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Interim general counsel appointed

GABRIEL ARAÑAS
Ast News Director

President University Mark Rosen-
berg announced the appointment of Isis Carbajal de Garcia as general counsel for Florida Interna-
tional University.

In an e-mail to the members of the University community, Rosenberg thanked the previous general counsel, Cristina Mendoza, for her hard work and dedication.

According to Rosenberg, “Isis has served as deputy general counsel since 1997 and brings with her an exemplary record of legal work in both the public and private sectors.

Earthquake ‘could end country’

Haiti, page 1

from my uncle and his side of the family, who live in the most affected area.

Reports coming out of the capital described a flattened city, with significant damage to the city’s historical district. Many of Port-au-
Prince’s most famous landmarks have been destroyed, including the Presiden-
tial Palace and the Port-au-
Prince Cathedral.

“It’s very shocking,” said second-year grad student Zakina Ogboye. “It didn’t hit me until a friend told me that their friend was missing.”

While an earthquake in the Caribbean may come as a surprise to most, geol-
ogists have been warning about the high possibility of seismic activity in the region for years.

The southern part of Haiti lies along the Enriquillo-Plantain garden fault zone, a transform strike-slip fault similar to the San Andreas Fault which runs through California and caused the famous 1906 San Fran-
cisco earthquake. Strike-slip faults move past each other horizontally.

In the case of the Enriquillo-Plantain garden fault, pressure is built up along the faults to build up,” said earth science professor Grenville Draper, who specializes in Carib-
bean geology. “So these big earthquakes occur more infrequently.

“But their infrequency makes them particularly dangerous because many generations pass without people feeling anything more than a tremor,” Draper said.

“So they don’t really have the perception that there is an earthquake hazard.”

Draper attributed the mass devastation with the epicenter being so close to the capital, and said that because Port-au-Prince was built primarily on a river gravel foundation, rather than a solid rock one, the vibra-
tions from the earthquake were actually amplified.

Haiti is also missing set building codes, and builds-
ings are often shoddily constructed due to a lack of resources.

“My colleagues and I have discussed about how the big沪 was going to happen in Hispan-
iola,” Draper said. “Well this is just about as big as it’s going to get.”

The earthquake also has the potential to further devastate an already fragile political infrastructure on the island, according to Richard Olson, chair of the political science department. “Hispan-
ola teaches about the political repercussions of natural disasters.

“You always have to be particularly concerned when a major disaster affects not just an urban area, but the urban area that is the national capital,” Olson said. “When you have a disaster that affects the capital city, the seat of government, it raises all sorts of questions.”

Olson predicted that as more countries became aware of the extent of the destruction, foreign aid would start arriving, but not necessarily distributed, as the government would have to rely heavily on non-
governmental organizations to distribute aid.

With a population of nine million, the estimated 500,000 person death-toll would equal roughly 5.5 percent of the population.

“There is no good scenario for this. From a political point of view, this could set Haiti back 10-15 years,” Olson said. “That essentially ends the country, for all intents and purposes.

500,000 would be the worst disaster in the history of the Western Hemisphere – and by a wide margin.”

“The death toll will prob-
ably come down,” Olson said.

“But if it doesn’t, then we are talking about a completely different phenomenon.”

Additional reporting by Gabriel Arraras, Jaemyun Elliot and Jorge Valens.

Mon, Wed & Fri 11 am-12 pm
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Earthquake ‘could end country’
MLK celebrated with events on both campuses

DREAM, page 1

able for purchase.

The week of events is funded partly by student government, outside spon-
sors and ticket sales.

Tickets to the breakfast were sold for $35 each and are already sold out. A total of 550 tickets have been sold.

“We usually sell out by December,” said Jeffrey McNamee, asso-
ciate director of MPAS at Modesto Maidique Campus.

McNamee said the reason the breakfast is not free is because student government isn’t fully funding it. He added that the breakfast is the only event that isn’t free.

Student government has a table at the breakfast that McNamee said sometimes doesn’t get filled.

“8 a.m. on Friday is a big deterrent,” McNamee said.

MPAS has support of the University administration, McNamee said, regarding to whom the tickets are sold. He said tickets are often sold to heads of departments that often buy tickets for their respective staff.

