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Florida International University

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FIG innovator dead at 60

JOSEPH VALENS
News Director

Professor Jeffrey Knapp, 60, director for the Academy of the Art of Teaching at FIU passed away on Feb. 17 after a nine-year battle with cancer. Knapp began his 20-year tenure at the University as a composition professor in the English department. He went on to serve as the director for the First-Year Interest Group program and later became the director of the Academy for the Art of Teaching, according to his Miami Herald obituary. “He knew the value of sharing an intellectual experience with others,” said Dr. Lida T. Tuttle, associate dean for undergraduate education regarding Knapp’s work with FIGS. University Ombudsman Larry Lunsford noted Knapp’s dedication to not only teaching but also to learning. “[He] never stopped learning,” Lunsford said. Lunsford credited Knapp with the modernization of the FIG program 10 years ago, specifically the program’s textbook, adapting it for a new generation of students. Knapp was also the recipient of the University’s President’s Access and Equity Award in 2009, according to the College of Arts and Sciences Web site. He was this brilliant man who was funny and warm,” said Associate Director of Campus Life at the Biscayne Bay Campus Vicky Owles, “I don’t think he realized the impression he made on people.” Owles met Knapp when she joined the University in 2001 teaching first-year experience classes.

THE MIAMI PROJECT

David Del Cristo presents the six “sweethearts” candidates (three shown above) that are running to be the face of Sigma Phi Epsilon’s philanthropy The Miami Project, which benefits spinal cord injuries. The “Sig Ep Black Party” was held on Feb. 19, between the Gold and Blue Parking Garages.

SEO-BBC

Council ‘struggles’ with few members

MAUREEN NINO
Asst. News Director

The Student Government Council at Modesto Maidique Campus met its Feb. 18 deadline to accept campaign applications, but its Biscayne Bay Campus counterpart is lagging behind without an elections commissioner, elections committee and a senate that has not met quorum in two sessions. “Our elections commissioner [Whitney Dean] is no longer a member,” Sholom Neistein, SGC-BBC president announced at the Feb. 17 meeting. According to Neistein, Dean’s removal has caused a “terrible strain.” However, he did not specify the reasons for her dismissal, only citing it was due to her failure to meet certain technical requirements for Student Government Association.

“Technically, we had an elections chair all year and SGC-MMC did not have one until a month ago – but they have one when it counts,” said Rafael Zapata, assistant director of Campus Life and SGC-BBC advisor. “I think it is a timing issue and I wish we would have started the [elections] process a little earlier.” According to Zapata, a new elections commissioner will be appointed at Monday’s senate meeting. Based on the current elections

Interim dean named foundation chair-elect

MELISSA CACERES
Staff Writer

Marie McDemmond, interim dean of the College of Education has been appointed as chair-elect to the board of The Lumina Foundation.

The Lumina Foundation is a private foundation that serves to promote success in education beyond high school through the distribution of grants along with campaigns.

She will begin her three-year tenure in March of 2010.

“...As an African American woman, there is always room to be a ‘first,’” McDemmond said. “We know that education in higher education is the key to future growth. The United States...”

McDemmond, who has held the temporary dean position since June 30, 2009 and also holds the title of president emeritus of Norfolk University, has a history of administrative roles within numerous educational institutions.

At Florida Atlantic University, she served as vice president for finance as well as chief operating officer.

She has also assumed finance positions at Atlanta University, Emory University, University of Massachusetts Amherst, as well as the system of community colleges in Massachusetts.

“Marie’s extensive experience in higher education, from serving as president of a leading historically black university to her role in...”
Owls: University loses valuable member in Knapp

**KNAPP, page 1**

Owls added that Knapp wanted to take FIU to the next level in terms of services offered to students. A bigger problem for SGC-BBC has been the fact its senate has not met quorum during its most recent meetings.

“[We] lost the senate chair. [Nickolay Chikishev] took over when Tanya [Williams] resigned.”

