SPRING PRODUCTION KICK-OFF

ADRIANA RODRIGUEZ
Staff Writer

One week before the curtains go up on the Department of Theatre’s first Spring production, Sam Shephard’s A Lie of the Mind, the stage is abuzz with preparations being made. 

Racks full of costumes and props line the walls, while performers run through lines and the crew sets the blocking and scenery. After long hours of work, an assembly of cast and crew walk through the theater wing of the Herbert & Nicole Wertheim Performing Arts Center as they reach a point for a break. 

The cast has been on a fast-paced production schedule, with only three weeks to prepare rather than the usual six for previous performances. This reduced window of time is due in large part to the Youth Fair takeover that dominates the theater school’s side of Modesto Maidique Campus. Both Main Stage productions have to be done by March, shooting Lie straight into production at the start of 2010. Professor Wayne Robinson, the play’s director, said he did not want to rush the actor’s character development. He called on junior Lilly Paez, a theater student who was excelling in both her acting and directing classes, to help put the show together.

“We divided our rehearsals. She was able to work with actors while I worked with actors. We were sort of putting the show together – together,” Robinson said of Paez’s contributions.

With plenty of experience as a stage manager, Paez had already established a role as a public institution to be open

President addresses faculty at forum

MELISSA CACERES
Staff Writer

President Mark Rosenberg hosted the first open forum at FIU on Jan. 26, in which faculty, staff and administration were able to attend and ask questions on anything regarding the University and its progress since the beginning of his tenure in 2009.

In an e-mail sent out to all members of the community, Rosenberg invited everyone to the event which took place in the Graham Center Ballrooms. Faculty and students who could not be present were given the opportunity to view the forum live through the Internet, which included those located at the Biscayne Bay Campus and Pines Center.

The questions presented to Rosenberg ranged from how the commute to the Engineering Campus could be made safer for students despite current construction hazards, to how the Universities’s green initiatives might yield paperless evaluations.

“We are a public university and our mandate is to respond to public needs. Whether it’s being more responsive to questions, finding ways to facilitate enrollment, listening to concerns about PantherSoft; we have an obligation as a public institution to be open

Colleges of Law

Law themed exhibit displayed at college

MEENA RUPANI
Staff Writer

The “May it Please the Court” art exhibit by Xavier Cortada was unveiled on the second floor of the College of Law on Jan. 15 to the public and members of the faculty and staff. Cortada has a long-standing relationship with FIU and has artwork on display in the clinic on the first floor of the College of Law.

In addition, he has his work displayed at the Supreme Court of Florida, the White House, the World Bank and Miami City Hall to name a few, according to Cortada’s Web site.

Cortada explained why he chose to display this particular art exhibit at the College of Law instead of contacting a loan with another venue.

“I wanted the future lawyers of
Graham Center Jan. 13.

**Textbook prices, Pepsi discussed by Rosenberg**

He pointed out the major initiatives that FIU has taken, such as holding a teach-in, in which brought together experts from the University to discuss the future of the University. A candlelight vigil organized by various campus organizations.

“We’ve brought together all of the critical stakeholders of this community to develop a coordinated and coherent response to the view toward under-standing that it’s not how you begin the race, it’s how you end it,” said Rosenberg.

As professor [Richard] Olsen said at the teach-in, this is not a disaster, it is a catastrophe.

Touching upon a pressing subject for students throughout the beginning of the semester, the president addressed the high costs of class text books.

“We’re in a new era and we have to be more sensitive to the needs of all students,” Rosenberg urged the faculty to inform their students about the university to discuss the future of the University.

He acknowledged the University bookstore is offering a textbook rental program that offers around 50 titles to students. The pilot program is expected to expand throughout the years to include more books which the book buy-back program will begin to do as well. President Rosenberg urged the faculty to inform students about the University to discuss the future of the University.

“He symbolizes our need, not losing their perspective,” Moscoso said.

