Search for permanent deans presses on

MELISSA CACERES  Staff Writer

Numerous dean positions continue to be sustained by temporary administrators, or interim deans, as separate committees responsible for selecting permanent deans continue their searches.

The current interim deans at the University include: Brian Schirrer (College of Architecture & the Arts), Marie McDermont (College of Education), John Remington (School of Hospitality and Tourism Management), and Pontious (College of Nursing and Health Sciences), Kevin O’Shea (University Graduate School) and Lesley Northup (Honors College).

“Right now we have more interim deans than the norm or what we would like,” said Douglas Wartzik, the University interim provost at an Academic Policy Committee meeting with the Board of Trustees.

“The searches are underway for a number of them and the search committees are being formed for others,” he added.

According to the status report, only the committees for the College of Education, College of Hospitality and Tourism Management, and College of Architecture are currently active in their search.

The College of Education committee plans on interviewing their third candidate on campus during Feb. 8-9, while the School of Hospitality had its first committee meeting on Feb. 1.

Both committees hope to hire a new dean by Aug. 1, 2010.

The College of Architecture committee will be resuming their meetings this semester and have a desired hiring date of Jan. 3, 2011.

“We’re researching about a couple of them because last year we didn’t find any candidates that met the standards that we were looking for,” Wartzik said at the meeting. “It is a concern given the number of people holding the positions with the title of ‘interim.’”

Specific committees are brought together to facilitate the selection, which consist of a dean from another school, a faculty senate representative, leaders from the community and University faculty as well as graduate students from the respective colleges.

Usually a search firm is hired, which has contacts to top candidates within the specific college or field of study.

Interviews with around three to four candidates occur on campus during two days. For each deanship search, the process of choosing one for the position takes around six to 12 months.

“The only thing that is comforting about it is that all the people who are holding the positions with that title are doing an excellent job,” Wartzik stated.

“So the mission and work of the University are going forward very well [through them] even though we are concerned about finalizing some of those dean positions.”

Master’s program opens doors for new career paths

LEABONY LIVINGSTON  Staff Writer

Finance and business students returning to school have a chance to participate in a new track.

The Risk Analysis and Management track, offered as part of the master’s in mathematical sciences program, offers students entry into a fast-growing financial field.

The program is the first of its kind to be offered in South Florida. Similar programs are only offered at Florida State University and nationally in other universities such as New York University and the University of Chicago.

Program Director Enrique Villamor, who is currently Spain doing research in risk analysis, began the planning for the program in 2004 and the first students started in Fall 2006.

“Since the use of mathematical models is central to the field, we thought it would be to the interest of our students to implement this [master’s] program;”

RISK, page 2

In an attempt to prevent students from being caught off-guard, FIU is redecorating its campuses with a plethora of QEP decorations.

The Quality Enhancement Plan is the centerpiece of FIU’s re-accreditation bid with the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools.

“This week, Global Learning for Global Citizenship posters, banners and other materials will be posted throughout the campus. I request your accommodation of these items being placed in your spaces,” said Interim Provost and Executive Vice President Douglas Wartzik in an e-mail to FIU faculty and staff.

The Office of Global Learning Initiatives will be placing banners, table tents, posters, door hangers, window stickers and front desk displays for offices, among others.

“We want to ensure [that] every single undergraduate knows that the QEP is Global Learning for Global Citizenship,” said Maria Cedeño, a graduate assistant for the Office of Global Learning Initiatives.

According to Cedeño, the Modesto Maidique Campus, Biscayne Bay Campus and Pembroke Pines Center will all have QEP displays.

“Even though students will hear about the QEP through various methods, having displays around campus is important because QEP needs to be top-of-mind for FIU students,” she added.