Chikishev, SGC-BBC lower-division senator, was appointed as speaker of the senate in January. Furthermore, during the second Feb. 15 meeting, Chikishev pointed out the need for the dismissal of several senators.

“We removed five people,” Chikishev said. “[We] have to notify some people they are being dropped.”

According to Zapata, a lack of urgency is apparent.

However, Zapata believes that the workflow has not been disrupted since issues can also be discussed during Wednesday’s SGC-BBC meetings.

“I think [the senators think] they do not go on Monday they can always vote on [an issue] on Wednesday. I do not know if members in the内部 they cannot make meetings,” Zapata said. “But unfortunately, some of these senate meetings have been a waste of our time since we don’t have quorum. I don’t like that because it takes away the purpose of having senate meetings.”

According to Chikishev, to help alleviate the problem of not meeting quorum, the council has discussed promoting interns to paid senate positions.

Applications for candidacy during the Spring 2011 SGC-BBC elections will be sent out Feb. 23, and will be due March 9.

Candidates will also have to attend two information meetings on March 10 and 11.

Although these meetings are not mandatory, they are highly recommended.

“If the candidates cannot attend the meetings but get the information from the election chair, then that would count as getting the information,” Zapata said.

“As long they get the information from one of us, it is fine.”

SGC-BBC elections will take place on March 29 and 30.

Candidates will have two weeks to campaign.

**New chair aims to carry on objectives**

**DEAN, page 1**

As chief financial officer at several top colleges, will serve the Foundation exceptionally well,” said the Foundation’s Chairman John M. Mutz in a press release.

“Her great depth and knowledge of higher education issues will be of great value to her board leadership role as we strive to ensure that 60 percent of Americans hold high-quality college degrees and credentials by 2025.”

Throughout her career, she was appointed to the President’s Board of Advisors on historically black colleges and universities.

Both The American Association of State Colleges and Universities’ leadership lecture and Norfolk State’s research center were named after her.
AT THE BAY

BAY VISTA HOUSING

Students lament lack of campus dining options

MELODY REGALADO
Staff Writer

Biscayne Bay Campus student residents are hungry for more.

During the Bay Vista Housing forum held on Feb. 9, students expressed their frustrations with the lack of meal plans and the hours when dining facilities are open to BBC students.

Moderated by Modesto Maidique Campus student residents and commuters are able to purchase meal plans with a set number of meals per week at a fixed rate at the Fresh Food Company, which also includes Panther Bucks usable at dining locations on either campus. BBC students may use Panther Bucks but are not offered meal plans.

“One of the challenges with establishing a meal plan is that there is a necessary number of students needed to support it,” said Rosa Jones, vice president of student affairs. Jones said BBC has not had enough interested students when the option has been explored in the past.

The drastic differences that exist between the student populations of both campuses are also proportionate to their meal options.

MMC students have several dining options such as Burger King and Pollo Tropical in the Graham Center. Substantial dining options are found in locations elsewhere such as CI Breezeway Café, which is a convenience store in the University Park Towers Resident Hall that features Bene Pizzeria and a Boy's Head Deli, and Express Convenience Store inside of the Green Library.

Dining options at BBC are limited to Bleecker Street, Grille Works, and Moe's Southwest Grill.

“The University was considering placing a small food service within the [Biscayne Bay] library, similar to one recently added at MMC,” said Jones. Efforts for the mini mart in the Library are being led by Business Services. Jeff Krablin, assistant vice president of business services, could not be reached for comment.

Even so, students at BBC are looking for a stronger effort in expansion.

“I wish there was still a Subway there, but Moe’s has been my go-to place for my ten-hour Mondays,” said Jenni Hanlon, a junior public relations major. “And I think we should definitely have a Starbucks like South campus does.”

Jones also mentioned looking into expanding the hours dining is open. At MMC, some dining locations are open until midnight or on weekends.

However, the BBC locations are open Monday through Friday until 4 p.m., closing a bit earlier on Fridays at 3 p.m., and are not open on weekends.