“We're in a new era and we have to be more sensitive to the needs of all students,” Rosenberg added.

Rosenberg, who understands that “It is a perfect way to mix education and international perspective,” said.

According to Cortada, “Other new initiatives were stated, such as the recent agreement contract with the Pepsi Bottling Co.; a deal that will last for the next five years and establish Pepsi as the University’s official beverage provider.

“On a semester by semester basis, our students are putting out on average from $500 to $800 for their textbooks,” Rosenberg said.

He acknowledged the University bookstore is offering a textbook rental program that offers around 50 titles to students. The pilot program is expected to expand throughout the years to include more books which the book buy-back program will begin to do as well. President Rosenberg urged the faculty to inform students about the University to discuss the future of the University.

“Touching upon a pressing subject for students throughout the beginning of the semester, the president addressed the high costs of class text books.

“I became pres- ident, I promised that we would have a forecourt funding offensive and I’m very proud of the fact that we have signed a new agreement with Pepsi that agreement will bring in millions of dollars,” he said.

“We have to be more sensitive to the needs of all students,” Rosenberg added.

Rosenberg, who understands the new initiative, said. “We have to be more sensitive to the needs of all students,” Rosenberg added.

Rosenberg, who understands the new initiative, said. “We have to be more sensitive to the needs of all students,” Rosenberg added.

Rosenberg, who understands the new initiative, said. “We have to be more sensitive to the needs of all students,” Rosenberg added.

Rosenberg, who understands the new initiative, said. “We have to be more sensitive to the needs of all students,” Rosenberg added.

Rosenberg, who understands the new initiative, said. “We have to be more sensitive to the needs of all students,” Rosenberg added.
Students at the School of Hospitality Management will be displaying their managerial skills and providing outside visitors with an upscale culinary experience.

SHM resumed its lunch series on Jan. 26. The luncheons will be held at BBC in the SHM dining classroom HM 129. The series will take place three times a week on Tuesday, Thursday and Friday and will run until April 9.

“This lunch series is an opportunity for students to test their management style and to serve the community and get outside exposure,” says Bamji Adil, SGC-BBC justice.

The menu will be different each week, and will consist of food from Italy, France and other areas. “Because seating is limited to 65 people, reservations have to be made in advance and are on a first-come, first-serve basis. The menu will be available a week in advance but is subject to change,” Qureshi said.

Qureshi said the idea of having a new lounge is a “big desire of the students.” According to Battle, the reason a lounge wasn’t built sooner is because there was “no space” for one.

“The idea is for students to access the lounge as they wish to study, chat and lounge,” said Olson. “We might ask students to present a Panther ID card for free use of paddles and no scheduling of the rooms will be required.”

Students will also be able to bring their own consoles and hook them up to the televisions in the game room, according to Dil.

The Women’s Center and Center for Leadership and Services will claim the new space east of the lounge.

Leadership and Services will claim the new office space because their current office is too small for their operations. Internship coordinator Kielia Samuels said she will be conducting surveys to find out what students would like to see in the lounge.

“We’re trying to have a real lounge atmosphere, so we don’t want to have any harsh ‘classroomy’ lights,” Dil said.

Dil said she has spoken to the architect about the noise level in the lounge becoming an issue.

“This lounge is a need and should have to go to [Modesto Maidique Campus] to hang out,” Greg Olson, senior director of the Wolfe Center and Student Affairs says having the lounge as they wish to study, chat and lounge is important. Olson insists that it is important for students to engage in leisurely activities.

“Half-empty or half-full?”

The old lounge was revenue-based, but it made no money, so it basically went bankrupt; it was supposed to be self-sufficient,” Zapata said.

John Morris, manager of the Teams Ropes Adventure Challenge, an FIU program that teaches students how to work in teams, also remembers those days of being able to have a place to simply relax. “I remember we had a game room when I was a freshman and it wasn’t a distraction for students; everything worked out fine,” Morris said.

