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WEDNESDAY, APRIL 14, 2010
Vol. 22, Issue 82

SPOTLIGHT
At the Bay

SACs
the constitution is being revised to help the next generation perform their duties more efficiently.

SPORTS
Page 12

atmosphere prepare for homecoming
struggling on the road, while Biele and Witten have also achieved the offensive.

UPCOMING EVENTS

Finals Days, April 11, 12 p.m. - 12 a.m. Come visit before finals with free food, music, yoga and more at The GC Panther Suite.

FIU softball, April 14, 4 - 7:00 p.m. Join us on Golden Panthers as we take on the University of Florida at the Softball Stadium. Free with student ID.

For more events, check out our calendar in the LIFE section on Mondays and Fridays.

WEATHER

LOW: 66  HIGH: 80
Partly Cloudy

UPCOMING EVENTS

Law professor lands in Miami after travels

MEENA RUPANI
Staff Writer

Professor Hannah Travis joined the College of Law faculty after several years of practicing intellectual property law and Internet law.

As a child, Travis admitted he did not give much thought to becoming a lawyer and even as a young man in high school, he did not have a dream of one day practicing law.

"In high school, I wanted to be a scientist or a fiction writer because I admired many of them back then," he said. "But as a child I was interested in astronomy."

Travis explained when and why he became interested in intellectual property, the specialty of law he is known for today.

"I became interested in intellectual property and tort law back in the 1990s when it was a new and exciting time for this subject, especially with the Napster court case. And many people were ripping CDs and mp3s," Travis said.

However, Professor Travis' journey as a lawyer led him to many cities around the country that finally landed him in Miami.

He began as a lawyer in San Francisco, practicing tort and contract law, then journeyed to Los Angeles to work under a federal judge in the year 2000.

Following this, Travis traveled to New York where he stayed for a few years before receiving the professor position at FIU.

"It was the place to be if I wanted to pursue my specialty; it was the center of entertainment," Travis said.

Travis explained that he had always had the hope of one day becoming a professor.

"I had always hoped to become a teacher of law, however, it is hard to do this right after you receive your degree. This has to be some experience behind you," Travis said.

Travis has taught at both Harvard University and Villanova law school, but still felt FIU was
Aramark company plans to give back to community

Food distributor unites with City Year for community service project

ALEXANDRA CAMEJO Staff Writer

On April 15, Panther Dining and Aramark – FIU’s food service provider – will be stepping out of the realms of the kitchen to partake in a company-wide community involvement initiative, aimed at strengthening and supporting community centers at the Miami Rescue Mission.

Partnering with FIU and City Year, Aramark encourages all students, faculty, staff, friends and alumni to participate in this large-scale community service project.

Along with FIU’s volunteers, Aramark employees will work with the Miami Rescue Mission to transform the downtown Miami community center.

According to the event’s flyer, “The Miami Rescue Mission is a non-profit organization that has served low-income and homeless children and families of South Florida since 1922.”

Through the collaboration between Aramark, City Year, a youth organization dedicated to gathering volunteers, and the Miami Rescue Mission, the company hopes to continue its successful service efforts throughout the nation.

Resident Aramark District Manager Roger Clegg highlighted the opportunity being given to FIU with this service project, “Aramark’s building community program has scheduled a few events similar to this one across the country where we partner with a university community to support a local community center. We at FIU are fortunate to be included.”

This will be the University and Aramark’s first experience partnering together for any type of project like this.

By including the FIU community in its philanthropic efforts, Aramark hopes for a greater multi-itude of people, like students, to volunteer with organizations like the Miami Rescue Mission.

Michael Oestreich, Panther Dining’s marketing manager expressed the need to involve more volunteers with this event.

“The reason we chose FIU was because we did a similar event with just Aramark people last year at the Miami Rescue Mission, we formed a good relation-ship with them and wanted to continue to help,” Oestreich said. “With FIU being the closest campus it was the easiest way to involve people outside of Aramark.”

Oestreich, who participated in Aramark’s similar event in Orlando last week ensures that this events will not only benefit our community, but it will be “a lot of fun.”