This leaves students who have evening classes and Bay Vista residents on campus with no dining options after 4 p.m.

“I think we get the short end of the stick,” said Morales.

Students and scholars engage in deep discussions over dinner

STEVE VAYNSHTOK
Contributing Writer

Food, physics and a fervent atmosphere filled with fresh-faced students and seasoned alumni of FIU were present at Food 4 Talk. The event, sponsored by the Honors College and whose topic was “Celibacy and the Church” to John Bailly; students and scholars engage in deep discussions over dinner.

The event had begun casually with guests sitting down at a table to eat and converse with one another.

“I ended up at a table with Dr. Frederick Blevens, who received his Ph.D. from the University of Missouri and is currently a journalism professor at FIU. His topic was “The Media; They Know What They Know.”

Arousing conversation ensued complete with conspiracy theories surrounding 9/11 and the current state of media framing along with propaganda. Blevens continued to elaborate about the media and how branding is a product-inspired marketing technique to market the make of any product rather than the product itself. Once the conversation ended I had the chance to approach Blevens and get his opinion on this event.

“Independent labels are the new Mecca of the industry, that and giving music away for free,” said Blevens. “Extensive touring is all that and merchandising. Then again, no one wants to end up like KISS.”

Jack Parker, Ph.D. from the University of Berkeley also had positive remarks towards his discussion.

“It was great, very interesting questions,” said Parker. “We deviated from the topic a few times, getting into things like the music and arts programs at Berkley, but I managed to find my way back on the road less traveled: good old fashioned chemistry.”

After a night of rousing topics I was not the only person leaving with a smug grin on my face, and a few cool new words in my vocabulary. Many other faculty members and students left feeling just as accomplished as me.

“Students and scholars engage in deep discussions over dinner.”
DEAN WILLIAMS  Staff Writer

At the Senate meeting on Feb. 15, Student Government Association President Anthony Kondoa discussed topics that were noted during the last University Wide Council, including the possibility of a senate vote on the constitutional issues of both the Graduate Student Association and Panther Rage.

These two organizations are governing entities once again in SGA, and in certain niches: SGA for grad students and Panther Rage for liaisons between Athletics and the student body.

SGA has currently been attempting to configure its association to better meet the needs of students. Within the SGA’s annual estimated $120,000 (funded by activity fees paid by graduate and professional students), $20,000 is allocated towards the cost of administration and $50,000 is awarded to support planning research or attending conferences.

President Kondoa briefly mentioned that should SGA be dissolved, SGA would match funding or provide more funds through reallocation

The president and vice-president of Media Affairs of Panther Rage, the University’s spirit organization, made comments at the senate meeting in relation to the organizations possible dissolution. The president noted that Panther Rage has undergone significant restructuring towards boosting spirit support for athletics, the governing council’s primary function. It was also mentioned that the organization has experienced a steady decline in the allocations it received from SGA. Nevertheless, it has devised creative means through which to continue and maintain fund raising — including last year’s “Black Out Game,” where crowds were drawn by PantherRage to celebrate the acquisition of new jerseys.

Section III of the SGA constitution makes its mission as “to represent and promote the interests of the University’s current and prospective graduate and professional student community by sponsoring, running, and providing leadership, service and financial and social opportunities.”

Graduate students at FIU are indeed members of the University community, but they require their own sense of community within the University community.

Students seeking advanced degrees require an organization on campus, sensitive to graduate students to perform aforementioned tasks.

REPUBLICANS IN NEED OF SOLUTIONS
JOEL DELGADO  Staff Writer

The last time a Republican held a senate seat in Massachusetts, it was during the Richard Nixon administration. But all that changed Jan. 19 when Scott Brown shocked the nation by winning an election held to fill the vacancy left by the late Ted Kennedy.

It was a devastating blow for Democrats and it proved that the political landscape may be changing once again.

The question that remains is whether or not the GOP is ready to continue to effectively appeal to those voters looking for strong leaders that will listen to them.