Dil says the idea of having a new lounge built had been around since last year. Even though the plans are now being put into action, Battle says she has “no idea” about how much the new endeavor will cost or how much the old lounge’s operating hours. Zapata could not confirm the old lounge’s cost at press time.

Olson insists that it is important for students to engage in leisurely activities.

This lounge is a need and should be done in about four months. Students can’t study all the time and they shouldn’t have a chance to practice and perfect their dish a week prior to serving.” Qureshi said.

According to Qureshi, the lunch series is an opportunity for students to get hands-on experience at effectively managing an upscale restaurant,” said Mohammed Qureshi, SGC-BBC vice president, are pushing for the lounge to include a pool table, foosball table and comfortable moveable furniture like beanbag chairs.

Furthermore, at a Jan. 27 meeting, SGC-BBC vice president, are pushing for the lounge to include a pool table, foosball table and comfortable moveable furniture like beanbag chairs.

This lounge is a need and should be done in four months. Students can’t study all the time and they shouldn’t have a chance to practice and perfect their dish a week prior to serving.” Qureshi said.

According to Qureshi, the lunch series is an opportunity for students to get hands-on experience at effectively managing an upscale restaurant,” said Mohammed Qureshi, SGC-BBC justice.

Students...shouldn’t have to go to [Modesto Maidique Campus] to hang out.

Greg Olson, senior director of the Wolfe University Center.

This lounge is a need and should be done in about four months. Students can’t study all the time and they shouldn’t have a chance to practice and perfect their dish a week prior to serving.” Qureshi said.

According to Qureshi, the lunch series is an opportunity for students to get hands-on experience at effectively managing an upscale restaurant,” said Mohammed Qureshi, SGC-BBC justice.

Students...shouldn’t have to go to [Modesto Maidique Campus] to hang out.

Greg Olson, senior director of the Wolfe University Center.
Smoking ban correct direction for students

NEDA DHOMESHI Staff Writer

On my walks around campus, there is one scene I constantly see play out: students and faculty alike with a cigarette in hand. It is not the sight of a person smoking a cigarette that bothers me. What concerns me, like with so many people, are the negative effects smoking and second-hand smoke have on my health.

Recently, FIU approved a measure to become a “smoke-free” campus, creating restrictions on smoking throughout the university. The university is using “social enforcement” to try and break people’s addictions and uphold the new policy.

It’s move in the right direction and one that several schools have also adopted.

According to the Sun Sentinel, several Florida schools such as Florida Atlantic University in Boca Raton and Nova Southeastern University in Davie have also created restrictions for smoking within their universities.

“Choice to smoke is indeed a personal choice. It was a choice made by those who chose to light up, and one that they have to deal with. However, I think that it is unnecessary and unfortunate for innocent bystanders, such as myself, to be negatively harmed by secondhand smoke. Hence, I am fully supporting the new restrictions for health reasons.

My head and heart are set to be2ed for the future and to stop smoking as soon as possible. I am not going to allow my cigarettes to be a part of my daily life.

I am in no way suggesting that smokers should quit smoking simply because I consider it a bad habit. In the end it is their choice.

By allowing students to smoke throughout the campus and adhering simply to the old 20 foot restrictions, FIU had been placing its non-smoking students at risk. The new restrictions currently implemented are for the best. Some people argue about smokers rights. But what about simple facts that are common knowledge?

According to www.cancer.gov, “Second-hand smoke is responsible for an estimated 38,000 deaths among non-smokers each year. This negative exposure to smoke contains at least 60 cancer-causing agents such as formaldehyde, benzene, and nitrosamines as well as toxins such as nicotine and carbon dioxide.

In addition, figures from the state legislature reveal that over 78 people in the state of Florida die each day from tobacco-related illnesses. Of these figures, more than eight of these victims are nonsmokers. These illnesses and deaths should not be taken casually. The longer FIU withdraws a change in their policies regarding on campus smoking, the more preventable harm would have been exposed to their students.