The reason the QEP needs to be “top-of-QEP,” page 2
Many students heard about the program through e-mail and word of mouth, which is the primary way the message is getting out. “Our marketing capabilities are very limited due to budget constraints, we practically have no budget for marketing,” Villamor said. Solange Kouemou has been teaching for the program since the beginning and now teaches Risk Analysis and Management 2. “The first year was successful, students are out working in their field,” Kouemou said. Although her class remains small with only about 15 students, Professor Kouemou says her prime goal is to have motivated students, even if the number is small. Richard Whittacker was a part of the first class to graduate. He is now teaching a Computer Programming Concepts component. This particular class features computing that the students can apply such as predicting the future prices of products. There are many jobs out there for these skills,” Whittacker said. Dayna Bishop, who already has a master’s in finance from FIU, decided to come back to school because she thought she could get a more technical background in finance. “The program will definitely help me in the job market. Employers will want someone with technical skills and who know how to sell,” Bishop said. Chris Reina, who completed his bachelor’s in finance from University of Miami, also “wanted a more technical background.” “I like the classes but they are challenging. It gives me a more technical idea of how to work in a program and industry,” he added. Villamor hopes for the program to continue and grow, “Hopefully one day offering a Ph.D. program in Risk Analysis and Management.” Alessandro Pintucci received his undergraduate degree in finance from University of Florida and joined the program to get a better understanding of financial pricing. “It is an exciting program, the only one of its kind in South Florida, and it will prepare me for my future career when I start my own investment firm,” Pintucci said. “I would like it if the program had more classes, in order to get more practice,” he added. “This program is needed on campus because it provides students with an opportunity to get well-paid and challenging jobs where they’ll have an opportunity to be creative,” Villamor said. “Our goal is to train our students to be creative thinkers within the field of financial engineering and risk analysis, to be out of the box thinkers; and provide them with the quantitative tools to be able to implement investment and management strategies that will give them an edge at the time they apply for employment.”

CORRECTIONS

In the Feb. 1 issue, the article on Page 3 regarding Antonio Downn’s retirement as a library assistant was incorrect. Downn retired from her position as library director. Also, a quote attributed to Senior Library Technical Assistant Marisa Browne was said by Downn. In the Feb. 5 issue, a photo on Page 3 credited to Tomas Lopez-Melis was actually taken by Luisa Ospina. The Beacon will gladly change any errors. Call our UP office at 305-348-2709 or BBC at 305-919-4722.

In the Feb. 10, 2010 / 6-9pm

The Frost Art Museum presents ArtWorks!, an exhibition devoted to healing arts. The ArtWorks! art therapy exhibition showcases students from Miami-Dade County Public Schools in the art therapy program and will also feature cancer patients participating in the Arts in Medicine Program sponsored by the Children’s Cancer Fund, an affiliate of The Jackson Memorial Foundation. On view The Fantastic World of José Gurvich; In Body and Soul: The Performance Art of María Teresa Hincapié and Women’s Work / Men’s Work: Labor and Gender in America.

All events are free and open to the public.

For a full list of events please visit http://thefrost.fiu.edu.

The Patricia & Phillip Frost Art Museum at Florida International University 10975 SW 17th Street | Miami, Florida 33199
http://thefrost.fiu.edu | 305.348.2890
Free and open to the public. Donations are appreciated.
Council discusses waiving replacement ID fee

Concerned about the student body, the Student Government Council senate at the Biscayne Bay Campus began working on a new goal to possibly eliminate student ID fees, on Feb. 8.

During this senate meeting Nickolay Chikishev, lower division senator and speaker pro tempore, discussed the development goal.

“The new goal is to eliminate the charge for student IDs,” he said during the meeting.

However, the idea was short-lived after members in the senate examined and identified a weakness, leading to a series of questions.

“Do you know how much money in revenue comes from the ID?” said Rafael Zapata, SGC-BBC advisor. “We should do that research and find out where that money is and where it goes.”

According to Chikishev, who made some “rough estimates” during the meeting, he calculated a total revenue of $80,000 per semester.

“If there are 8,000 students and each pays $10 per ID each semester then it would be a total of $80,000,” he said.

Honors College Senator Andrea Cruz agrees that the IDs may be overpriced after doing some “mental math.”

“If students attend the University for four years that would be eight semesters, then students would be paying $80 per ID,” she said. “The ID is not worth that.”