It is no secret that the Republican Party has been facing a number of extraordinary crossroads.

This year will be very telling of where they are really going, if anything. Will the party return to its conservative roots or will it take a more moderate approach?

Will it change the way it does business or will it stay in the middle of the political spectrum?

There is one thing that is certain when talking about the Republican Party: it mised up. “At this point last year, people were saying the Republican Party was finished,” said Jonathan De La Torre, currently the president of College Republicans at FIU. “But now I think we are going to make a comeback. We’ve shaped up our act. If it happened in Massachusetts, a message to the White House, they are in trouble.”

The reason why Republicans lost in 2006 wasn’t because of their principles, but because the party turned its back on those principles.

The party must establish itself once again as a party of the middle, common-sense solutions; a party that is running on something bigger than just ideas and being the party of “No.”

Instead of dissolving these organizations, perhaps a temporary committee to conduct research and formulate solutions as to how both the GSA and Panther Rage can better equip themselves in achieving their proposed missions, and importantly, how both organizations can efficiently administer their budgets to weather these troublesome financial times.

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Del Toro brings *The Wolfman* to life in classic horror remake

**THE BEACON REVIEWS:**

JAMES RADZIEWICZ
Asst. Life! Editor

A look at the daily news is enough to make almost anyone apprehensive of life after college. The job market grows tougher and the availability of jobs diminishes.

Though these difficulties seem insurmountable, the FIU Women’s Center wishes to aid students with the drive and motivation to become leaders in industry.

Despite progressive action and development, women still face many obstacles in rising to leadership roles within their professions.

“Aces to information is the hardest,” said Zoeann Finzi-Smith, a graduate student in counseling psychology, and the graduate assistant for the Modesto Maidique Campus’ Women’s Center. “There are [opportunities] that women may not even know are out there. They need mentorship to get there.”

The center’s fourth annual Women Who Lead Conference will take place next month, with events planned for both campuses.

This series began several years ago, on a smaller scale, seeking to offer advice, information and direction. At the time, the conference had only one panel and session.

With strong community support, Women Who Lead will now feature two break-out sessions, more panels and opportunities for networking and volunteer work.

Discussion panels will be held with various women leaders from both the University and the local community.

Attendees will gain perspicuity from these events with topics such as “Developing My Leadership Plan” and “Breaking the Glass Ceiling.”

Joining the various women leaders, each conference will feature a leading woman of industry as a keynote speaker.

The Biscayne Bay Campus’ conference will feature Lani Kane-Hanan, the senior vice president of Feasability and Business Planning at the Marriott Vacation Club International.

A fellow University alumna, she received the ARDA Circle of Excellence Award winner, will be speaking at BBC’s conference, held on March 5.

Steve Johnston, directed by Joe Johnston, manages to be an entertaining and bloody tale while paying tribute to the original 1941 Lon Chaney Jr. film and other classic werewolf films.

In 1891, several villagers of Blackmoor, England have been found beheaded, dismembered and disemboweled. The surviving villagers believe this was caused by the arrival of gypsies in their town. Law and order come in the form of Scotland yard inspector Francis Aberline (Hugo Weaving), who believes that an incurable curse.

Lawrence has a very close encounter with a wolf. In the woods, he is reunited with his estranged father, Sir John Talbot (Oscar-winner Anthony Hopkins), who tells Lawrence that his brother’s ghastly and grim remains were found. In search of who (or what) killed his brother, Lawrence has a very close encounter with a wolf-like beast and becomes the tragic victim of an incurable curse.

The casting for *The Wolfman* is great, but the performances by Benicio Del Toro and Anthony Hopkins really bring some class to this gothic horror film. Del Toro reinvents the role played 70 years earlier by Lon Chaney Jr. by portraying Lawrence as the an expressive werewolf that does justice to the computer-generated. The CGI works great with the scenes that involve the wolfman, but there is some spotty CGI work when it comes to some animalistic actions.