Some complain about the new ban, which allows people to call in smokers who are violating the ban. Since smoking is a personal choice, you cannot eliminate it.

The original plan to curtail smoking asked for designated smoking areas, which is a great compromise.

By permitting smoking in certain areas, smokers still have the opportunity to take their cigarette break while other students will be able to walk around campus without the unfortunate exposure to second hand smoke.

Christopher Patton, an occasional smoker and junior international business and finance major said, “I don’t really mind the new restrictions. I understand if students dislike the smell and the negative effects. I should still able to smoke during my breaks at a designated spot.”

According to the American Nonsmokers Rights Foundation, about 365 colleges and universities have gone completely smoke-free. Sun Sentinel also reported that starting in July, smoking is completely prohibited at the University of Florida in Gainesville.

I think that by limiting the available smoking areas, FIU is respecting smokers’ choice and considerate to non-smokers.

Bible verses cross fine line between church and state

KELSEA JONES Contributing Writer

Biblical inscriptions emblazoned on combat rifle sights used by the U.S. military have incited critics to point out the layers of hypocrisy that not only involves the violation of church and state but common sense.

The combat sights, produced by military contractors, are designed to allow shooters to create light when aiming at targets in the dark and are currently used in Iraq and Afghanistan.

In fact, the inscriptions that appear in small, raised lettering at the end of the rifle-scopes contain scripture that alludes to verses of Christian Scripture on them, “For God, who said, ‘Let light shine out of darkness,’ made his light shine in our hearts to give us the light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Christ.”

If this act as a metaphor for the act that the biblical passage is now being attached to, essentially, the “light” that is shining out of darkness is a light that is one not of “the knowledge of the glory of God”, but one that is making the act of killing more precise.

There is no “light shining” in the shoot-er’s victim’s heart, but, instead, a bullet. Surely, this is not a kind, godly light that illuminates but a sort of death beam – the last light one might see before total darkness. This seems hardly Christian in its nature.

The whole notion of biblical inscription on machines that are designed not just to assist in killing, but make it almost perfect, seems wholly un-Christian; a religion that says “pray for those who persecute you” (Matthew 5:44).

Though the U.S. military has come under scrutiny from purchasing Trijicon combat rifle sights from because of the biblical inscriptions, the military claims that the scopes do not violate the anti-proselytizing law in place.

Trijicon has been supplying to the military since 1995. With this topic, it is less about the Trijicon Company for making such hypocr-critical machines. Rather, the greater ques-tion at hand is, why should the United States military be purchasing them.

Trijicon is a private company that picks up contracts to the army. They meet their specifications for design and price and do their jobs.

It is a matter of Capitalism 101 that says as long as there is a demand, business has a right to make and market whatever they want.

So if Trijicon is making combat scopes with verses of Christian Scripture on them, they have every right to sell them to private entities. Blackwater, maybe?

However, individual or private firms don’t have the same obligations toward religion as the state.

Whether the U.S. government should abandon its secular promise by allowing the chief consumer of these products is another issue.

As a government, the U.S. has the responsibility to hold up the integrity of the United States Constitution – a constitution that makes distinct in it’s very first amend-ment the separation of church and state.

Yet taxpayers money is being used to violate one of our core institutions and ideals. The concern with the Trijicon rifle-scopes begs the issue of whether the United States is loyal to the capitalist machine or the U.S. Constitution.

Furthermore, the U.S. military is not just partaking in supporting a blatantly non-sectarian business, but a Christian business.

And women hold on to their faith. Because in light of the horrors of war they’re witnessing, faith is often the only beauty they see. It’s the only thing that can cling to.

I do not attack those with deep faith. After all, there is no atheist in a foxhole. I attack the violation of the standards they are supposed to be fighting for.

Faith is a deeply personal experience, especially in any combat situation, which is why the U.S. military is myopic in its sole Christian support and further goes on to overstep ethical and constitutional bound-aries by explicitly promoting religion in a faction of government.

