Expert panel speaks on Haiti

GABRIEL ARRARAS
Asst. News Director

Approaches to Haiti relief and reconstruction were discussed by a number of experts during FIU’s second ever teach-in on March 6.

Teach-ins were popularized in the 1960s to provoke action on behalf of civil rights, as well as to protest the U.S. government’s involvement in Vietnam.

The first panel at the teach-in covered all sides of the spectrum, putting forth the numerous issues Haitians are facing today and setting realistic goals to solve them.

“I left Haiti two days before the earthquake. I left Haiti on a very optimistic and positive note. Everyone thought 2010 was going to be a good year,” said Robert Maguire, associate professor of international affairs in the College of Arts and Sciences at Trinity University in Washington D.C., who was the first panel member to speak.

“Perhaps, in the aftermath of this tragedy it would give us an opportunity to help Haiti to address some dilemmas that in my view have cast the country into perpetual poverty and inequality, undermining instability,dependence and underdevelop-

HOME OF THE ‘SKEETERS’

Sophomore Myrlin Verdélus (right) and Alano van Der Vart (left) capture and measure mosquito fish in the lakes around campus for ecology lab. The results could reveal how well the ecology of the lakes are balancing.

Recycling encourages ‘friendly competition’

RecycleMania has hit FIU. In 2009, FIU participated as a bench- mark school by sending in their recycle reports but they were not in the competition. As FIU’s first year competing they are making a name for themselves.

“RecycleMania is a friendly competition and benchmarking tool for college and university recycling programs to promote waste reduction activities to their campus communities,” according to the RecycleMania Web site.

Participation in RecycleM- ania is just one of the activities the University is involved in to meet the commitment of the American College and University President Climate Commitment signed by past Univer- sity President Modesto Maidique.

“The ACUPCC provides a framework and support for America’s colleges and universities to implement comprehensive plans in pursuit of climate neutrality,” according to the ACUPCC mission statement on their Web site.

Amanda Ghetia, senior director of University Custodial Services, who sends her the amount of recycled material collected as well as the amount of trash in comparison.

Although the competition is near its end, new buildings such as the College of Nursing, are being built with certain standards in an effort to make FIU a greener campus. FIU abides by Leadership in Environ- ment and Energy Baseline, a set of standards that have to meet energy conservation.

Dutton also plans for next year’s RecycleMania competition. Her anticipated plans include a kick- off and more detailed information on the competition going on and some do not think it is enough.

“Recycling is a noble effort, but it can’t stop there. There is a culture of gross waste and indulgence that must first be addressed, as it is the root cause,” said Daniel Teeter, senior majoring in religious studies.

Dutton hopes to use the results of the competition as an educational tool.

“Competing will definitely spring students into action,” Dutton said. Some students share Dutton’s enthusiasm.

“I’m really interested in the Going Green projects and it is a good way to get students involved. I would like to see how far FIU takes this,” said Amanda Ghetia, senior majoring in public relations and communications.

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**Board clears Molina to file with new VP**

SAG, page 1

"individuals running for president and vice-president will pair up and be on one ballot." It further states that both candidates must register together in order to run.

Packets are certified with two people, if one drops, it pulls the entire thing," said SGC MMC Advisor Jose Toscano Monday afternoon, prior to the decision.

Flories based her decision on a new provison in the elections code which states that the elections commissioner is able to make ad-hoc edims and decisions on the race, and only apply to that particular race.

According to Molina, he has always been a fully qualified candidate, meeting all of the criteria that the elections code said he needed to have. His grades were in order, his packet was submitted on time and complete, and his running mate was稳定.

It was only a week after the candidate applications were due when Molina’s running mate withdrew from the race.

He withdrew his application on Feb. 25 which was exactly a week after," Molina said. "That same day, I met with Toscano … and that’s when I was told ‘you can’t run anymore.’"

Molina then approached University administration officials with his case including Director of Campus Life Eric Ameson, Vice-President of Student Affairs Ros Jones and Interim Provost Douglas Wartack. In section 7.13, the elections code lists violations that would result in a candidate’s disqualification. Destroying personal, private or Univer-

Molina added that he, after counsel from administration members, filed a grievance with SGC MMC Judiciary, the first step in the appeals process. That option, Molina claims, was discredited to him in conversations with Toscano.