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“The center’s fourth annual Women Who Lead Conference will take place next month, with events planned for both campuses.

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The acting ensemble’s weak link would be Emily Blunt, whose character becomes useless through most of the story and shares no chemistry with Del Toro. However, as the story reaches its climax, her character becomes more important as she is destined to be the only person who can end the curse.

Unlike London’s transformation scene, the transformation scenes here are completely computer-generated. The CGI works great with the scenes that involve the wolfman, but there is some spotty CGI work when it comes to composing other animals such as bears and deer.

*The Wolfman* is an entertaining 108-minute ride that is also a fitting tribute to the original 1941 film with strong performances from Del Toro and Hopkins adding a certain touch of class to this horror film.

*The Beacon does not accept any free goods or services in exchange for positive reviews.*
**RESIDENTIAL ROYALTY**

WHERE: GC Ballrooms
HOW MUCH: Free
WHEN: 6:30 - 9 p.m.

Kappa. Lecture by Peter Lavezzoli, composer and former director of FIU’s School of Music.

**INDIAN MUSIC**

WHEN: 6:30 - 8 p.m.

Presented by NSCS. Learn how to maximize your college experience.

**ROUTE 66 TOUR**

WHERE: GC Ballrooms
HOW MUCH: Free for students, $25 for other community members.
WHEN: 7 - 11 p.m.

Registration is required for attendance and can be completed at women.fiu.edu under the Women Who Lead tab.

The Women's Center is available for further questions or information by e-mail at women@fiu.edu, or by calling the MMC center at 305-348-1506, or the RCC center at (305) 899-3359.

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**JOIN OUR STAFF!**

The BEACON is always looking for talented and reliable individuals to join the staff. If you have an interest in writing, photography or even grammar, don’t be shy. Stop by one of our offices located in GC 210 and WUC 124.

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**MONDAY, FEB. 22**

**HIGHWAY TO SUCCESS ROUTE 66 TOUR**

* Presented by WUC. Learn how to maximize your college experience.
* WHEN: 6:30 - 8 p.m.
* HOW MUCH: Free
* WHERE: MNC Pavilion.
* Register at route66.cc

**THE SPIRITUALITY OF INDIAN MUSIC**

* Lecture by Peter Lavazzoli, presented by Theta Alpha Kappa.
* WHEN: 6:30 - 9 p.m.
* Registration at 6:15
* HOW MUCH: Free
* WHERE: GC Ballrooms (middles)

**TUESDAY, FEB. 23**

**TUESDAY TIMES ROUNDTABLE**

Discuss New York Times articles with fellow students.

WHEN: 12:10 p.m.
WHERE: GC 150

**NATIONAL PANCAKE DAY**

Event will be in Spanish with English interpretations. The guest speaker and FIU alumna will talk about the truth behind the Haitian earthquake.

WHEN: 7 a.m. - 6 p.m.
WHERE: GC 155, Porter Davis Game Room

**WOMEN'S BASKETBALL**

The Golden Panthers take on Middle Tennessee.

WHEN: 1 - 2 p.m. and 5 - 6 p.m.
WHERE: U.S. Century Bank Arena

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**WEDNESDAY, FEB. 24**

**FREDDIE KAUFLAM**

Lecture by distinguished composer and former director of FIU School of Music.

WHEN: 6:15 p.m.
WHERE: Patricia and Phillip Frost Art Museum

**ROSENBERG TOWNHALL MEETING**

Event will be in Spanish with English interpretations. The guest speaker and FIU alumna will talk about the truth behind the Haitian earthquake.

WHEN: 7 - 11 a.m.
WHERE: Patricia and Phillip Frost Art Museum

**WOMEN'S BASKETBALL**

The Golden Panthers take on Middle Tennessee.

WHEN: 7 p.m.
WHERE: U.S. Century Bank Arena

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**THURSDAY, FEB. 25**

**COMEDY SHOW**

SPC-OMN presents Ray Wood Jr.