Freshmen students this year competed for three prizes by submitting an essay with King as the inspiration. The prizes were scholarships for $2,000, $1,000 and $500 for first, second and third place, respectively. Each of the prizes also included a $1,000 meal plan from Aramark, the University’s food service provider, and $500 from Barnes & Noble for books.

Immediately following the breakfast will be a speaker’s reception that will not be open to the public. The reception is for MPAS’ corporate sponsors, essay winners and University administration.

There will be a “Day of Service” the day after the breakfast, Saturday Jan. 16. The day of service will be the beautification of Fruit and Spice Park in Home-
stead. Student volunteers will be at the park from 9 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.

According to a press release, there will be 150 student volunteers that will be working with students from the Yvonne Learning Center.

In addition, Dorret Sawyers, director of MPAS at Biscayne Bay Campus, said they are expecting between 200 and 250 volun-
teers from local middle and high schools.

A dinner will be held in honor of the late civil rights activist Jan. 19 and Karlyn Hylton, assistant U.S. district attorney, will be the speaker.

The final day of the events will be Jan. 20 at BBC.

A MLK Youth Forum and Peace Walk, both in their 10th year, will be held in the Wolfe University Center Ballroom. The youth forum will be keynote by Dr. Pedro Greer, chair of the Department of Humani-
ties, Health and Society.

Sawyers encourages University students to attend the forum.

“The message will be important for everyone, not just middle and high school students,” Sawyers said.

After the keynote by Greer there will be a 15-
minute peace walk behind the WUC as well as lunch from Papa John’s that will be sold for $5.

Greer, who received the Presidential Medal of Freedom at the White House last August, said that he wants to motivate people to follow in King’s steps.

Greer said that it is important to him because he will be speaking on times that he lived through and that people should know not only what King did, but why he did it.

“Is a great honor to be speaking in honor of someone that is so impor-
tant,” Greer said in an inter-
view with Student Media.

Date for elections agreed upon by both campuses

UWC, page 1

The discussion came a month before budget deliberations, where the $130,000 of student money is en route to be allocated for the band.

The UWC also took up the issue of elec-
tions scheduling. The elections were going to be held during the week of Passover.

Newly confirmed SGC-MMC Chief Justice Luis Robayo explained to the UWC that current laws called for elections to be held on the second week after spring break, and campaigning the week before.

After some deliberation, it was decided that March 22-26 would be used for campaigning while elections would be held on March 29 and 30.

Passover is set to fall on March 30 this year, and is typically observed starting on sunset of the prior night.

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College of Law professor to discuss genocide, war crimes, reform in Iraq

LORENA ESTRADA Staff Writer

The Middle East Society will host a lecture called “Justice After Saddam: War Crimes in Iraq” to discuss Iraq’s transition to democracy and how the prosecution of leading figures under the late Saddam Hussein’s regime has made way for political stability in Iraq.

Hamish Travis, assistant professor at the College of Law and Harvard Law School graduate, will speak on Jan. 15 at the Biscayne Bay Campus at 2:30 p.m. in Academic I, Room 194. The event is free to the public and parking is free.

According to Travis, students interested in U.S. politics, international relations, international law, human rights, Middle East studies and the crisis in Darfur or Southern Sudan may benefit a lot from this lecture.

“I will discuss the possible implications of the findings of Iraqi courts in war crimes cases for the trial of the president of Sudan and potential trials of other leaders before the International Criminal Court,” Travis said.

In his lecture, Travis will define genocide, name those who have been found guilty of genocide in Iraq, and explain how criminal tribunals and legal reform can both reconcile former rebels against the state with their government, and further estrange those deciding to remain as rebels.

The lecture comes at a time of greater interest in justice and human rights, according to Travis.

“Students may learn about the human rights violations in Iraq and States and what led the coalition’s case for invading Iraq in 2003,” Travis said.

Until the arrival of coalition forces in Iraq, leaders of Hussein’s Baath Party, such as Ali Hasan al-Majid (also known as “Chemical Ali”) and Taha Yasin Ramadan, were involved in heinous acts against fellow Iraqis that included systematic torture, mass killings and ethnic cleansing. Travis will explore some of the trials of these former leaders and talk about the prosecution process itself.