Individuals still have time to sign up for the event, and anyone, whether a member of the FIU community or not, can participate.

Volunteers will perform painting, landscaping, trash pick up and light construction duties at the community center.

“The day begins, Thursday, April 15, at 8 a.m. at the Fresh Food Company in [the Graham Center] where breakfast will be provided. Transportation will be provided to and from the mission. We should be back to campus by 4:30 p.m.,” Clegg said.

By aiming to recruit at least 100 people, Aramark hopes that tomorrow’s mission will not only contribute to the company’s building community initiative, but most import-antly inspire more people to give back to the South Florida community.

Students interested in volunteering can sign up at http://surveymonkey.com/s/7HrFe95.

WHEN WE PACK 1 PACKAGE

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Effective of council discussed

SGC-MMC, page 1

“Ultimately they will be affected from [this bill] and we must not have neglected their opinion.”

Muhammad Saleem, Former Graduate Student Senator

Student Government Council at Medial Nadiape Campus

Colleagues describe Travis as ‘compassionate, humble’

TRAVIS, page 1

different from the other schools he has taught at.

“FIU is a new school with new accreditation and lots of new exciting things happening.” For example, the most court competitions and the new clinics that are being developed,” Travis said.

He currently teaches intellectual property law, Internet law and anti-trust law and explained how he likes to structure his classes.

“Usually base my classes around a statute or a treaty and then provide evidence of the application of the principle involved with two or three court cases.

Lots of current events are involved in my classes. It is important for the students to extract the meaning and the principles from the cases we study,” Travis said.

When outside the classroom, Travis has other hobbies he enjoys pursuing.

“I have traveled Europe and would still like to do more traveling. I loved Venice for its architecture. But I would still love to visit Bombay, India and the surrounding smaller towns,” Travis said.

For now, Travis has concrete plans to travel but in the meantime enjoys reading and watching films.

“I loved Hamlet for the pure reason of the great writing involved. I previously read philosophical books such as Thomas Hobbes and Foucault. Currently, I am interested in historical books,” Travis said.

Travis also has other projects in the works away from the law school.

He has published many articles and book chapters regarding software licensing, cyber law and the Google Books Search cases.

Professor Kerri Stone, an assistant professor at the law school, praised Professor Travis and pointed out the admirable qualities in him as a professor and colleague.

“I hold him in the highest esteem. I can say that Hannibal Travis embodies a very rare combination of extreme intelligence, compassion and concern for his students and colleagues, and humility,” Stone said.

He added that his research is “published by some of the most prestigious law journals, and they are widely considered to be first-rate and cutting-edge.”

Another colleague of Travis, Manuel Gomez, shared a similar sentiment.

According to Gomez, he and Professor Travis are working on a casebook for the “introduction to international and comparative” law course and share at least one course in common.

“Professor Travis works on areas that are very important to the mission of the College of Law and has shown commitment to help our students excel in their endeavors,” Gomez said.

Professor Stone best summed up how members of the faculty feel about this particular professor.

“He is a trusted friend of many of us, and I am proud to call him my friend and my colleague,” Stone said.

New Age Medical Research Corporation is conducting a clinical research study of an investigational oral medication for birth control.

Qualified participants will receive at no cost for up to 12 months:

→ Periodic gynecological exams

→ Investigational oral birth control medication

Females who are 18-40 years of age, sexually active, and have regular menstrual cycles may be eligible for participation. Compensation up to $750 is available for time and travel.

For more information about this research study please call (305) 596-9901

Participation is completely voluntary.

Janet Gersten, M.D.
New Age Medical Research Corporation
8900 SW 117th Avenue
Suite 207-B
(305) 596-9901

NEWS

Effectiveness of council discussed

is still “[being worked on].”

Saleem said during the meeting that he strongly believes the current system for GSA is effective.

Arts & Sciences senator Alatane Phenelus made the case that because the senate had already voted upon GSA’s budget, its fate as a governing council is already decided. Her second point against GSA as a governing council was that there would be senators within the group.