Molina’s full reinstatement is still pending both the reinstatement of his candidacy applica-

Initially the idea of an exception was disallowed. When asked why the race was uncontested, Flores stated in an interview with Student Media Friday evening that Molina and Proenza "withdrew" from the race to "pursue other endeavors."

"It is not true that I resigned, having her say that is unbelievable," Molina said.

The elections code includes a measure which allows the board the flexibility to create ad-hoc rules for such cases. According to section 7.03, subsection 3, the elections board has the power to “establish temporary, supplemental guidelines for the duration of the current election only.”

Flories initially said that the elections board could decide in Molina’s favor, fixing the situ-

Molina then approached University administration officials with his case including Director of Campus Life Eric Ameson, Vice-President of Student Affairs Ros Jones and Interim Provost Douglas Wartack. In section 7.13, the elections code lists violations that would result in a candidate’s disqualification. Destroying personal, private or University property and attempting or succeeding in voter fraud are two of the sixteen reasons a candidate can be disqualified. This particular case is not listed as one of them.

Had Molina been unsuccessful in his attempts to be reinstated, the election would have been the second-competitive uncontested SGC MMC presidential election, and the fourth in five years.

In his speech, Maguire outlined several ways to better Haiti.
**Council discusses senior senator title**

**MAUREEN NINO**  
Asst. News Director

Hoping to increase participation among senators in the Student Government Council at Biscayne Bay Campus, members deliberated on adding a new position during the March 8 senate meeting.

Nickolay Chikishev, SGC-BBC speaker of the senate and lower division senator, informed the council about possible provisional changes in SGA’s constitution to create the new title of senior senator.

“We want to add a provision that says that if you are in the senate for more than one year (two semesters) your title will become senior senator,” he said. “People sometimes want that recognition to show that you have been loyal to the organization.”

The senior senator will be responsible for his/her personal SGA duties and must also provide leadership and knowledge to new senators on the council.

According to Andrea Cruz, SGC-BBC Honors College senator, this model would emulate the United States government.

“Someone working for a year will have more experience,” she said. “Instead of an increase in salary there may be a bonus at the end of the year.”

A job for a babysitter.”

According to Chikishev, senior senators will be worthwhile investments which may amount to $15 a year per senator with a total of four to five senior senators per term.

“Two appropriations were also unanimously approved by the senate, including a charitable event created by Mawon Francois, SGC-BBC clerk of council and an Honors College conference.

The Haiti Relief Program is a charitable event requesting $375.15 toward purchase of 1,800 Haiti Relief pins that will be provided to donors.

The council also approved funding for the Honors College news literacy conference which was originally tabled on March 1 and once again on March 3 during SGA’s meeting.

According to Arbahi aski the original request of $3,500 was reduced to $2,782 since several students who were scheduled to attend the conference withdrew from the event, concerned that SGA would not reimburse them for the trip.

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“This is a little different from when they first proposed because several students backed out since there was no guarantee SGA would pay them,” she said.

The group of four students and the monitoring Professor Fred Blevens were appropriated a total of $1,950 to pay for their travel expenses instead of the original proposed allocation of $1,112.

**Ex-convict acts as mentor to troubled Florida youth**

**BRIDGET MURPHY**  
AP Writer

Sylvester Black was a hustler who bounced in and out of jail, with Jacksonville police catching drift of his game and booking him into the Duval County jail — 27 times since he turned 18.

“It was like a game of basketball,” he says. “Out of bounds, in bounds, out of bounds, in bounds.”

But life has tipped in his direction these days. People call him Mr. Black. He totes a briefcase and wears an employee ID tag from the Public Defender’s Office.

Weekend visits are part of Black’s part-time job — 10-to-12-hour days — that also includes standing up for teen clients in court and fielding their phone calls at any hour of the day or night.

On a recent Saturday morning, Black arrived at the West 25th Street apartment of Brian Hughes’ family. The 52-year-old was ready with a pep talk he prayed would help change the 16-year-old’s path.

He knocked at their door as a man grasping a weapon arrest sent him back to jail in 2007.

It is this life he wants to spare Brian Hughes and young men like him.

“I see me in a lot of these kids,” Black says.

In November, police busted Hughes on cocaine charges. A judge put him on detention as the case worked its way through the justice system. Maria Hughes Harris, his 41-year-old mother tried to understand why a son would mimic a father’s mistakes.