However, Lower Division Senator Zahra Arbabi asked to voice concern.

“If they don’t charge them that anymore then the money will be cut from somewhere. First we need to know what the money is going toward,” she said.

Similarly, according to Chikishev, students must pay $75 per semester for their parking decal.

“The reason every student must pay for the parking decal is because they use that money to upkeep and maintain the parking lot, therefore they need that money. So it’s not the cost of the decal that is the issue, it’s the matter of what it funds,” Zapata said.

As an alternative, Art and Sciences Senator Gregory Jean-Cruz agrees that the IDs may be overpriced after doing some “mental math.”

“If students attend the University for four years that would be eight semesters, then students would be paying $80 per ID,” she said. “The ID is not worth that.”

However, the idea still has not been finalized and the senate must still contact the appropriate faculty at the ID office.

HELPING HANDS

An area on the first floor of Academic II fills with donations from students, faculty and staff for Food for the Poor, Inc. collection for Haiti.

PHILIPPE BUTEAU

Staff Writer

Students dance to be funky, fresh, fly

The Student Programming Council of Biscayne Bay Campus hosted a party called “Free to be Funky, Fresh and Fly” on the night of Feb. 5.

The dance was free for students, but people who were not University students had to pay $3 for admittance.

Donations to Haiti were also accepted.

SPC hosted the event but they partnered with several other groups at BBC, according to Marie Wray, special events coordinator for SPC.

Those groups are the Black Student Union, Iota Phi Theta Fraternity Incorporated, Gamma Beta Chi, Black Female Development and Men Achieving Leadership Excellence and Success.

Wray planned the dance with the help of her co-sponsors, SPC executive board and advisor.

“Without all their help it wouldn’t have been a party,” Wray said.

This party is one of SPC’s opening events for their annual Pan-African Celebration events.

The Wolfe University Center Ballroom was the original venue for the festival but Wray said that because the lights of the room weren’t working properly, the venue was moved to Room 155.

Wray said that over 60 students attended and they did receive some donations for Haiti.

Some items were given away during the party: shutter shades (the glasses Kanye West wore during his “Stronger” video) and neon-rimmed glasses.

Front Runs Music group provided the music, according to Wray.

Richard Pierre, senior political science major, was DJ for most of the night as Polar Bear Pierre.

Robert Smith, senior construction management major, and his Gamma Beta Chi fraternity brothers did a fraternity dance for select songs throughout the night that had them going around the room doing synchronized dance moves.

Right when students seemed to be enjoying themselves the most, the party ended one hour earlier than planned.

“I feel the party went well, I just wish it lasted longer,” Wray said.

MUSIC MANIFESTS

“Do you know how much money is and where it goes.”

According to Chikishev, students must pay $75 per semester for their parking decal.

“The reason every student must pay for the parking decal is because they use that money to upkeep and maintain the parking lot, therefore they need that money. So it’s not the cost of the decal that is the issue, it’s the matter of what it funds.”

PHOTOS BY PHILIPPE BUTEAU/THE BEACON
Potential revisions in SGA voting may improve on last year's failures

This is the second of a two-part series, the first of which was published Feb. 8. In response to last year's voting failures, the Student Government Council at Modesto Maidique Campus is currently in the preliminary stages of revamping their elections process.

Christy Flores, the newly appointed elections commissioner, proposed several reforms in her speech to the SGC-MMC Senate in an effort to make the process smoother.

Among some of the changes proposed include extending valid campaigning hours and reevaluating the limit in the amount of flyers that can be posted on message boards around campus, among others.

If executed correctly, these changes can be positive.

Trimming the fat on campaigning regulations will allow the elections board to focus on regulating the elections themselves rather than on the petty squabbles generated by candidates looking for a minor edge.

Some of the changes proposed, however, are worrisome. One of the changes proposed is to allow absentee ballot voting for students who cannot make it out to the polls.

But, according to SGC-MMC advisor Jose Toscano, SGA is planning to hire votenet.com, a third party Internet voting firm. SGA has yet to release too many details regarding this partnership.