Her argument was that SGA is above governing councils, and if the four-year collegeBudget and Governance Council is effective.

The illegalities that Doraiswamy refers to are student grants students being funded 100 percent for their conferences or being funded more than once.

Toscano stated the numbers showing this are from PantherSoft, which is not an SGA controlled auditing system but a University one.

The final reason was the Grad-

The Beacon – Wednesday, April 14, 2010

Muhammad Saleem, Former Graduate Student Senator

Student Government Council at Medial Nadiape Campus

NEWS FLASH

World

US, China develop possible sanctions against Iran

President Barack Obama and Chinese President Hu Jintao announced Monday that they are instructing their diplomats to develop possible sanctions against Iran.

The announcement came during the middle of a United States-led conference on nuclear proliferation currently being held in Washington.

White House National Security aide Jeff Bader said that the Chinese were “prepared to work with us.”

Further details have yet to be released about possible tactics for said sanctions. This came just after the Ukrainian delegation announced its intentions to abandon it’s weapons-grade uranium.

National

Dow Jones closes above 11,000: first time in almost two years

The Dow Jones Industrial Average closed at just over 11,000 on Monday for the first in over a year and a half.

The Dow closed at almost 11,006 points on Monday evening after gaining 9 points just before the end of the session. Meanwhile, the Standard & Poor’s 500 index closed at nearly 1200 points.

This the first time the Dow closed at 11,000 points since September 26, 2008.

-Compiled by David Barrios
To effectively prepare the following administration to serve in the Student Government Council at Biscayne Bay Campus, the senate reviewed SGC-BBC’s statutes in complete detail during their final senate meeting on April 12.

“This needed to happen throughout the year, but it was just recently brought to our attention that we had to revisit it. We are trying to get this done as soon as possible to have the next generation come in on a clean slate and be ready,” said Aundrea Cruz, SGC-BBC Honors College senator.

The statutes, according to Chapter 100.1, are “observed (per campus) by the student senate in enacting by-laws and by the Chief Justice in exercising judicial review,” and must be voted on and approved by the senate.

The meeting, which began at 3 p.m., ran past its usual time into the late hours of the night while they dissected each individual statement.

“The senate is staying late because we are committed to making the next senate better,” Cruz said.

The revisions, according to Zahra Arbabi aski, SGC-BBC lower division senator, began on April 5 during the senate meeting.

“We started on Monday and completed the first title and half of the second title. We are continuing today and we will finish the remaining statutes today,” she said.

The senate reviewed Title 1, System of Statutes, which specified amendments and compliances of student government statutes and terminology, Title 2, Member- ship, Powers and Purpose which defines the official SGA seal and logos and explains the compensation policy, Florida Sunshine Law, code of ethics, conduct standards, penalties and grounds for removal and order of succession.

Both titles had light revisions, mostly grammatical.

“We are reviewing the statutes in order to have a great kick-off starting next semester,” said Dametreus Vincent, SGC-BBC graduate senator. “Something that everyone needs to know from front to back and pass off to the senators.

However, SGC-BBC’s statutes include 10 titles, seven of which are completed. The three remaining titles – Title 5, Judicial Branch, Title 8, Finance Codes, and Title 10 University Wide Statutes – have yet to be completed. According to Christian “Cici” Battle, SGC-BBC president-elect, the missing titles were never completed since the members assigned to the task withdrew from SGC-BBC.

“The missing titles will be completed before the next term,” Battle said. “They need to be updated so senators can know what they are doing and be fully capable to help students.”

During the meeting the senate discussed changes to Title 3, which outlines the structure of the executive branch’s duties and authority and specified possible changes on Chapter 302, section 2, and subsection c “appoint or create positions not provided for in the Constitution or SGC Statutes. All appointments will still require Senate approval as prescribed in Article IX Section 4 of the Constitution.”

School of Journalism and Mass Communication SGC-BBC Senator Robert Tassy expressed concern that the obligation to confirm all presidential appointees could be time-consuming to the senate.

“What I think we should do is only have potential members of the cabinet have senate confirmation,” he said during the meeting.