President of the Military Religious Freedom Foundation, Mikey Weinstein said of the Christian combat scopes, “I don’t have to wonder for a nanosecond how the American public would react if citations from the Koran were being inscribed onto these U.S. armed forces gun sights instead of New Testament citations.”

He also noted that the argument could be made on the part of the Taliban that Americans are Christian crusaders that are invading Muslim countries, with the combat scopes acting as the classic crusader’s shields adorned with a cross.

Though the war in Iraq and Afghanis-tan is not quite a crusade, the battlefield dynamic is oftentimes a place where men and women hold on to their faith. Because in light of the horrors of war they’re witnessing, faith is often the only beauty they see. It’s the only thing that can cling to.

I do not attack those with deep faith. After all, there is no atheist in a foxhole. I attack the violation of the standards they are supposed to be fighting for.

Faith is a deeply personal experience, especially in any combat situation, which is why the U.S. military is myopic in its sole Christian support and further goes on to overstep ethical and constitutional bound-aries by explicitly promoting religion in a faction of government.
Hands on Haiti reaches out to students

JANET CAREAGA
Staff Writer

There has been a spotlight on Haiti recently because of the catastrophic earthquake that occurred on Jan. 12. The organization on campus, Hands On Haiti, is doing its part to make a difference by hosting an event on Jan. 29 called “Positive Vibes.”

The Positive Vibes event will be a forum for students emotionally affected by the earthquake to talk about those memories and what they felt, or to just learn about the beauties of Haiti. Donations for Haiti will also be accepted at the event.

In the same way that it is relieving to remember good times with a loved one who passed, we believe this will lift people’s spirits,” said Marcia Darbouze, president of Hands On Haiti.

Unlike many of the other FIU organizations helping Haiti, Hands On Haiti’s mission is to make a difference by traveling there and forming resolutions that will foster last-ing progress. Darbouze and Hands on Haiti’s current vice president, Gina Balhazur, both came to FIU as transfer students and were looking for an organization that had an interest in traveling to Haiti.

“There were many community service organizations, but none with a focus on Haiti. There was also the Haitian Student Organization, but their focus was more on uniting the Haitian student body and celebrating the culture,” Darbouze said.

Hands on Haiti focuses primarily on health and environmental issues. They are looking to solve the core causes of those problems. For example, they are currently planning on carrying out programs that teach Haitian citizens basic life skills like preventing infectious diseases, CPR and dental hygiene.

The organization is currently planning a trip to Haiti in late summer to volunteer at a clinic in Jacmel, overseen by Service for Peace.

They are also working on becoming a part of the Alternative Breaks program to make Haiti an official site.

Guest lecturer speaks out on animal cruelty

LEONCIO ALVAREZ
Staff Writer

The Wertheim Conservatory became much more than a greenhouse Tuesday night as animal rights activist Gary Yourofsky gave a lecture about veganism and animal slaughtering that may have made some regret their Burger King lunch.

Yourofsky defines vegan as similar to vegetarian, but vegans also refrain from consuming milk, cheese, eggs, honey or any animal product whatsoever. They also don’t wear any animal skins.

For about 25 years, Yourofsky was not vegan. He described wearing leather clothing, like most people, and even fussed up owning a fur coat at one point. But something that has never changed for him has been his connection with animals.

“Animals are victims, the most oppressed ever,” Yourofsky said. “If you’re eating meat, you’re a victim.”

Yourofsky believes in that reconnection because he feels we were all once animal rights activists at some point – when we were kids.

“When we were young we used to be in awe of animals. They used to make us laugh, giggle and smile. They made us happy and there was a time when we would do just about anything to make them happy as well,” he said. “If somebody was mean to an animal in front of us we would scream and cry, and that’s because we all understood the difference between right and wrong.”

An extremely graphic video depicting animal cruelty at its peak at different slaughterhouses was then shown. Yourofsky asked the audience to not close their eyes during the video, as he put it, “If it’s not good enough for your eyes, why is it good enough for your stomach?”