An absentee ballot is practically useless when students will be able to vote online, via a computer or mobile device. Even students studying abroad can vote. It does not require physical presence as in local or federal elections.

In fact, instituting an absentee ballot system could open up potential opportunities for voter fraud. Unless properly surveilled and managed, people could potentially request several ballots and vote for their favorite candidates using other student’s information.

The use of votenet.com is a response to voting failures at MMC during the 2009 elections. During the election process, the software used, available via Pantersoft, experienced several severe glitches that prevented students from voting online, SGA’s primary way of voting.

This glitch lead SGA to revert to paper ballots, and possibly the disenfranchisement of voters who were unaware of the changes.

Thousands of students were only allowed to vote for Presidential candidates and the ratification of a new constitution; senatorial candidates’ names went unavailing.

With seven weeks remaining until elections, switching to a new third party may cause confusion among voters, and is a hurdle that must be overcome.

But if switching to a third party voting system means that elections will be a smooth, trouble-free experience, then voter confusion might be a small price to pay.

For the past three years, the online elections were held on the PantherSoft system, known currently as fiu.org. In order to avoid a low voter turnout, Student Government must institute a massive informational campaign.

SGA needs to make an effort to advertise the changes in voting systems, emphasizing the system’s ease of use and availability. Students will be willing to participate in voting if it is easy and can be done on their smartphone while walking to class, this idea needs to form the core of SGA’s marketing strategy.

The Beacon feels that with a level-headed approach to reforming campaign rules and a successful implementation of a third-party online voting system for all students, this year’s elections could be an improvement over last year’s.

CABRALLIS
All FIU rules should be socially enforced

As you may have heard, this campus is now smoking anywhere on campus. While some have criticized the decision as nothing more than a publicity stunt, I must commend the one commend it, and I hope it leads to bans on other detrimental student conduct.

It is the first step on a wonderful journey toward halting bad student behavior through the miracle of social enforcement, also known as peer pressure.

For too long, peer pressure has been used as a tool by the worst elements of society, forcing young people to try narcotics, drink while under age, and listen to the music of Taylor Swift. In a historic effort, FIU has taken a bold step by harnessing peer pressure for the forces of good. The smoking ban has no enforcement mechanism other than students and faculty shaming others into not smoking.

Although lawmakers made the rule, everyday people will be left to enforce it. That aspect of the ban is truly a triumph of the American spirit. If there is one thing this country stands for, it is its people taking the law into their own hands.

Some have claimed that the ban is unnecessary, since pre-existing regulations stipulated that smokers could only indulge their habit 20 feet away from public buildings, a policy that, if enforced, would have protected non-smokers from the hazards of second-hand smoke. While that may be true, pre-existing rules would have to actually be enforced to work, and with all the budget cuts, FIU can’t very well go around enforcing every single rule.

It is far more responsible to have a symbolically powerful policy carried out by students and faculty that’s 100 percent free to the University.

Other critics have said that the ban is uncalled for because the general student population was never allowed to vote on it, and student government actually voted to suspend the rule temporarily. Yet, simply voting to actually be enforced a smoking ban.

These critics seem to miss a crucial point. Students’ opinions aren’t nearly as valid as those of the administration. You see, as students, we are all still learning and our innocent minds cannot fully comprehend the greatness of every University decision ameri-

I mean, who are we to demand a say in how our schools affairs are conducted? Hopefully the imposition of this ban will teach us students that our concerns and ideas are inherently illegitimate.

FAREED ISSA
Contributing Writer

After the deadly earthquake that shook Haiti, survivors of this small island have been obligated to bury dead bodies in mass graves. A rectangular empty hole 20 feet deep, 20 feet wide and 100 feet long is one of the mass graves in Haiti which awaits the dead.

The dump trucks that belong to the government are being filled with the victims of the earthquake, later to be dropped off in mass graves without the marking of names, or even pictures of the dead.

It is necessary but unfortunate that mass graves need to be used in order to bury the victims of the earthquake.