Travis teaches and conducts research in the fields of cyberlaw, intellectual property, antitrust, international and comparative law and human rights.

He has published articles in the American University Law Review, University of Miami Law Review and Yale Journal of Law and Technology, among others.

His works focused on copyright, antitrust law and trademark. His article on copyright liability of Internet service providers in the U.S. and the European Union published in Europe. In 2008, his article on Google and intellectual property was selected by West Group as one of the best articles relating to intellectual property law.

Travis, who has book chapters forthcoming from the Oxford University Press, Thomson Reuters and Transaction Publishers, is the first author of the first comprehensive history of physical and cultural genocide in the Middle East and North Africa. He graduated from the Washington State University with a major in philosophy, and graduated from Harvard Law School where he served as a member of the Harvard Journal of Law and Technology and the Harvard Human Rights Journal.

For more information on the lecture, students can contact the Middle East Society at 305-919-5381.

Alumni volunteer to rescue plant life

SABRENA JOHNSON Staff Writer

Going green has become very important in today’s society. Alumni of the School of Journalism and Mass Communication are on board with this initiative, and are giving students an opportunity to give back to the community.

The SJMC Alumni Chapter will host the second annual Panther Service Day at Olleta River State Park on Jan. 16. The event will take place from 9 a.m. to 12 p.m. at the Olleta Pavilion inside the park.

Students, faculty, family and friends are invited to come out and lend a hand to help rescue the park’s young endangered mahogany trees.

According to Heather Rader-Bermudez, SJMC marketing coordinator, the FIU Panther Service Day was started by the FIU Alumni Association.

“The purpose of Panther Service Day is for FIU alumni chapters and Golden Panthers around the country to team up for various service projects that will positively impact the communities in which they live. Each chapter selects their own service project,” she said.

“Our chapter, which was established in 2006, aims to engage a diverse group of graduates worldwide through programs and services that addresses the needs of its members,” Rader-Bermudez said.

This year’s project will be to help the Olleta River State Park protect its most endangered species.

“We have the unique opportunity to help rescue endangered mahogany trees that would otherwise perish of natural causes. Volunteers will be responsible for digging up these baby trees, securing them in pots and transporting them to the park’s nursery where park rangers will rehabilitate them for future re-planting,” Rader-Bermudez said.

Although the event is being hosted by the SJMC Alumni chapter, it is open to all FIU students who are interested in helping out in the community. Volunteers must be 16 years old or over.

Due to the nature of the project and the outdoor environment, all participants are required to wear long pants and closed-toe shoes. It is also recommended to bring gloves and water bottles if needed. Snacks and refreshments will be available for all volunteers.

The Olleta River State Park is located at 3400 NE 163 St. North Miami, Fla 33181. There is a $6 per car park entrance fee.

Anyone interested in participating in the SJMC Alumni Service Project at Olleta River State Park is asked to contact Heather Rader-Bermudez at bradaf@fiu.edu or call 305-919-4411 in advance.
Olympic medalist returns to games after hardships

Paul Newberry
Associated Press

For Jennifer Rodriguez, the crying finally stopped last month.
The Olympic medalist has endured so much pain over the past couple of years: the death of her mother, the end of her marriage, financial problems that left her all tapped out.

For months, hardly a day went by without some sort of breakdown, the tears streaming down her face as she struggled to cope with one blow after another.

Finally, she turned a corner — and just in time for her fourth trip to the Winter Games.

“I would be in my hotel room, crying all the time,” Rodriguez said this week. “But just about a month ago, I kind of stopped that. Maybe I’m kind of going through the healing process, getting over the part where I’m crying all the time, where I’m feeling so sad all the time. That’s kind of going away a little bit. It took a long time, a good six months. But I think I’m actually on the way back up. Things are starting to look bright again instead of looking so gloomy.”

The 33-year-old Rodriguez was a pioneer at the speedskating rink, among that first batch of warm-weather inliners who made the switch to ice.