“I guess because it wasn’t like we had what we had,” she says. “I guess he saw the struggles of his mother,” she says.

“What is it, we’re all going to make mistakes in life,” Black tells Brian “…But we stand up and knock that dust off…” It’s not about this neighborhood. It’s about the individuals in this neighborhood. If we do good, then the good will come,” Black says. “You feel me?”

The mentor soon leaves the apartment feeling a step closer to a mission he often explains like this: “I’m gonna save me a kid. I’m gonna save me a kid if it cost me.”

By 21, Black landed his first prison stint on a burglary charge. In the next two decades he’d do multiple stints, usually for the same offense or probation violations. He got out in 2003, but a weapon arrest sent him back to jail in 2007.

For about a year, he says he slept on a bed of cardboard near City Rescue Mission. One day, he finally went inside.

“It was like the spirit was telling me ‘You weren’t born to live like you’re living, it’s your choice.’”

Black was finishing a 16-week juvenile class at Clara White Mission when C.C. Newby asked if any of her students would give testimony at the charity’s fundraiser.

When Black spoke to the fundraiser’s pearls-and-cufflink crowd, many teared up when he told of his pride about finally finishing something in his life besides a prison sentence.

“He said, ‘Even if I could help one person,’” Clara White CEO Jo/Coby Pittman said. “His story, all the things he’d been through. He said the right thing at the right time.”

It wasn’t long before Black had his own employee ID.

Courtroom 2 at the Duval County Court-house is packed on a Wednesday morning. Judge James Daniel is on the bench, overseeing arraignments and hearings for juveniles.

The judge calls Brian Hughes’ case next.

The lawyers talk before the judge seals a guilty plea deal with a probation sentence.

“Where others don’t learn from their mistakes, he run,” Brian’s mother tells the judge. “…I think Mr. Black for being a mentor … It took that help to get him to the point where he is now.”

Then there is a warning, with the judge telling Brian he doesn’t want to see him again.
Haiti needs an interim reconstruction authority

ROMNEY MANNASSA
Staff Writer

The devastation wrought on Haiti since the Jan. 12 earthquake is unprecedented in the Western Hemisphere. The country’s largest city, Port-au-Prince, was obliterated, along with Haiti’s main governmental, religious and cultural institutions. The human loss, estimated at around 250,000 deaths, would have been enough without the collapse of the nation’s government and economic center. Political and economic leadership are, after all, what is most crucial for recovery.

Unfortunately, good government and a healthy economy were already lacking in Haiti long before the earthquake. The poverty gap, which was among the highest in the hemisphere; infrastructure was destitute; social services were lacking; and government corruption was rampant.

Most buildings in the country were deemed unsafe even before the earthquake reduced them to rubble. What made the tragedy most horrific was that a powerful earthquake struck a country least able to sustain itself.

It is only through the raw courage and perseverance of the Haitian population that anarchy and madness didn’t set in, as some had predicted. However potent it may be, human audacity alone will not restore Haiti. Simply put, Haiti needs money, coordination and good leadership to rebuild a country practically from scratch.

But at what cost can this be achieved in Haiti today, when the country is just as poor now as it was before. What remains of its ineffectual and widely distrusted government cannot adequately manage a country on its own.

The country has also a history of military intervention and foreign meddling, including years of de facto occupation by the U.S. Needless to say, a combination of outside interference and aid dependence has made Haitians understandably wary of further entrenching themselves into the international community.

At the same time, distrust in a government with a history of corruption and mismanagement remains high, although reports have claimed that President Rene Preval remains relatively popular.

Either way, a middle way will need to be found in which Haiti can receive the international aid it so badly needs without being left too dependent. Time is running short, as both global attention and the aid that comes with it starts to turn away.

GSA is deserving of an adequate governing council

CHARLES HECK
Special to The Beacon

Will getting rid of the Grad- uate Student Association benefit graduate students and FIU? This is the question I find myself asking after I learned on Monday that the number of graduate representatives in the Student Government Association was linked to the dissolution of the Graduate Student Association.

The most disturbing aspect of this proposal was that they were largely initiated without the knowledge or consent of the graduate students whose futures they so directly impact.

As is often the case when constituents are not properly advised of broad sweeping changes to their representation, this development alarmed many graduate student leaders, including GSA President Sve- lana Tyutina. After numerous e-mails from concerned graduate students, SGA President Anthony Rionda outlined proposals in the March 1 meeting that included an increase in funding to GSA and more seats on SGA. How a defunct GSA will retain funding remains a mystery.