Along with everything else that has been stolen by the recent catastrophic earthquake, the people of Haiti have lost a dearth with the honor of burying their dead in proper caskets. Most of which were being buried are appalling.

Haiti, with roughly 10 million people, has experienced its most devastating earthquake in Haitian history.

The island of Haiti has gone through one of its worse natural disasters ever; now it is affecting the beliefs of many Haitians and causing them to bury their people in lands that are considered by most Haitians as cursed ground by most Haitians but is a way to get somewhat of a more proper goodbye to the victims.

Because of Haitians’ strong funeral beliefs, I feel that a day of remembrance would be a way to get somewhat of a more proper goodbye to the victims…

Haitians believe that, after a person dies, their spirit lives on as nothing more than a ghost of who they once were. It is said that this spirit is immobilized inside a multi-chambered tomb, that may cost more than the house in which the individual lived. In the people of Haiti find that the mass graves in which its victims are being buried are appalling.

“They bury you like a dog,” said Pegles Fleurigrie, 51, in an alleyway where he has built coffins for more than a decade, according to an article on MSNBC.com. “They don’t bury you in caskets.”

Because of Haitians’ strong funeral beliefs, I feel that a day of remembrance would be a way to get somewhat of a more proper goodbye to the victims of the earthquake. The government of Haiti should let the schools and colleges of memo-

But, according to SGC-MMC advisor Jose Toscano, SGA is planning to hire votenet.com, a third party Internet voting firm. SGA has yet to release too many details regarding this partnership.

meorial to mourn the victims of this deadly earthquake.

Although a day of remembrance to the victims won’t ever change the fact that thousands of Haitians were buried in the tradition, it will be a way to get something back from a disaster that took so much from Haiti and its people.
Sigma Phi Epsilon hosts charity block party
Funds to help spinal cord research

AMANDA BATCHELOR
Staff Writer

The gentlemen of Sigma Phi Epsilon are ready to have some fun and party this semester, but not without raising a little bit of money for a good cause. The Buoniconti Fund, the fundraising arm of The Miami Project, is based at the University of Miami Miller School of Medicine, is focused on spurring widespread understanding and providing information on safe sex and the dangers of not taking the necessary precautions.

Booths with games and sticker-wealthy operators lined the outskirts of the Graham Center Pit and crowds gathered to take part in the orgy of sex, knowledge and free pizza at this year’s Sex Carnival. The carnival focused on spreading awareness and providing information on safe sex and the dangers of not taking the necessary precautions.

Starting at the south end of the pit, carnival-goers were handed slips of paper with true or false questions on them and six adjacent spaces on the side for their stickers. Stickers (green or blue) were won at booths after you played a game, and then exchanged for prizes.

The Pan-African Committee took the role of stressing attention on AIDS awareness and prompted people to get themselves checked. Amid their Sex Jeopardy and Zucchini-on-a-Condon games, their efforts to raise awareness of sex issues came into view through the savvy operators who gave out fun facts and safety tips.

On Feb. 8 the University Health Services held a Sex Carnival in the Graham Center Pit. Using distorted goggles, students sift through colored condoms and won prizes for being the first to properly put it on a trek into the GC Pit.

"I went in to get some free condoms and pizza but I left having learned more than I thought I would," he said.

The organizations that came together and made the carnival possible also arranged many other events throughout this month and the next, all heralding the same mission of practicing a safe and self-aware sex life.

Participants in the SEXY’s - Hottest Award Show have the opportunity to win a Nintendo Wii and a game, and for the educationally oriented, there is the Sex n’ Ice Cream Talk Session happening on Feb. 10.

For more information on any of these events, visit the Health Care and Wellness Center next to the Public Safety Building at the Modesto Maidique Campus or the Wellness Center at Biscayne Bay Campus which is located in the former Children’s Center.

Funds to help spinal cord research
Sigma Phi Epsilon hosts charity block party
Funds to help spinal cord research

ADRIAN ESPINOSA
Contributing Writer

The Miami Project after Marc Buoniconti, helped found the Buoniconti Fund, the fundraising arm of The Miami Project.