A Cuban-American from South Florida — hence her nickname, “Miami Ice” — she made her first Olympic team in 1998 and won a pair of bronze medals four years later in Salt Lake City.

“Sometimes I wish I hadn’t quit, because I know I could be even better than I am now,” said Rodriguez, who’ll skate three individual events in Vancouver (500, 1,000 and 1,500) as well as the team pursuit.

“But you really don’t know. Maybe if I hadn’t quit, I would have been so burned out by now that I wouldn’t be skating well.”

Coming back after such a long layoff is always a struggle, especially for an athlete in her 30s. But at least Rodriguez found some measure of peace at the rink — gliding along the ice, escaping from her troubles.

Last month, Rodriguez finished third in the 1,500 at a World Cup meet on the Olympic oval in Utah, where she won those two bronze medals in 2002.

But she’s realistic about her chances in Vancouver, a sea-level track that won’t be nearly as fast as those high-altitude rinks where she’s had more success.

Rodriguez wants to savor the experience at one last Olympics, knowing there won’t be another comeback for 2014. She wants to feel better about her skating than she did after the disappointment of 2006, even if she doesn’t finish any higher.

“I didn’t enjoy Torino, not one bit,” she said. “I’d really like to enjoy these games and leave this sport with a good taste in my mouth.”

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Senator Harry Reid should be on top of the political world at the moment. The 70-year-old senator from Nevada has been a leader in his party and a key figure in American politics. He has been praised for his leadership and his work on key issues. His recent remarks, however, have raised questions about his future in the party.

Reid is under fire and being called to resign after he referred to President Obama as a “negro” during a meeting with other Democratic senators. The senator’s comments have been widely condemned by members of his party and others, and have led to a growing call for his resignation.

Reid’s remarks have sparked a heated debate within the Democratic Party. Some members of the party have called for Reid to step down, while others have defended him and said that he should continue to serve.

There are calls for Reid to resign, but the Democratic Party has so far refused to take action. A special session of the Democratic National Committee is scheduled to meet next week to discuss the matter.

The situation is complex, and there are many factors at play. Reid is a senior member of the Democratic Party and has been a strong supporter of its policies. However, his recent remarks have damaged his reputation and have led to calls for his resignation.

The Democratic Party needs to address this issue quickly and decisively. It is important that the party does not lose its credibility and that it does not appear to condone racist behavior.

Reid’s remarks have also raised questions about the Democratic Party’s stance on race and racism. The party has long been considered to be a leader in the fight against racism and discrimination, but its record on this issue is mixed.

In conclusion, the situation surrounding Reid’s remarks is complex and requires careful consideration. The Democratic Party needs to address this issue quickly and decisively, in order to protect its credibility and to ensure that it continues to be a leader in the fight against racism and discrimination.
Band’s newest album reflects its individuality

**Chris Towers**

Staff Writer

There has always seemingly been a premium in music placed on authenticity.

Kurt Cobain talked about how depressed he was – and joked about killing himself – so the only possible way to secure himself a place in the annals of musical history was to put a shotgun shell through his skull.

Tupac often talked about the merits of “thug life” and was gunned down the same way a common drug dealer might be. It made him a tragic figure, but it also lent legitimacy to his career.

In most cases, artists can only be helped by being true to themselves, no matter how stupid their true self might be.

This is what made the initial backlash to Vampire Weekend, a foursome composed of Rostam Batmanglij, Ezra Koenig, Chris Tomson and Chris Baio.

Through the first few listens, the most striking thing about Contra is the lack of killer melodies that really carried the first album.

Musically, it seems to be a little more layered and interesting, but nothing leaps over the head quite like “A-Punk” or “Oxford Comma,” or really, any of the tracks on a first album which was check full of hooks.

From the sampling of M.I.A’s “Diplomat’s Son” to the auto-tuned vocals on “California English,” this seems an album consciously attempting to lash back at some of the critics, making an effort to be more “weird” than the first.

It seems like a step back, but one that is not wholly without merit through the first few listens.

But it is an album that rewards repeat listens. It might never lend itself to in-concert sing-alongs like the debut but, as a whole, it is just as rewarding a listening experience.