Rionda also announced a town hall meeting after complaints about the absence of a public relations campaign or town hall meeting for informing the public.

Scheduling a town hall on the Friday before spring break will ensure maximum attendance, I am sure.

This kind of top down governing style is not very democratic. Without GSA I have a hard time imagining the future proposals will be delivered to graduate students, other than after the fact notifications of SGA governing council decrees.

The existence of an institution so impart- tant to FIU as a research institution, FIU is evaluated against other major research institutions according to its placement of graduate students in the positions of employment. GSA provides graduate students an opportunity to network with other FIU students as well as for professional conferences where graduate students will eventually present their original research.

Conferences are a great place to network with future employers and enable graduate students to stay current in their respective fields.

Such presentations are an integral part of gaining employment in the interview process for academics. Since graduate students are often under significant financial constraints, the conference funding that GSA provides is pivotal for promoting FIU as a research institution.

Without some sort of perma- nent governing council to oversee conference funding, grad- uate students will have to remake their case every year to groups of newly elected representa- tives in SGA. This is the cru of the matter. We need a concrete proposal of what the replacement for GSA might look like before anyone votes to dissolve it.

To head off any dismissal that this is a lot of armchair crit- icism without any positive vision for graduate student governance, here are some suggestions.

First, we need a permanent institution that is composed of graduate students; that also organizes graduate events and provides for research grants and conference funding.

It is my understanding that graduate students in SGA are currently required to attend GSA meetings and that they have difficulties doing so. This shouldn’t be an insurmountable problem. If incorporating GSA into graduate council within SGA can be done while meeting the first criteria, then so be it.

Second, the property for obtaining funding needs to be streamlined and record keeping more organized. GSA needed a written card system to keep track of event attendance last year that was broadly unpopular.

It would be fairly simple to create an Excel spreadsheet of graduate students attending events through Orgsync and then check them off after showing an ID (this would also provide a list-serve for communications). All of the documentation that we provide should be done online and on Orgsync. In addition, a completion evaluation should be issued by GSA.

As the town hall meeting is this March 12, I hope that it isn’t an empty gesture of democratic inclusion.

Charles Heck, former Presi- dent of DSA, the Interna- tional Students Association.

COMING OUT

President Barack Obama on health care reform

“Let’s seize reform, the need is great. How much higher do pre- miums have to rise before we do something about it?”

President Barack Obama on health care reform
THE BEACON INTERVIEWS: ALICE EVE AND KRYS TEN RITTER

IN OUR LEAGUE

Co-stars discuss transition to comedy

STEVE MESA
Staff Writer

The latest R-rated comedy to come out of Hollywood, She’s Out of My League, starring Jay Baruchel (Tropic Thunder) and Alice Eve (Starred for 10), will be in theaters March 12. The film is about Kirk Baruchel, an average Joe who questions himself and bickers with his family. After he meets the perfect woman in the form of a pretty party planner named Molly (Eve), who eventually becomes his girlfriend. The Beacon had the opportunity to interview Eve and her co-star Krysten Ritter, who plays Molly’s best friend Patty.

THE BEACON: Is this your first time in Miami?
ALICE EVE: Yeah.

KRYS TEN RITTER: It is actually my second time. I had a best friend who moved here and I came to visit her once. I had no idea the water was clear, beautiful and warm until I came to Miami.

THE BEACON: Are there any traits that you share with your character in the film?

ALICE EVE: I would love to be a party planner like Molly.

KRYS TEN RITTER: Really?

ALICE EVE: Yeah.

KRYS TEN RITTER: I think every character is like, some extension of yourself, but not really. I think (my character) Patty is pretty bitchy, and I am not. I am more sarcastic, bubbly, silly and goofy in real life.

THE BEACON: Alice, as an actress you have had roles that require you to do accents. Is it hard as an actress to try to maintain an accent?

ALICE EVE: That is interesting because a lot of the characters I play, the first thing I approach is the voice. It is not so much about the accent, but first thing I approach is the voice.

ALICE EVE: I am going to do a movie called Vamps shortly after we are done touring the country promoting this movie.