The suggestion has yet to be approved although other senators agree.

“It is a system of checks and balances. This way we can make sure he does not give a friend a position,” Arbabi aski said.

The senate, however, did approve the change from monthly to bi-weekly reports from all directors of the cabinet including the directors of academic affairs, environmental affairs, community relations and outreach, legislative affairs, health and student services and lectures bureau.

“I think a month is too long. We should have enough work to report bi-weekly and it should be based on their duties and current projects and initiatives,” Victoria Aguila, SGC-BBC Arts and Science senator said.

Student employees recognized for hard work

MELODY REGALADO
Staff Writer

For the first time, students working for the University are being recognized for their accom- plishments during Student Employment Week, the week of April 12 to 16.

“This is the first time that FIU will be honoring student employees during a week and awarding the Student Employee of the Year,” said Student Employment Week is all about recognizing students employed by the University who best embody service excellence, dedication and whose work and their accom- plishments remain stellar,” said Kathleen Lopez, a sophomore education major and student employee of the Office of Financial Aid.

“Student employees, like other employees, are major contributors to the opera- tional and service mission of this institution,” said C. Jackson, director of recruitment services for Human Resources.

Rashida Taylor, a junior majoring in finance, describes the two years she has spent also working for the Office of Financial Aid as a “rewarding experience” that allowed her to meet the University “at a whole new angle.”

“As a student, I am just a recipient of financial aid,” said Taylor. “As a student- worker in Financial Aid, not only am I able to learn about available awards, I am able to work along- side some of the most hard- working staff members here at the University. Thanks to the work study program, I have been given the opportunity to enhance my role here at FIU.”

Human Resources has been hosting events all week, which started with a kickoff luncheon on April 12.

The events will culminate into an awards cere- mony on April 16 in the Graham Center Ballrooms at the Modesto Maidique Campus, where University President Mark Rosenberg will announce the winner of the Student Employee of the Year award, along with five finalists.

The prizes awarded will remain a surprise for everyone until the awards ceremony.

“We are pleased with the excitement surrounding this great week of recogni- tion,” Jackson said. “Each department nomi- nated one student they thought excelled at their job. They had to be either a student assistant or Federal Work Study recipient with a minimum 3.0 GPA.

Mawou Francois, a senior majoring in finance, won the competition for Student Employee of the Year. A committee who reviewed and narrowed down the finalists submitted them for approval by the vice president, director of recruitment services and manager for tempo- rary and student employ- ment services in Human Resources.

“Most times, students are the first face, voice, and point of contact for other students, staff and visitors,” said Carolyn Taylor, Director of Recruitment Services Human Resources.

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Carolyn Taylor, Director of Recruitment Services Human Resources.
Advocates for the disabled, elderly, hospitals and other interests objected to some details and the timing of a massive Medicaid overhaul April 12, but the plan won near unanimous approval at its first — and possibly last — committee hearing in the Florida House.

The measures would carry out a plan to expand a five-county pilot program of managed care by private companies or other groups, including provider service networks made up of doctors and hospitals, to all of Florida’s 67 counties over the next five years.

Miami-Dade County, the state’s largest, would be added in the first year and the others later.

Lawmakers see the plan as a way to rein in the growing cost of the fraud-plagued state-federal program that provides health care for 2.7 million low-income and disabled Floridians. The program is expected to consume $19 billion in the next fiscal year and account for more than a quarter of the state budget.

The panel’s chairman, House Speaker-designate Dean Cannon, R-Winter Park, said there’s enough anecdotal and preliminary evidence that managed care cuts costs and fraud while still providing quality care to go ahead with the plan. However, data from the existing experiment has yet to be fully analyzed.

“As policy makers we have an obligation to make transformational change even though it may make people uncomfortable if we believe it’s carefully constructed and the right thing to do,” Cannon said.

There was plenty of discomfort about the bills that are on a fast track after getting a late start. House leaders waited until last week to unveil the plan, and now just 18 days remain in the 60-day session.