Where the first album took very few risks, staying well within the realm of guitar pop, this one isn’t afraid to go further, delving into low-key electro pop with “White Sky,” or moody atmospheric ballads like “I Think U R a Contra.”

What is most striking about the album is how much more confident the band sounds being true to themselves. They had only been together for a couple of years at the time of the debut and the intervening time has been good for the quartet.

Maybe it’s me projecting on them, but this album sounds more like what the band wants to be.

There’s a certain type of strength in taking criticism and being able to use it to your advantage, and that’s just what happened. It’s refreshing to see a band so comfortable being who they are, and it’s great to listen to as well.
3-D not the wave of the future

I hate 3-D content. There, I said it.

The Consumer Electronics Show, a yearly expo which tends to dictate the tech trends for the year, was dominated by 3-D television sets by Sony, Samsung and Vizio, to name a few.

Sadly, that can only mean that 2010 will be the year of 3-D technology – God help us all.

Capitalizing on the success of James Cameron’s 3-D epic, Avatar, television makers are very quick to make 3-D a staple in the living room, but I don’t think we’re ready for that yet.

3-D technology has had its successes and failures. In the late 90s, the technology was rolled out to many IMAX theaters as a ploy to get people to watch cheesy nature documentaries narrated by Laurence Fishburne and Tom Hanks.

However, after the three-hour-long migraine that was “Secrets of the Serengeti,” I came to the conclusion that perhaps 3-D technology wasn’t ready then, just as it is not ready now.

Avatar was a great proof of concept that 3-D movies can bring in serious money and it can be done right. That being said, Avatar’s 3-D experience is very similar to its distant 3-D predecessors’, apparent by the migraine that I endured shortly after.

I don’t see myself, or anyone for that matter, getting home after a long day of staring at a computer screen, slipping on a pair of 3-D glasses to strain my eyes to watch something in 3-D.

3-D is a gimmick, something to get people to show up to a movie that has a lackluster story and a big budget to pay back. This isn’t something that movie studios put in to make the movie watching experience more enjoyable.

Movie studios are putting everything behind 3-D movies because a 3-D movie is impossible to pirate and it ensures higher revenues and a secure stream of viewers who won’t be tempted to hit the torrents to catch a highly anticipated movie.

This technology is merely an afterthought in films and isn’t even a valuable tool in story telling.

I can definitely see Cameron on the set of Avatar, spewing a profanity filled rant to Sam Worthington about how he should thrust the spear at the camera every now and then, to give the audience a little rush. Spare me.

At the end of the day, the people who will benefit from this are the hardware makers.

These guys are seeing that people are complacent and content with their TV purchases, and want to squeeze in every gimmick possible in order to sell them something new.

This year, Sony showed off some 3-D glasses that it will sell as a separate accessory with its 3-D TV’s that are worth $100 a piece.

I know what you’re thinking and yes, Sony does love to sell overpriced tech. I just never thought they would stoop so low as to overprice something you get for free at the movie theater.

I am not going to pay Sony $5,000 for a 3-hour migraine, no matter how oddly attractive blue Zoe Saldana may be.

Fistfuls of Tech is a weekly tech column. Look for it every Friday.
Museum backdrops electronic music concert

ASHY CAPO
Staff Writer

Passersby strolling past the Patricia and Phillip Frost Art Museum at FIU will witness quite a treat on Jan. 16. As the second of a six-part concert series, The New Music Miami Interna
tional Society for Contemporary Music Festival will be presenting an audio/visual show in the Avenue of the Arts in front of the museum.

Differing from the first concert of the series, which featured woodwind instru
ments including several performances by famous flutist, Margaret Lancaster, this concert will incorporate electronic arts and music, including video that will be projected on the outside walls of the Frost Museum.

The event will feature the FIU Laptop and Electronic Arts ensemble as well as faculty and well-known electronic music composer, Diego Garro, and animator and composer, Dennis Miller.

The New Music Miami ISCM Festival, initially named the May in Music Festival in 1997, is the brainchild of Orlando Jacinto Garcia, director of graduate music programs at the University as well as a member of the composition faculty. Throughout its existence, the festival has featured a plethora of internationally renowned composers and, as of 2002, it is an official affiliate chapter of the FIU School of Music, incorporating the works of faculty members and students.