KRYS TEN RITTER: Yes. I have been working consistently so I had to figure out a nice balance in order to still feel like a human being. Even if I can still play my guitar for 10 minutes in the morning, I try to at least pick it up every single day.

THE BEACON: Both of you have played darker roles in the past. Do you feel about transitioning from dramatic movies to a comedic film like She’s Out of My League?

KRYS TEN RITTER: It is the same job, but it is a different dynamic on set and a different head space you live in.

THE BEACON: Which scenes were difficult to shoot for the movie?

ALICE EVE: We had a lot of night shoots during the movie because you are tired and do not have a lot of energy. It is also always difficult when you are not wearing very much clothes, and after you have to pretend you are warm. That is always tough to shoot scenes like that.

KRYS TEN RITTER: Was there any time during the shoot where you had to stop filming because you were constantly laughing?

KRYS TEN RITTER: A billion times daily. The boys are really funny and they’re improvising a lot. Sometimes, a line is thrown in during the scene and you are cracking up all the time.

THE BEACON: What are you planning to do next after all of this is over?

KRYS TEN RITTER: Krysten has got a laundry list she is going to read out and I got Sex and the City 2 coming out in May.

KRYS TEN RITTER: I am going to do a movie called Vamps shortly after we are doing. Following the country promoting this movie.

THE BEACON: What is your role in Vamps?

KRYS TEN RITTER: It is a two-hander, which means it will be me and Alicia Silverstone. We play vampires in New York City, where we are having a blast. Something happens in the story where we question our immortality.

THE BEACON: Is this your first time in Miami?

ALICE EVE: Yeah.

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ALICE EVE: Ihad that a lot, especially in the scene where I first meet Kirk’s family. I often found myself having a hard time not laughing.

ALICE EVE: What are you planning to do next after all of this is over?

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KURT KILGORE: Daniel is an unconventional priest who enjoys spending his free time with prostitutes and indulging in other vices while Kurt is a secret agent who works for the government.

THE BEACON: After completing a mission, Kurt is captured and killed by the people whose facility he infiltrated. He returns as a ghost that only Daniel can see and asks him to look over his wife, fearing that the same people who killed him may be after her.

THE BEACON: Sure enough, while Daniel is spending the night at his sister-in-law’s apartment, she is attacked by a pair of hit men. Kurt jumps into Daniel’s body and “with their powers combined” they form Haunt, a character who can only be described as a mixture of Spider-Man and Spawn.

THE BEACON: With his new role as a host for a superhero, Daniel agrees to begin working as an agent for the same agency his brother worked for.

THE BEACON: There are no explanations given as to why or how Haunt exists, which doesn’t help to diminish the biggest, glaring problem with the series. It is based off a character that is just a combination of the two characters that McFarlane has done his most notable work on.

THE BEACON: To its credit, this series isn’t really a superhero comic book, which is its only saving grace. Instead, it’s centered more on the job that Kurt left behind and Daniel’s struggle to take his place, both in the workplace and in taking care of his widowed wife.

THE BEACON: Despite not being a complete disaster, Haunt is still dry, mundane and boring. There are no dynamics in this series; it is just a constant, flat tone. The dialogue is straight to the point with no set-up or complications. Characters who have known each other for years address each other in formal terms, which I can only assume serves as a reminder as to who the forgettable characters are and what role they serve in the story.

THE BEACON: Daniel’s personality seems to be heavily reminiscent of Jesse Custer from Garth Ennis’ Preacher series, which only welcomes more accusations that this comic book can’t develop its own identity and, instead, just creates one from different sources.

THE BEACON: Haunt certainly does have a story different from his previous work, but when its main character clings onto ceilings and shoos gooi-like web, it’s just too easy to make comparisons to McFarlane’s earlier work.

THE BEACON: If Todd McFarlane went into hiding again after Haunt, I wouldn’t miss him.

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

McFarlane’s new series lacks identity, inspiration

The creator of Spawn has finally returned to a creative role in the comic book industry. After Todd McFarlane helped create Image Comics with Spawn in the early 1990s, he left the series in the hands of other writers and accepted his role as a publisher.

After spending several years doing very little creative work, he has returned to writing with a brand new title from Image comics—well, sort of.

Haunt was created by Todd McFarlane and Robert Kirkman. Kirkman handles most of the writing while McFarlane takes care of the inking and draws the cover art. The comic focuses on two brothers, Daniel and Kurt Kilgore. Daniel is an unconventional priest who enjoys spending his free time with prostitutes and indulging in other vices while Kurt is a secret agent who works for the government.