According to Yourofsky, humans shouldn’t really be eating animals to the extent that we do. A main point he stressed was how humans are not actually carnivores, we are plant eaters.

“The length of our intestines is seven to 13 times the length of our torso, the same length as all herbivore animals,” Yourofsky said. “On real meat eaters, it’s only three to six times their torso. They have a short intestinal tract to push through animal proteins – like cholesterol, saturated fats, trans fatty acids – which is why it is impossible for them to digest their food.”

At first sight this man seemed a little crazy, but he started to make a lot of sense after a while.

“The No. 1 killer of humans who choose to eat meat, cheese and eggs is heart disease from clogged arteries,” Yourofsky said.

Just in case his words had been able to convince some people to change their eating habits, Yourofsky spoke about some foods available at supermarkets that are accepted by vegans.

“Lightlife has smart bacon made from soy. You fry it like bacon; it looks, smells and tastes just like real bacon. But guess what, not one pig had to suffer and die for this,” Yourofsky said. “Lightlife also has soy chicken and a full line of deli meats. Vegetarian Plus sells citrus spice rub cutlets which are fantastic and Gardenburger has meatloaf, chicken patties and veggie burgers. Nate’s even has meatballs!”

Yourofsky’s personal favorite right now is the arti-choke burger by Five Star Foods.

“If your local grocer doesn’t have these things, then speak up, it’s supply and demand. If they don’t know you want it how are they going to sell it?” Yourofsky said.
Fistfuls of Tech is divided into two sections this week. I wrote a “pre-game” before the Jan. 27 Apple press event and a “post-game,” which was written immediately after.

PRE-GAME

Every time an Apple event is on the horizon, I sit and wait with child-like excitement. However, this year Steve Jobs had a lot on the line. Apple’s rumored tablet is all but confirmed and needs to be nothing short of awesome to find a spot in the market.

Let’s face it, a market for a device that rests between an iPhone and a MacBook doesn’t exist, so this thing needs to do its own market, something only accomplished by the legendary iPod.

The tablet’s success, if ever released, will depend on a couple of factors. Price, content partnerships and technological feats are just a few of the points that will determine whether this is the next iPod (a good thing) or the next Apple TV (a bad thing).

So what are my predictions for this event? A new tablet and new version of the iPhone OS are almost a certainty. We might also see a possible end of AT&T’s exclusivity agreements over the iPhone, but I am not so sure about that.

Apple has wanted to get out of AT&T for a while and tap Verizon Wireless’ extensive customer base, which has been contemplating Google phones. Anyway, the show is about to start, we’ll see how it goes.

POST-GAME

All hail the glorious Apple iPad! Sort of. Steve Jobs finally announced the product after an extremely painful and frustrating wait. Jobs has a lot on the line. Apple’s disappointing iPad is a giant iPod Touch, that’s it.

When I first heard about the iPad, my first thoughts were about multitasking. I expected it to be a bionic device, with epically useful capabilities, and loads of worthwhile new content. Instead we got a giant iPod Touch.

The iPad’s eBook reading capabilities. Ultimately this feature is the iPad’s saving grace. Partnerships with prominent book publishers and newspapers will make this device a major competitor for the Amazon Kindle.

I can only imagine how much of an impact this will have on textbook sales, distribution and even design.

In the end, the iPad isn’t a massive departure from what we have already seen. As most tech analysts like to say over and over, it doesn’t “shift any paradigms.” It doesn’t offer a completely one thing or another.

Apple TV (a bad thing).

Fistfuls of Tech is a weekly tech column. Look for it every Friday.
FIU looks for redemption after last season’s sweep vs. Florida Atlantic

WOMEN’S, page 8

playing so many minutes, but I’m trying to do my best,” said Mansare. “I don’t want to mess up or make mistakes while I’m in the game but it’s not my decision to be in the game or on the bench so I’m just trying to do what [the coaches] tell me to do so that I can help my team.”

