia and Arkansas before verbally committing to FIU.

Medlock processes solid height (6-foot-2), in addition to a strong arm and plus mobility, but suffered a serious shoulder injury that forced him to miss most of the 2009 season.

The injury has not wavered FIU’s interest, however, and Blutstein says Medlock “could be the steal of the entire recruiting season.”

According to Blutstein, Medlock is one of the top five quarterback prospects in the state who are remaining committed running back in the class, three-star player Kedrick Rhodes.

The 5-foot-10 all-purpose threat from Trinity Catholic compiled nearly 1,700 yards as a junior, and will look for carries in a crowded backfield in 2010. Blutstein noted that Rhodes “is a bigger back that runs well and runs hard” and is coming into an FIU spread offense that is similar to what he was a part of in high school.

FIU coaches were pleased with the emergence of sophomore Kendall Berry late in the season, but Darriet Perry had a disappointing sophomore campaign and was banged up for much of the year. Ideally, Perry, Rhodes, Darriet Mullary or Syracuse transfer Jeremiah Hardeman would emerge as a capable replacement in the rotation to replace the departed Daunte Owens.

“Last year they went for the smaller back (Mullary) and he did ok, but (Rhodes) is very good and we need a coach who is a little bit of a hard nosed coach,” said Blutstein.

**RECRUITING ROUNDUP**

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>NAME</th>
<th>POSITION</th>
<th>SCHOOL</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Jake Medlock</td>
<td>QB</td>
<td>Fletcher H.S.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kedrick Rhodes</td>
<td>RB</td>
<td>Trinity Catholic H.S.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Stanley St. Jean</td>
<td>OL</td>
<td>Sheridan Hills H.S.</td>
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<tr>
<td>David Delsoin</td>
<td>OL</td>
<td>Miami Central H.S.</td>
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</tbody>
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**WOMEN VS ULM @ 7 PM.**

**As injuries mount, FIU prepares for Sun Belt foe**

As injuries mount, FIU prepares for Sun Belt foe

**STEPHANIE GABRIEL**
Asst. Sports Director