Past festivals have seen and heard the works of composers from the U.S., Canada, Spain, Mexico, Italy and Cuba and many of the composers have even held music workshops and question and answer sessions for students.

Among the faculty involved in the event is Paula Matthussan, director and professor of music technology. Composer of both electroacoustic and acoustic music, her work has been performed in numerous venues around the U.S. and Europe including Merkin Music Hall, WAX and the Aspen Music Festival. Matthussan will be debuting her piece, Hommage à Salon Braille.

“I collected actual noise samples from Berlin and used them to create my piece. As it is named, it is a homage to the salon bruit e, a place I admire very much,” Matthussan said, referencing a non-commercial theater in Berlin that allows for composers and animators interested in the electronic arts to display and present their work.

Although very much a tribute to the city as well as the venue, Matthussan mentions that her piece is in no way a peaceful orchestration.

“It’s a very noisy piece, actually,” she said.

With the use of sound bytes of all sorts, street noise included, the focus of the pieces is inspired from things one may listen to every day, but never listen to as music, or even think of as being a possible musical instrument.

Something as everyday as the sound of snapping fingers serve as the musical notes of the compositions.

The sounds of the springs of a tramp
coline will be used in a piece composed by Kristine H. Burns, associate dean of cultural affairs for the College of Archi
tecture and the Arts, and will be performed live by students.

The New Music Miami ISCM Festival, Concert II, will begin at 8 p.m. outside the Frost Art Museum on Jan. 16.

More information about the festival and other concert dates can be found at www. orlandojacintogarcia.com.

Ex ‘Fear Factor’ host among this year’s comedians

COMEDY, page 7

hard it hurts. I cannot wait to see them live again and have a good laugh.”

Jon Lajoie, known for his crude subject matter, will take the stage on Friday night with two back-to-back performances at 8 p.m. and 10 p.m.

In his set, Lajoie talks about everything from his private body parts to getting high. Coupled with smart lyrics, his retelling of everyday situations is irresistibly funny. If you have not seen any of his shows before, proceed with caution. This is not the kind of comedy show you want to bring your little sister or brother to.

Joe Rogan is the old host of NBC’s “Fear Factor.” You know, the show where people eat cockroaches. His name may not a ring a bell, but you’ve surely seen this comic’s face before and will probably recognize his voice. His current gig is acting as a commentator for Ultimate Fighting Champion on pay per view and Spike Television, and he also hosts the hit show “UFC Wired.” He’s been on the comedy circuit for 20 years now and his show is known to provide some good laughs.

Unfortunately, he probably won’t be eating any cock-

roaches. He will perform Jan. 22 at 8 p.m. in the Lincoln Theatre.

Catherine Arronte, a junior public relations major, is excited for Ansa-

t’s set. She calls him, “witty and unexpected.”

“I’m looking forward to seeing some of his stuff from his new stand up and what we don’t see from him in ‘Parks and Recreation.’”

Cost of tickets may be out of reach for some students, especially during the beginning of the semester with so many expensive book purchases. No worries, the South Beach Comedy Festival will be offering plenty of free shows throughout the weekend – just don’t expect any big names.

Gabrie Swingler, a sophomore majoring in women’s studies and hospitality, said, “I can’t wait until the South Beach Comedy Festival. I saw Kevin Hart when he performed at FIU and he was hilarious. I’m especially excited that there are some cheaper options for the festival like the free shows on Lincoln Road.”

This WEEK

FRIDAY, JAN. 15

MLK BREAKFAST
WHERE: 8 a.m.
HEBREW MUSIC FREE
WHERE: GC 345

MUSLIM STUDENT ASSOCIATION
Friday Prayer
WHERE: 1 p.m.
HEBREW MUSIC FREE
WHERE: GC 150

FRENCH CLUB - MEETING
WHERE: 3 p.m.
HEBREW MUSIC FREE
WHERE: GC 345

SATURDAY, JAN. 16

WORLD FAMOUS LIPZ
ZEBAND STATIONS
WHERE: 7:30 p.m.
HOW MUCH: $18.50
WHERE: Bank United Center