After completing a mission, Kurt is captured and killed by the people whose facility he infiltrated. He returns as a ghost that only Daniel can see and asks him to look over his wife, fearing that the same people who killed him may be after her.

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Brothers from Phi Mu Alpha performed singing grams during Relay for Life as their team’s fundraiser.

1. Brothers from Lambda Theta Phi perform on stage during the Strolling Showcase.
2. Students gather to light votive candles in memoriam of cancer victims past. The candles were placed in bags with the victims’ names and used to light up the walkway around the Ryder Business Building for participants throughout the night.
3. Ed Proenza dives into the crowd after winning Mr. Relay.
4. (Left) Ana Maria Arocha and (Right) Brittany Lola Lipton get “hitched,” Delta Lambda Phi’s fundraiser.
**SPORTS**

**Team maintains success in five weekend contests**

**STEPHANIE GABRIEL**  
Asst. Sports Director

The FIU softball team continued to ride a successful start to the season by winning eight of its last 10 contests.

**AT HOME**

On the home field, where the team has a record of 9-2, the Golden Panthers most recently picked up a win against Eastern Michigan on March 4.

Freshman Brie Rojas led the team with a 2-for-3 effort and a team-high four RBI after knocking out her fourth home run of the season.

Sophomore Jennifer Gniadek recorded the win with seven strikeouts and no earned runs in seven innings of work.

**ON THE ROAD**

FIU traveled to play in the University of South Florida Under Armor Invitational from March 5-7.

The Golden Panthers split on the first day with a 7-6 victory against Robert Morris and a 1-0 loss to Fordham.

On day two, the Golden Panthers swept the day with wins against Penn State and Boston University.

In the 5-0 win over the Nittany Lions, FIU pitcher Kasey Barrett threw a seven-inning shutout that included two hits and 11 strikeouts.

The game against the Terriers was much closer.

Sophomore Ashley McClain led the FIU offense with three RBI while Barrett earned her third save of the year in relief of Gniadek in the 8-7 victory.

Unfortunately for FIU, they wrapped up the road trip with their fourth loss of the year on March 7.

McClain recorded the loss on the mound in the 3-1 deficit to Bradley.

**Wittels leads team in hits**

Garrett Wittels continues to prove himself as the Golden Panthers most consistent hitter, hitting safely in all 10 games FIU has played so far this season.

As of March 8, Wittels has a team-high .512 batting average with 22 hits, another team best.

Coupled with his stellar play at defense, the former Michael Krop High standout has quickly emerged as a staple to the Golden Panthers success so far this season.

**STAYING HOT**

**THE NEXT LEVEL**

Former FIU offensive lineman Andy Leavine runs a drill during the team’s pro day event in front of NFL scouts last week. The current Golden Panthers began spring practice on March 3 in preparation for a late March spring game, which is currently slated for March 31.

**Golden Panthers look for fourth straight win**

**JONATHAN RAMOS**  
Sports Director

The FIU (8-5) tennis team defeated Louisiana 4-3 on March 7, a day after dropping Middle Tennessee 5-2 on March 6.

The Golden Panthers have now won three straight contests to start their season long eight-game home stand after previously losing four of six games.

The streak will get tested today against No. 16 Miami (FL) at 2 p.m.

FIU will look to keep their season long streak alive against Miami (6-3) while getting some revenge as well.

The Hurricanes beat the Golden Panthers twice last season, once in which they handed them a loss during the regular season and another to end FIU’s 2009 campaign at the NCAA Coral Gables Regional on May 9.

This season, Miami comes to FIU with a three-game winning streak of their own, looking to halt FIU’s current stretch of success.

Miami is led by the No. 3 doubles team in the country in the duo of Anna Bartenstein and Claudia Wasilewski.

Junior All-American Bianca Eichhorn, ranked 40th nationally, will lead the singles grouping for Miami and likely match up against Brito (No. 87).

No. 49 FIU began last weekend by handling MTSU in doubles competition to earn the point behind Liset Brito and Priscilla Castillo, as Brito, Castillo, Maria Spenceley and Christine Seregni won singles points to seal the win.