Mansare has averaged 5.0 points and 3.2 rebounds per game. Her most successful game so far was on Jan. 17 against Western Kentucky where she scored 10 points and dished out five assists.

Head coach Cindy Russo seems to be impressed by the young players, especially Mansare’s ability to contribute quickly.

“I’m really happy with [Mansare’s] development,” said Russo. “After missing games at the beginning of the season, for her to adjust so well is great. She plays good defense and she fits in well. She helps out and I couldn’t be happier.”

Although she’s happy with the play of her freshmen duo, Russo continues to be frustrated with the lengthy list of injuries the Golden Panthers have accumulated this season.

“We’re pretty beat up and it remains to be our biggest problem this season,” said Russo. “We have not played one game this year without having two of our major players injured. It’s discouraging and frustrating.”

The biggest loss this season for the Golden Panthers has been Rakia Rodgers. The sophomore, who has now missed eight games since spraining her MCL in her left knee, went down as the team’s leading scorer, and a time frame for her return is unknown, according to Russo and the team’s athletic trainer.

“She adds a dimension to our team that we don’t have right now and she’s irreplaceable,” Russo said. “Mansare agrees that Rodgers’ injury has been detrimental to the team.

“When Rakia went out it created a big hole in our team,” she said. “She’s so energetic on the court and pumps up everybody.”

Meanwhile, Marquita Adley is dealing with knee problems and will most likely not play against the Owls this weekend.

The forward, who averages 8.8 points and 9.0 rebounds per game, will be a significant loss for FIU’s front court.

“Adding to the list of injuries is Asia Wilson and Erin Knight. Wilson, a sophomore, has been dealing with a tweaked ankle and her status for Saturday’s game is unknown.Knight, on the other hand, was granted a medical redshirt after dealing with pain in her back and not playing this entire season as a freshman.

With the injuries lurking, Russo made it a clear point that the team must continue to play hard, especially against Florida Atlantic, a team that beat FIU twice last season.

“If we had all of our best players healthy and on the court at the same time, I think we would be a lot more successful,” she said. “The good thing about this year is that we’re going to get these injured players back next year. [Against FAU] we’ll have to handle pressure.”

Mansare agrees that Rodgers adds a dimension to our team that we don’t have right now and she’s irreplaceable,” Russo said. “We have to win,” Gary said. “We have to keep them out of the game.”

“We have to win,” Gary said. “We have to keep them out of the game.”

Golden Panthers look to continue rivalry success

MEN’S, page 8

strong 8-2 record at home.

“Having the crowd in the game will kill us,” Gary said. “We have to keep them out of the game.”

As FIU win would knock the Owls out of first place in the East Division and bump up Middle Tennessee, whom FIU defeated earlier this season.

A NEW TEAM

Last season the Golden Panthers beat the Owls both times they played last season.

First-year Head Coach Isiah Thomas brings new and notable players to the FAU matchup, including leading scorer Marvin Roberts.

FIU also features a couple of familiar faces in the line-up who have improved from last season.

Marlon Bright leads the Golden Panthers in field goal percentage this season with a 49.7 percent mark. “He’s a guy that can constantly give us 10 rebounds and 10 points,” Gary said. “He battles every night and pumps up every time we need him to.”

Bright is playing aggressive and efficient basketball this season while also leading his team in rebounds with 145 on the season.

OWL PRIDE

Starting guard Raymond Taylor is ranked first in the Sun Belt Conference in assists with 129 on the season.

Guards Greg Gantt and Taylor are neck and neck this season, both leading their team in scoring with 15 points per game.

FAU is first in the conference in blocked shots and turnover margin.

The Owls can also score from beyond the arc, which the Golden Panthers have struggled to play defense against all season.

They are third in the conference in three-point field goal percentage with 39 percent.

“We have to win,” Gary said. “We have to win the game will bring bragging rights for the rest of the season.”