"Queen of Hearts" in their philanthropy work.

After speaking with several brothers of Sigma Phi Epsilon, many of them say these two events are somewhat experimental for them, since both events are new for them this year and some are a little nervous about pulling it all off.

However, the odds seem to be in their favor since many fraternities and sororities hold pageants throughout the year for their philanthropy and generally make well over $2,000 for their charity. Since they will be raising money both at the pageant and at the block party, the skies are looking clear for them.

Plus, who can resist a good party in college, especially one with live music, food and dancing?

The event will start at 5 p.m. and go until 9 p.m. It is $10 entry into the block party, which may seem a little steep for college students but, remember folks, it is for a good cause.

The event will be held on Feb. 19 at the Modesto Maidique Campus in between the Gold and Blue garages. It is taking place exactly one week after Sigma Phi Epsilon’s first annual Queen of Hearts Pageant, where ticket sales will go to their philanthropy and generally make well over $2,000 for their charity.

The event will be the first annual SigEp Block Party.

“Queen of Hearts” in their philanthropy work.

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Having recently been stripped of his title as The Sorcerer Supreme, Doctor Strange finds himself in an extremely mundane setting. Starting off the story at a baseball game, he relaxes and just happens to stumble onto an attack on Earth by demons. Where the old Doctor would simply recite an incantation and wish the demons away, without his title of Sorcerer Supreme, he is much less powerful and must find a new way to defeat his enemies. What I hoped would be an extremely inventive mini-series that shows Strange dealing with his loss of power turns out to be a goofy fight with random demons. Toss in his new apprentice for “relatability to the fans” and you get an idea that Marvel doesn’t really know how to use their characters. Doctor Strange has been the most powerful guy on the mystical block for decades and he was always pridelful of his position.

This mini-series should focus less on him dealing with his new status and more on him fighting to get it back. The art is interesting, but a bit dodgy on the story-telling side. The comic is an exciting read with lots of action, and if you’re a newcomer to the world of Doctor Strange, it could serve as a good jumping on point. Older fans would simply be disappointed.

Some not-so-terrible Valentine’s Day ideas

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!

Day one

and we’re in this together

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Duo looks to return in time for closing stretch

WOMEN’S, page 8

been without their second leading rebounder for five straight games.

Freshman Finda Mansare and junior Maja Krajacic have been able to contribute in the front court, but it is Ashley who will provide the depth that Russo covets in time for the tournament.

“This time of year you either drop out or keep going,” Russo said. “We have a tough road ahead of us and these teams play hard.”

Heading into Wednesday’s game against South Alabama (13-11, 8-5), FIU (11-13, 6-7) will once again play with an injury stricken roster.

Russo, however, has confidence that her team can handle the pressure as they have all season long.

The team will also travel without the experience of senior Ashley Traugott who is dealing with the loss of her grandmother. Traugott has not played in five of the last six games, which Russo says is due to illness.

“These kids have been truly magnificent,” said Russo. “They’ve dealt with a lot of adversity. Most of our games we have played without three or four major players but I think they’re still hungry.”

FIU looks to close out strong

TRACK, page 8

second on the FIU freshman list, after last week’s solid performance.

Freshman Josh Castaldo also had a very strong showing in the weight throw, with a mark of 13.88.

Despite all the freshman success, junior Pedro Bigorra may have had the most impressive achievement all week.

His time of 1:53.66 in the men’s 800-meter was the fastest time ran in the SBC this season.

Next week the track and field team will travel to Grand Rapids, Mich. in a final attempt to prepare for the Sun Belt Conference championships later this month.
ON THEIR WAY
Streaking Panthers getting healthy

STEPHANIE GABRIEL
Asst. Sports Director

Having notched three wins in a row, FIU head coach Cindy Russo has a reason to feel that her team is improving late in the season. Russo has even more reason for optimism, as two key players in her rotation will return from injury to help the Golden Panthers down the stretch.