Against UL, the Golden Panthers lost the doubles point when Liset Brito and Priscilla Castillo fell 8-2 to UL’s Julie Mazinova and Mia Gordon, but captured four of the six singles points to edge the Rajin Cajuns (2-6).

Brito, Castillo, Maria Spenceley and Maria Vallasciani won their respective singles matches.

**BASEBALL, page 1**

FIU pitcher Kasey Barrett continued to dazzle opponents over the weekend with solid pitching.

The former FIU offensive lineman Andy Leavine runs a drill during the team’s pro day event in front of NFL scouts last week. The current Golden Panthers began spring practice on March 3 in preparation for a late March spring game, which is currently slated for March 31.
**ON THE INCLINE**

Team shows progress despite early exit in SBC tournament

The FIU women’s basketball team could have ended their season with at least a first round win in the Sun Belt Conference tournament. 

**JOEL DELGADO**  
**Asst. Sports Director**

The Golden Panthers (8-2) ended their first road trip of the season on a sour note, losing to No. 2 Arizona State (11-0) in a game that was cut short after seven innings of play due to rainy weather conditions on March 8.

The Sun Devils were the first ranked opponent FIU has faced so far this season, and remained undefeated after the conclusion of the Coca-Cola Classic held in Surprise, Ariz.

The Golden Panthers came out of the tournament with two wins and two losses.

After a rain delay postponed the opening pitch, FIU opened up the scoring in the top of the first when Mike Martinez singled to left to bring in Pablo Bermudez to give the Panthers an early lead.

Martinez finished 2-for-3 in the loss with an RBI and two singles, leading the Golden Panther offense which mustered a total of seven hits for the game.

FIU starter Aaron Arboleya got through the first two innings unscathed, but the Sun Devils evened up the score in the third inning with an RBI single to even up the score 1-1.

Arizona State picked up two more runs off of Arboleya in the fifth and added another off of reliever Eric Berkowitz to finish the scoring.

Arboleya was the pitcher of record, earning the loss and dropping to 1-1 for the season. In five innings of work, the sophomore right-hander allowed three runs, one of which was uncarned, and allowed seven hits in the loss. He also struck out six Sun Devil batters in the loss.

For Arizona State, starter Jake Boop was able to settle down after giving up a run in the first inning and was able to keep the FIU offense in check. Boop pitched five innings and allowed just one earned run in that span, earning the victory and improving his record to 3-0.

The game was called after the lightning and rain returned and the tarp had to be placed back on to the field.

Just before the tarpers were brought out in the top of the eighth, Wittels opened up the inning with a single to right-center field to keep his hitting streak alive, extending the streak to a team-high 10 games.

The Golden Panthers return home and hope to keep their perfect 6-0 record at home intact with a two-game series against Boston College on March 9 and 10 before taking on Rutgers for a three-game weekend series beginning March 12.

Boston College will be the second ACC opponent FIU has faced so far this season, as they faced Maryland to open the season on Feb. 19-21.

**BASEBALL, page 2**

**BASEBALL NOTEBOOK**

Golden Panthers lose to No. 2 ASU; Wittels stays hot

Aaron Arboleya (above) picked up his first loss of the season against the No. 2 Arizona State Sun Devils on Sunday.

Freshman guard Carmen Miloglav [left] and junior guard Michelle Gonzalez [right] were instrumental in the Golden Panthers’ improvement this season and will need to rely on young talent again next season with key seniors graduating this year.

Bosilj and Ashley Traugott, other players were there to step it up.

In the backcourt, point-guard Michelle Gonzalez improved from 9.3 points per game last season to 11.7 this year while Elisa Carey dominated the frontcourt with a team leading 13.6 PPF.

Defensively, the Golden Panthers also proved to be stronger. Opponents’ numbers decreased in every statistical category against FIU except for three-point field goal percentage and free-throw percentage while Carey led a very intimidating frontcourt for FIU with 48 blocks in 27 games.

A downside to the season has to be the loss of four seniors in Bosilj, Traugott, Marquita Adley and Cherisse Buddy.

Traugott and Buddy contributed as reserves for the Golden Panthers in a limited capacity, but Bosilj goes out as the school’s all-time leader in three-point field goal and Adley leaves as No. 7 on the list for career blocked shots.

With Cindy Russo likely to return for her 14th season next fall, the Golden Panthers showed enough promise this season to believe they can be a conference contender, but only if the teams continue to make strides in 2010-11.