Alisa Snow of the Florida Community Health Action Information Network, which advocates for Medicaid patients, urged lawmakers to delay action for a year to get a complete analysis of the pilot program and assess how the new federal health care overhaul would affect it.

Rep. Gary Aubuchon, though, said there’s no need to wait.

“There are pieces and parts that people are unhappy with, but I would submit to you if we studied this for the next 10 years and then brought a bill forward there would be pieces and parts that people were unhappy with,” said the Cape Coral Republican.

The panel also heard that the legislation might result in the loss of $100 million in federal money for specialty physicians mostly at teaching hospitals, make it harder to attract such specialists to Florida and present a dilemma for public hospitals by requiring them to serve areas that don’t contribute tax dollars to their support.

Florida Association of Health Plans president Michael Garner complained the legislation would give an unfair advantage to provider service networks over the HMOs he represents.

Democratic lawmakers said they’d also like to see some changes including adding requirements for public comment periods and hearings before regional plans are approved, a uniform statewide grievance procedure, an electronic claims system and information provided to Medicaid recipients in the language of their choice.

However, Rep. Keith Fitzgerald, D-Sarasota, withdrew amendments, saying Democrats would seek those changes later.

“There are a lot of details that need to be worked out,” Fitzgerald said. “We commit to doing that in constructive manner.”
SIMULATING REALITY

MIT professor aims to create prosthetics that mimic real muscles

ASHLYN TOLEDO
UfA Editor

The contributions that modern medicine has made to the quality of life that most of us enjoy today cannot be overstated. The human lifespan has almost doubled over the last century, and many people born with preexisting medical conditions have led long, fruitful lives thanks to some of those advancements.

Hugh Herr, double amputee and associate professor of media arts and sciences at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, has been working on developing prosthetic limbs that are biologically accurate—both in their skeletal structure and in their ability to mimic muscle behavior—that can greatly improve the quality of life for thousands of people who have suffered severe injuries.

On April 16 at 7 p.m., Herr will speak at the Wolfsonian-FIU during “Merging Man and Machine,” a lecture about the development of these new “smart” prosthetics and his hopes of one day developing human-powered devices that can outperform the body’s natural anatomy.

Herr will also discuss the development of social-emotional prosthetics for persons born with autism and robotics that can help keep children and the elderly safe by watching over them and monitoring their health.

The lecture, which coincides with the Advertising for Health exhibit currently open at the Wolfsonian, is part of the celebration of the Herbert Wertheim College of Medicine’s inaugural year.

The 44-year-old engineer lost both of his lower limbs below the knee in a mountain climbing accident when he was 17.

That accident motivated Herr to develop prosthetics. He has since received a master’s in mechanical engineering from MIT and a doctorate in biophysics from Harvard University.

Before his accident, Herr was a well-respected rock climber in the United States. He has since returned to the sport, developing specialized prosthetics that allow him to traverse the rocky terrain.

Herr uses his knowledge of biomechanics and has studied biomedical engineering from MIT and a doctorate in biophysics from Harvard University.

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Moretz steals the silver screen as her role of Hit Girl in Kick-Ass

KICK-ASS, page 6

Putting all their eggs in one basket is not a new idea for comic book companies. Since the formation of the Justice League, superheroes have been crammed into one series and forced to work together for multiple reasons. The interaction between characters provides unique storytelling devices and the cluster of characters that could sell their own comics alone simply multiplies the sales of a team comic.

This is why comic companies, such as DC and Marvel, put so much time into books such as The Justice League and The Avengers - the more heroes means the more sales. This is also the reason that, almost yearly, a company-wide crossover event takes place.

These events tie the entire array of the company’s characters together into one story that is meant to change the status quo of the superhero universe as well as promote every hero’s own series. DC’s latest endeavor brings the dead back to life in Blackest Night.

The premise is closely tied to the Green Lantern series, yet manages to involve the whole DC universe by incorporating an entire spectrum of color into the Lantern Corps. Now there are Yellow Lanterns that spread fear, and Red Lanterns that embody rage and more lanterns for every color.