THE GREAT AMERICAN TRAILER PARK MUSICAL
WHERE: 7:30 p.m.
HOW MUCH: $45
WHERE: Miracle Theatre

LAUGHING GAS COMEDY IMPROV
WHERE: 11 p.m.
HOW MUCH: Free
WHERE: Main Street Playhouse

SHAKESPEARE IN THE PARK
WHERE: 7:30 p.m.
HOW MUCH: Free
WHERE: Barnacle State Park

SUNDAY, JAN. 17

2010 MARLINS MAJKATES OPEN AUDITION
WHERE: 11 a.m.
HOW MUCH: Free
WHERE: Seminole Hard Rock Hotel

THE VAMPIRE ACADEMY
WHERE: 7 p.m.
HOW MUCH: Free
WHERE: Coral Gables Congre
tional Church

Puzzle answers
Sudoku from 1/17/10
Keep playing every week!
Track and field releases schedule for 2010 season

STEPHANIE GABRIEL
Asst Sports Director

After a successful outdoors season last year, FIU track and field announced its 2010 schedule on Jan. 11.

The women’s team finished with runner up honors in the 2009 Outdoor Sun Belt Conference Championship while third-year head coach Eric Campbell also added success by being named the SBC Women’s Coach of the Year.

The team will kick off the new season at the Great Dane Classic on Jan. 22.

The meet is hosted by the University of Albany and will take place indoors at the Armory Track & Field facility in New York.

Although the women and men’s teams graduated a combined 12 seniors, Campbell seems confident about the schedule that lies ahead.

His confidence is helped by his largest-ever recruiting class, which includes a program-high 26 student athletes.

“We are so excited about the direction this program is moving and it’s going to be very exciting to see how these young people help push this program to the level it can really be,” Campbell said to fiusports.com. “We are excited about our schedule and believe it is one of the best in the state of Florida.”

Following the Great Dane Classic, the Golden Panthers will head to Gainesville for the Jimmy Carnes Invitational on Jan. 30.

The third meet on the schedule will take FIU back to New York for the ninth annual New Balance Invitational from Feb. 5-6. The Golden Panthers will face previous NCAA champions such as Texas A&M, LSU, Florida, USC, and UCLA.

FIU will then travel to Michigan to compete in the Green Valley State University Big Meet on Feb. 12-13, which is a new addition to this season’s schedule and the final meet before the SBC Championship in Murfreesboro, Tenn.

The outdoor schedule begins with the UNF Spring Break Open in Jacksonville on March 5 followed by 10 more matchups before the NCAA regional’s and championship on June 9-12.

“At FIU, we always want to nurture and cultivate a competitive spirit at all times,” Campbell said to fiusports.com. “As a staff we collectively want to run, jump and throw against the best in the country in every meet and week out to raise our program’s level to new heights.”

As a staff we collectively want to run, jump and throw against the best in the country week in and week out to raise our program’s level to new heights.

Eric Campbell, Head Coach
FIU Women’s Track & Field Head Coach

SECOND TO ONE

Senior Comeback: ODarris D’Haiti finished 2nd for the 2009 Rudy Award, losing out to LeVon Morefield of the Akron Zips. The Rudy Award is given annually to the college football player who shows exemplary character on and off the field.

TRACK AND FIELD RELEASES SCHEDULE FOR 2010 SEASON

As a staff we collectively want to run, jump and throw against the best in the country week in and week out to raise our program’s level to new heights.

Eric Campbell, Head Coach
FIU Women’s Track & Field Head Coach

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Florida International University’s 19th Annual MLK Commemorative Celebration Committee would like to thank all of its supporters and sponsors: GEICO, Baptist Health South Florida, University Credit Union, Barnes & Noble Bookellers, Aramark and many others!

Contact Information:
E: Africana@fiu.edu
T: 305-348-6860
W: Africana.fiu.edu

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Global athletes discuss experiences

**Earthquake hits home for FIU and national athletes**

**Micheal Marot**
Associated Press

Pierre Garcon waited for word as his mother frantically tried to reach relatives in Haiti.