Senior Marquita Adley and sophomore Rakia Rodgers have both been riddled by injuries in the later part of this season, but are hoping to be healthy in time to help their team make some noise at the Sun Belt Conference tournament on March 6 in Hot Springs, Ark.

“We’ll look forward to the return of Rakia Rodgers and hopefully Marquita Adley soon. We hope to be even better [when they return],” said Russo. “We’ll be really strong and deep.”

Rodgers, who suffered a sprained MCL on Dec. 29, went out as the team’s leading scorer with 15.5 points per game and has missed 11 games.

According to Russo, Rodgers will be traveling with the team to Alabama this week, but will be unavailable when the team takes on conference opponent South Alabama on Feb. 10.

She will, however, most likely be able to play on Feb. 13 when they face Troy.

Meanwhile, Adley, who has been dealing with a shoulder injury, is being evaluated week to week according to Russo, and will not play against South Alabama or Troy.

Russo hopes to have Adley back before the end of the season which is coming up quickly with just five games remaining.

With the forward sitting out the next few weeks, the Golden Panthers will have two key players in her rotation back from injury to help the team.

Weather worries cause schedule reshuffling

SPENCER MANLEY
Contributing Writer

The major snowstorm that hit the Northeast last weekend even found a way to affect FIU.

The Golden Panthers were scheduled for a two-match weekend in Virginia, facing Virginia Commonwealth University (4-2) and William & Mary (3-3), but were forced to reschedule because of the weather.

The matches have since been rescheduled to Friday, Feb. 12 at 10 a.m. and Saturday, Feb. 13 at 3 p.m., rescheduled to Friday, Feb. 12 at 10 a.m. and Saturday, Feb. 13 at 3 p.m., rescheduled to Friday, Feb. 12 at 10 a.m.

The team would then play its first conference road game of the season when it visits South Alabama on Feb. 19.

FIU, 3-1 on the season, were ousted 4-0 by No. 8 University of Florida at the ITA Indoor National Qualifiers on Jan. 31.

The Golden Panthers were looking to bounce back from the humbling loss, but anxiety will continue to build as they must wait another week before getting back into action.

Both No. 31 FIU and No. 43 VCU went 1-1 at the ITA Indoor National Qualifiers held Jan. 29-31, where the Panthers handed Southern Methodist University a loss before falling to UF in straight sets.

VCU’s loss came from No. 1 Duke, 6-1, after beating Wake Forest 4-2 the day before.

On Feb. 13 FIU will be going up against No. 50 William & Mary, who also went (1-1) at the ITA Qualifiers and is on a two-match losing skid, most recently a 5-2 loss to Ohio State.

The Golden Panthers are 22-4 against teams ranked below 25th in the nation, dating back to last season.

FIU is in the midst of a road swing again as they must wait another week before they face Boston College on March 3, where they start a nine-match home stand.

Freshmen lead FIU to success at invitational

TOM DEAN
Staff Writer

For the second time in three weeks, the FIU track and field team went to New York.

This time, the Golden Panthers participated in the New Balance Invitational at the Armory Track and Field Center on Feb. 5 and shared success in a slew of events.

The highlight of the event was freshman Lakeshia Kelley beating out over 80 other entrants to secure a first place finish in the women’s 200-meter dash.

Kelley’s time of 24.84, just .37 seconds off of the freshman FIU record, ranks fourth in the Sun Belt Conference this season.

Freshman Dennison Long placed fifth in the men’s 200-meter dash with a 22.13 finish.

In the 60-meter dash, freshman Dennison Long broke the school record by clocking in with a time of 6.78 in the preliminaries before finishing at 6.88 in the finals to come in eighth.

The 4x200-meter relay team also had a record setting performance, breaking a record that had stood 17 years previously with a time of 1:36.05.

Freshman Tai Canady finished the 800-meter run in a time of 2:18.75.

The time ranks seventh in the conference this year.

Freshman Andrew Mattox, coming off his destruction of the FIU freshman record in the shot put, threw a 13.74, which ranks...