With every color in the spectrum having its own Lantern, the biggest threat arises in the first issue of Blackest Night.

The Black Lantern battery sends black rings all across the universe reviving the dead and turning them into vindictive, evil, zombie-like incarnations of their past selves. Most of the characters that are revived were killed off in past crossover events. Their deaths were sometimes an integral part of the stories yet, more often than not, they were purely shock-value fodder.

I applaud writer Geoff Johns for bringing these characters back in such an interesting way. Usually, when a character in a comic series dies, it’s detrimental to the series and the story opportunities in the future.

This is why so many comics end up bringing the heroes back. Who wants to read Superman comics if Superman himself is not the main character?

The entire series is fun and inventive. The interactions between every hero and their deceased relatives, friends and even enemies gives it an emotional side that lends more to the thought provoking side of comics, while not ignoring the action and engaging part of the medium.

My only problem with the series lies in its last issue. Never being one to spoil a good read, I’ll just state that the repercussions that are supposed to affect the entire universe are a bit too serving to the selling of comics and less to the storytelling. I would prefer the series being self-contained but, like everything related to comic books, I’m sure fans would disagree.

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

New imaginative series brings dead heroes back to life

PANEL PANEL
COLUMNIST
SEAN GONZALEZ

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GETTING SCHOOLED

Grad school selection can be overwhelming

Tomorrow is D-Day. Tomorrow will be the day I decide (if I haven’t done so by then) where I will be attending graduate school in September for my master’s degree in writing (and likely publishing).

After I make up my mind, I will finally send off my deposit monies to the lucky school and call the others to decline their acceptances. Tomorrow I will likely panic.

April 15 has been marked on my calendar with red ink since January. I did not think I’d make it this far, for I was sure the tedious nature of the applications would have done me in by December.

After hundreds of dollars spent in overnight delivery fees, color portfolio copies and flights across the states, I am happily sure that the fretting will finally come to an end. I will no longer frantically check TheGradCafe.com for more enigmatic souls like me who are in the same boat as I am: flustered, panicked and tremendously concerned about their admission status.

I’ve received acceptances from four schools, and only one of these lies on the West Coast (Portland); my other choices are in Baltimore, Chicago and Boston.

All of these locations are plagued with extreme temperatures. (Of course, by “extreme” I mean “anything below 60 degrees,” but when you’re a Floridian you’re going to have to bear the biases.)

To all you northerners: yes, I’m a pansy. I admit this. And I am terrified.

Aside from the weather, for the past couple of weeks, I have been thinking how drastically my entire life is going to change once I step onto the plane that will take me far away from Miami – the only city I’ve ever really known.

This will be the first time I leave the nest, so to speak, and the impact of my decision is even more real within my family.

My mom has prepared herself for the shock for a while now, yet I’m sure she’s quietly counting down the days.

My dad actually isn’t more proud of me, but I’m positive he’s thinking, “My little girl is growing up” and will soon reach for the Kleenex.

I think my grandpa’s, however, are in complete denial. Abuela believes I’m not going anywhere; in fact, according to her, it’s way too expensive to leave. How on earth could I do such a thing? What kind of a grandchild would I be?

As much as I would love to stay at her house and enjoy her freshly fried plantain chips with a plate of rice, beans and vaza fria, I know that this decision will make me a better person through a true taste of independence.

Like snow, this also terrifies me.

No matter where I end up, I’ll be hosting it. Public transportation and I will be BFFs; I’m already missing Boston’s “T” system tremendously. Yet I don’t think it’s hit me that I will soon have to lug my groceries everywhere, come September – onto subway cars and buses, down sidewalks, up stairs.

Yet every time I think about moving away I become incredibly nauseous. The thought of finding an “affordable” apartment in a strange new city and packing up most of my possessions into cardboard boxes forces my stomach to twist like a pretzel, leaving me queasy and anxious. Let’s not talk about U-Haul prices.

I know, however, that I have to face tomorrow with the same amount of courage I held when I began applying to graduate schools. Now that it’s over and the dust has settled, I have to make a choice.

I can’t draw a name out of a hat – as much as I would like to – and I wish I could flip a coin.