**MEN'S BASKETBALL**

The Golden Panthers take on Middle Tennessee.

WHEN: 8 p.m.
WHERE: GC 150, Porter Davis Game Room

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**THIS WEEK ON CAMPUS**

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**WOMEN share their triumphs**

**WOMEN, page 5**

Association-sponsored conferences will be free for students. The lunch session with the leaders will cost $5. The entire conference will be $20 for FIU alumni and $25 for other community members. Registration is required for attendance and can be completed at women.fiu.edu under the Women Who Lead tab.

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**Legislative Agenda 2010: The Future of Public Education**

FIU Wertham Performing Arts Center, Modesto Maidique Campus, 11200 SW 8 Street
February 24, 2010
6 p.m.

**JOIN OUR STAFF!**

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BASKETBALL, page 8

"The returning guys are really happy to have beaten FIU twice this season," Royster said "Since last season and the season before that they had beaten us in all 4 of the games played."

The Golden Panthers (7-22, 4-12 SBC) couldnt say the same.

Otero had a monstrous double-down with a 15-point, 16-rebound performance, while Golden Panthers leading scorer Marvin Roberts was non-existent nearly the whole game while going a mere 3-of-6 from the field.

Tremayne Russell was the high man for FIU with 18 points, 4 assists, and 2 steals while also playing the second most minutes driving in two runs.

"We had to calm down," said Bermudez. "We were really anxious, we were hyped up. It took us five innings to find ourselves."

After a pitching change, Mike Martinez followed with a double down the third base line to even up the score at three apiece.

"We were really anxious, we were hyped up. It took us five innings to find ourselves," said Martinez. "Plus he had the hot hand at the end of the game."

The Golden Panthers shot 84 percent from the arc in the impressive first half. FIU knocked down six straight 3-point shots at one point during the period.

Stephon Weaver was a perfect 3-of-3 in the first half, while Phil Gary hit two threes to keep the Golden Panthers in the game.

This would soon change.

With the coming of the second half, the Panthers nearly disappeared from long range, shooting a paltry 1-of-4 in the half.

The Owls were able to capitalize on FIU’s mistakes by scoring 16 points off turnovers, including a few easy layups in transition action.

With 13 seconds left in the game, the Panthers were down by a single point when Russell applied tremendous defensive pressure to FAU guard Alex Tucker, who lost the ball rolling off his shoe out of bounds.

"It's all about effort," Russell said "Defense or offense, you can ask any coach it's all about making that extra effort."

The Owls had no issue applying effort to their repertoire as well, however, especially on the last play.

"I kind of knew he was getting the ball (Otero)," Royster said "the timeout before that play the team and I had told ourselves that whatever happened, we wouldn't let any of their players score and they didn't."

FIU 11, MARYLAND 2

The Golden Panthers picked up where they left off with more offensive power and a cluster of great defensive plays, cruising past Maryland in convincing fashion in the second game of the weekend series on Feb. 20.

Jabari Henry made a first impression on defense, throwing out a Terrapin base runner to end the top of the second and keeping Maryland off the scoreboard.

Henry then proceeded to impress the FIU faithful in the bottom of the second, sending a pitch soaring deep into left field that found its way past the scoreboard and into the FIU soccer field for a three-run homerun in his first collegiate at bat.

"I was thinking last night 'What if I hit a homerun?' and I actually did," said a smiling Jabari Henry. "I was just trying to hit the ball that far here. He put one right there and I drove it."

Corey Poliziano (1-0) took the mound for the FIU, letting up one run on seven hits in six innings of work. Poliziano ran into trouble in the top half of the third, letting up a run after giving up two singles and committing a throwing error while fielding a bunt to first. But an unassisted double play by Junior Arroyo and a diving catch and throw by third baseman Garrett Wintels bailed the senior southpaw out of a jam.

"That was big because they could have had a big inning," Poliziano said.