"Three days before what is expected to be his first career playoff game, the Indianapolis Colts receiver was without his trademark smile.

"Aunts, uncles, nieces, nephews. We still have not heard much from them, and my mom is still trying to call them," Garcon said. "I'm keeping in contact with my mom. It's tough to get in touch with people down there because of the phone lines."

Garcon and other athletes of Haitian descent were devastated Wednesday by the powerful earthquake that struck the capital of Haiti, and that he has not been able to reach his father, but others are left unaccounted for.

"I can only imagine what people there are going through," he said. "It's really killing me right now. ... It's unthinkable. Imagine all the people just inside, and the building just collapses."

... It's really killing me right now..."

In addition to notable professional athletes who have endured hardship, a few FIU student-athletes have also been affected by the tragedy.

"That (Twitter) is how we got to the country for his grandmother's funeral, and he planned to return in April with his charitable organization, the Pierre Garcon Foundation."

But when the 7.0-magnitude quake struck Tuesday, devastating one of the world's poorest nations, Garcon changed the plan. Instead of waiting until spring, Garcon jumped onto his Twitter account and started asking fans for help.

"Two things are top 20, so this kind of thing doesn't happen..." It's killing me right now..."

"It's different," she said.

"I've wanted to come to the states for a while," James said. "I really liked the warm weather and the academics (FIU) offered. And being near the beach was a plus."

"I've made so many friends like Amy Jackson [from the women's soccer team who is also Australian] who made the transition much easier for me."

This season, Garcon was named Sun Belt Conference Co-Female Driver of the Week on Dec. 23, and has said that this season has been a turn in the right direction for the Golden Panthers.

"I know what's expected of me and I believe our team has improved as a whole, 100 percent," she stated. We are always pushing each other and the new members on the team have brought in a great attitude.

"There's always a different challenge and I love waking up here in Miami and facing those challenges," James said.
International athletes make impact for swimming and diving

JOEL DELGADO
Asst. Sports director

It has been a year of progress for the Golden Panthers, who have had to go up against tough opponents in addition to enduring frigid weather over the past two weeks. It’s been a year of growth, and that movement forward has been aided by some of the more experienced members of the team, some of whom have traveled a great distance and have had to adjust to a new lifestyle.

Baxter, an avid traveler, has been able to make the transition well as a new class of freshmen has come in, and she has been able to use her time here as a life experience that she will be able to fall back on in the future. Baxter is a linguist of sorts, with an ability to speak six languages, including French, English and Spanish. She hopes to become an ambassador for her home country one day.

“It’s been really hard work,” Baxter said.

“I was different for me and it was difficult,” Baxter said recalling her first season at FIU. “It’s a completely different attitude and atmosphere back home than it is here.”

Penny Baxter, a senior who transferred to FIU prior to the 2007-2008 season, has had an interesting experience as a Golden Panther. Originally hailing from Canada, the change of scenery increased the difficulty of making the adjustment to life in Miami.

“It’s different for me and it was difficult,” Baxter said recalling her first season at FIU. “It’s a completely different attitude and atmosphere back home than it is here.”

“I’m able to juggle many things at once, and that’ll help me later on when I have family and a career,” Baxter said.

Baxter is one of two Canadians on the team, the other being diver Namiko Shibata. Shibata, a sophomore, is having a breakout year this season, qualifying for NCAA Diving Zones with a score of 286.95 in the 3-meter springboard on Jan. 7. She was also named Zones with a score of 286.95 in the 3-meter springboard. Shibata, a sophomore, is having a breakout year this season, qualifying for NCAA Diving Zones with a score of 286.95 in the 3-meter springboard. Shibata, a sophomore, is having a breakout year this season, qualifying for NCAA Diving Zones with a score of 286.95 in the 3-meter springboard. Shibata, a sophomore, is having a breakout year this season, qualifying for NCAA Diving Zones with a score of 286.95 in the 3-meter springboard. Shibata, a sophomore, is having a breakout year this season, qualifying for NCAA Diving Zones with a score of 286.95 in the 3-meter springboard. Shibata, a sophomore, is having a breakout year this season, qualifying for NCAA Diving Zones with a score of 286.95 in the 3-meter springboard.

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