The Beacon – Friday, January 29, 2010 www.fi usm.com
SPORTS

Golden Panthers gear up for ITA championship qualifiers

SPENCER MANLEY
Contributing Writer

No matter what happens, someone is going to take home their first loss of the season on Friday as FIU (2-0) will be going up against Southern Methodist University (4-0) in their first match of the ITA Indoor Qualifiers in Gainesville, Fla.

“We are going in against a tough competitor who has obviously done well in their past season,” said FIU coach Melissa Applebaum.

The SMU Mustangs, currently ranked No. 23 in the country, are coming off of a doubleheader in which they defeated Louisiana Tech and Texas State in the same day. SMU has won 20 of their 21 points through four matches.

This weekend will be the qualifier to the ITA Indoor Championships, to be held from Feb. 11-14.

“We are playing indoors so it’s a really different situation,” said Maria José Vallasciani. “You have to adapt.”

The No. 32 Panthers are accustomed to playing on their outdoor courts under the Miami skies, but they will have to adjust to hardwood floors in a gymnasium.

“It’s a little quicker than outside,” said Priscilla Castillo, a senior on the team.

If the Panthers defeat SMU, they will be facing either No. 24 Brigham Young University or No. 8 University of Florida. The Gators would be the highest ranked opponent the Golden Panthers have played since they lost to No. 6 Miami in the NCAAA Coral Gables Regional to end last season.

The Golden Panthers defeated Florida Atlantic and Troy at home to start the season, but will not return to FIU until they match up with Boston College on Feb. 3.

“Road swing is something the team hopes it emerges from successfully. It starts with SMU.”

Liset Brito looks to make a play in a match against Troy on Jan. 23 at FIU. The Golden Panthers are 2-0 on the season.

WOMEN’S BASKETBALL

Injuries continue to handicap team late in season

STEPHANIE GABRIEL
Asst. Sports Director

The FIU women’s basketball team has trusted a pair of freshmen to be frequent contributors in their first season as Golden Panthers. Carmen Miloglav and Finda Mansare were unable to play in the first nine games of the season due to eligibility issues, but they’ve since combined for 358 minutes in 11 games.

The young players will look to contribute largely once again when FIU faces Florida Atlantic on Jan. 30 at 5 p.m. in Boca Raton.

“I’m surprised that I’ve been WOMEN’S page 7

FIU VS. FAU

WOMEN’S

• Time: 5 p.m.
• Where: Saturday, Jan. 30
• Where: Florida Atlantic
• Broadcast: WRGP.org

[Momen]n Freshman Finda Mansare has provided a lift for the Golden Panthers, averaging 5 points and 3.2 rebounds over her 6 games. Marvin Roberts [right] continues to lead the men’s team in scoring.

MEN’S BASKETBALL

Resurgent Owls lead division coming into game

JOEY CRUZ
Staff Writer

In the mouth of the south, FIU travels to Boca Raton on Jan. 30 to play arch-rival Florida Atlantic University in the first of their two showdowns this season.

While FIU is looking up at the rest of the division with a 4-6 conference record, the Owls are leading the way with a 6-3 mark.

“Coach [Isiah] Thomas and I are from Chicago and we know all about rivalries,” said point guard Phil Gary Jr. “This matchup is like the White Sox vs. the Cubs.”

The Golden Panthers take on an impressive FAU team, who hold a MEN’S, page 7

FIU VS. FAU

MEN’S

• Time: 7 p.m.
• Where: Saturday, Jan. 30
• Where: Florida Atlantic
• Broadcast: WRGP.org

WOMEN’S page 7

FIU VS. FAU

WOMEN’S

• Time: 5 p.m.
• Where: Saturday, Jan. 30
• Where: Florida Atlantic
• Broadcast: WRGP.org

[Left] Freshman Finda Mansare has provided a lift for the Golden Panthers, averaging 5 points and 3.2 rebounds over her 6 games. Marvin Roberts [right] continues to lead the men’s team in scoring.