Tim Joe made Maryland starter Eric Potter pay for the price leaving an off-speed pitch hanging, sending a line drive shot over the left field wall for a two-run homerun in the bottom of the third.

The rest of the game was smooth sailing for FIU as they tacked on a few more runs and rode on solid pitching from the bullpen to win their second straight game.

base runner to end the top of the second and keeping Maryland off the scoreboard.

Berkowitz delivers in relief, Henry shines in debut

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Discovery for the Day...
MOWING MARYLAND

Team scoring binge fuels wins

JOEL DELGADO
Asst. Sports Director

FIU guaranteed themselves a series victory over Maryland with a pair of wins to open up the season.

FIU 10, MARYLAND 3

Declining temperatures and a nonproductive offense kept the fans gathered at University Park Stadium quiet for most of the first five innings of play Friday night.

But offensive outbursts in the latter half of the season opener brought the crowd to life as the Golden Panthers rolled to a 10-3 victory over visiting Maryland on Feb. 19.

FIU (1-0) starting pitcher Scott Rembisz (1-0) had a shaky start but settled down and earned his first win of the season, pitching five innings and allowing three runs while picking up five strikeouts.

The Golden Panthers dug themselves into an early hole as Rembisz gave up three runs in a tumultuous second inning. Rembisz settled down and managed to hold the Terrapin offense at bay.

But Maryland starter Brett Harmon continued to silence FIU batters.

“He was throwing real good,” FIU head coach Turtle Thomas said of Harmon’s performance in the early innings. “We didn’t really do what we think we were capable of doing, which is hitting that ball the other way and we didn’t really adjust early on.”

The Panther offense came to life in the bottom of the fifth when Pablo Bermudez, who got injured in last season’s opening game, slapped a single to right field, slapping a single to right field with the bases loaded.

RODRIGO ZAMITH/THE BEACON

MEN’S BASKETBALL: FAU 77, FIU 74

Golden Panthers fall to season sweep of Owls

JOEY CRUZ
Staff Writer

With 14.5 seconds left in the game, FAU (14-12, 10-5 Sun Belt) center Brett Royster was already in the midst of one the best performances of his career.

Royster wasn’t done however, as he cemented a 77-74 FAU win and a season sweep against FIU by blocking J.C. Otero on the final possession to seal the victory on Feb. 18.

“IT was a great Block,” FIU head coach Isiah Thomas said. “J.C. was aggressive taking the ball to the basket and just got blocked, that’s basketball.”

The South Florida rivalry included good shooting percentages from both teams, as the two shot 50 percent from the floor in a close game, but it was Royster’s block that made the difference late.

“We could do 9 out of 10 things right, but the tenth wrong thing ends up causing us a basket in transition,” Thomas said.

The FAU center had a whopping 10 points, 14 rebounds and 4 blocks throughout the game. The Owls also used contributions from Sanchez Hughtley, who had 19 points in the contest, and Ray Taylor, who scored 17 points and notched 6 assists in the game.

BASKETBALL, page 7

SOFTBALL

Welch walk off heroics highlight early win streak

STEPHANIE GABRIEL
Asst. Sports Director

The FIU offense exploded with 21 hits against Bethune-Cookman, while senior Paige Cassidy held down the defense with a complete game that included five strikeouts on Feb. 19.

Alfonso led the Panther attack going 4-for-5 at the plate with three RBI.

“I was an off win,” FIU’s pair of runs was plated in the top of the first inning. Kayvia Burri drew a walk and then advanced to second on a wild pitched. Alfonso then singled and a throwing error allowed Burri to score.

Ashley McClain and freshman Brie Rojas both recorded singles later in the inning to bring home Alfonso and give FIU a 2-0 advantage.

FIU 3, BCU 2

Tied at two in the bottom of the seventh inning, the Wildcats could have pitched to Rojas.

Instead, they intentionally walked the freshman to pitch to Welch, who is FIU’s most clutch hitter, according to McClendon.

In the end, Bethune-Cookman watched the Panthers rejoice to a walk-off win.