But, now is the moment I’ve been waiting for. I am confident I will make the right choice.

In the end, tomorrow is another day, and a new life awaits.

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Leaked video raises question about U.S. military actions

The video has sparked numerous controversies, such as whether the military is culpable in the killings...

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SEND US YOUR LETTERS

Got a problem with palpatino? Want to give feedback to the editor? Do you just have something to say about this show or building? Send your thoughts to opinijoun@fiu.edu. Don’t have time to type? Post your thoughts on our Facebook or drop your efforts at either BCS 240 or WOC 124. With your name, major and year please.

WINNERCLOSER

Everyone’s favorite red head (and editor-in-chief) Namir Noor-Eldeen, winner of the Twilight show at a brand new show on TBS. The promo will feature the George W Bush show on Monday and the Bacon show on Thursday at 11:00 PM.

QUOTATION

“The good news: I will be doing a show on TBS starting in November! The bad news: I’ll be playing Rudy on the new Cosby Show.”

Conan O’Brian on late night talk show talk on TBS.
SPORTS REPLAY

Tennis defeats UCF to cap season

JONATHAN RAMOS  
Sports Director

The Golden Panthers capped off their season by defeating in state rival Central Florida 4-3 on April 10 at the UCF tennis complex, giving them a chance to turn their attention to the 2010 Sun Belt Conference Tournament on April 23-25.

FIU gained an advantage by earning the doubles point behind the dominant duo of Liset Brito and Priscilla Castillo, who earned their ninth victory of the season and 17th of their careers together. The pair dropped Jenny Frisell and Alexis Rodriguez in a clean sweep.

The doubles point turned out to be crucial.

After FIU (12-7) managed to split the six match single competition, with both teams earning three victories, the doubles point was the difference.

UCF (11-6) won singles points behind Rodriguez, Andrea Yacaman and Jenna Brito, Castillo and Maria Vallasciani.

The win was the team’s seventh in its season and 17th of their careers together. Rodriguez in a clean sweep.

The win gave FIU the series win.

After the game, head coach Beth McClendon commented that it was one of the best days the team has had.

“I was pleased with the entire day,” she said. “I thought that was probably the best day we’ve had this year. I think Louisiana is a great team. To come out and win two against them is a great day; I’m proud of the entire group.”

Freshman Kayla Burri has also been productive as of late for the Golden Panthers with a .393 batting average, but she could be out against FAU after suffering a knee injury in game three of the UL series.

FIU will hope to see more offensive production from sophomore Jenny Welch and senior Lauren Spiers, who are batting under a .250 average so far this season, especially if Burri is out.

After the wins against arguably the best team in the conference, FIU remains confident that they are on their way to the top spot in the SBC.

“This is huge. We’re on our way to the conference championship, I can tell you that,” Rojas said.

“This got us rolling and from here on out we’ll take it to everybody.”

GOLF

After a promising start, the Golden Panthers’ momentum stymied down the stretch as they finished 14th in the field of 26th place on the individual leaderboard, respectively.

The pair of Golden Panthers in 23rd and 24th. Michigan State had a stellar score of +13 on the weekend, while team-mate Christina Marin shot +14, putting the pair of Golden Panthers in 23rd and 26th place on the individual leaderboard.

SBC rival Florida Atlantic finished last in the tournament, with a horrid score of +129. FIU will play next in the SBC championships on April 19.

The Golden Panthers look to build on recent success

SOFTBALL page 12

The native of Brandon, Fla. now leads the team in home runs with seven on the year.

ON TIME

Aside from McClain’s game-tying home run, there have been other Golden Panthers tracking down timely hits as of late.

Freshman Brie Rojas went 3-for-10 against Louisiana-Lafayette last weekend but notched a game winning hit in the bottom of the ninth inning in game two of the series.

The win gave FIU the series win.

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“This got us rolling and from here on out we’ll take it to everybody.”

The FIU softball team is paying tribute to Kendall Berry with helmet stickers noting the No. 19, Berry’s number.
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RIVALS REUNITED

FIU looks to keep hold of conference against FAU

**STEPHANIE GABRIEL**
Asst. Sports Director

The FIU softball team has been gaining momentum as of late, and Florida Atlantic has been riding a recent wave of success as well.

But something has to give as the Sun Belt Conference rivals face off today for the first time this season at the FIU Softball Complex at 6 p.m.

The Golden Panthers (25-14, 7-4 Sun Belt) are coming off a series against former conference leader Louisiana-Lafayette in which they took two of three games to grab the top spot in the Sun Belt Conference standings.

Meanwhile, the Owls split a series with Troy last weekend and have now won six of their last 10 games.

A solid pitching staff have led FAU (20-19, 5-5 SBC) to their recent success.

The Owls’ staff has the lowest combined earned run average in the conference at 1.94.

Their combined batting average, however, is lowest of teams in the conference at .210.

As for the Golden Panthers, they rank second in the SBC in team batting with a .288 average and have 81 more hits than second in the SBC in team batting with a .210

For the second time this season, FIU has swept the weekly SBC Players of the Week awards.

Senior pitcher Kasey Barrett and sophomore right fielder and pitcher Ashley McClain were both recognized by the conference for their efforts versus Florida Gulf Coast and Louisiana-Lafayette on April 10 and 11.

Barrett appeared in four of the five games and went 3-1 in the circle.

In three starts she pitched two complete games and one shutout while recording a season-high tying 12 strikeouts against FGCU.

After the wins she notched against Louisiana, Barrett was relieved.

“Since I’ve been here at FIU I’ve struggled against them so it was an awesome feeling to finally beat them twice,” she said.

The native of Starke, Fla., is now 12-8 on the season and boasts an ERA of 1.97 in 26 appearances, bouncing back from a few rough appearances.

As for McClain, she hit .471 across the five contests.

Her best appearances were coming against the Ragin’ Cajuns with a .545 average in the three consecutive contests and two home runs, including a game-tying homer that led to an FIU victory.

**SOFTBALL**

- What: FIU vs. Florida Atlantic
- When: Today, April 14
- Time: 6 p.m.
- Where: FIU
- Broadcast: None

FIU’s pitching staff, which has been inconsistent at times, ranks fourth in the conference with a 2.78 ERA.

The last time the teams met was May 1 and 2 of the 2009 season.

The Golden Panthers took the first game 7-0, but the Owls came back in game two with a 2-1 win in extra innings (9).

**SWEETING AGAIN**

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**SOFTBALL, page 10**

**VICTORIA LYNCH/THE BEACON**

The right-hander threw a season-high seven innings against the Blue Raiders, allowing just three hits while striking out six batters.

Since being promoted as the Saturday night starter, Fondon has made two starts, picking up the loss in his first weekend start and earning a no-decision in the second. But the southpaw has been effective in both outings, allowing six earned runs in 14.2 innings on the mound while earning 10 strikeouts.

During that span, Fondon has allowed just two walks and now has a team-best 3.99 ERA.

**JOBE ON A ROLL**

Tim Jobe did not start the season off the way most expected him to, but as of late his offensive production has been on the upswing.

Since March 26, the preseason All-Sun Belt team selection at first baseman has hit .452 and scored 13 times while knocking in 13 RBIs.

Jobe has also been providing the kind of power he was expected to bring to the middle of the lineup before the season began with seven home runs, trailing team-leader Jabari Henry by one homer.

“It feels real good, especially after the start I had,” Jobe said on April 2 after a 3-for-4 performance against Louisiana. “I was kind of pushing at the beginning of the season, trying to do too much. Lately I’ve been relaxed and trying to get the job done.”

**HIT STRAIGHT**

If there is one word that could describe what Garrett Wittels has been for the Golden Panthers this season, it would be dependable.

The sophomore infielder is bringing home a 28-game hitting streak and has a hit in every game that he has hit in so far this season.

Wittels is currently third in the conference in overall hitting with a .417 batting average.

**BASEBALL**

- What: FIU vs Bethune-Cookman
- When: Today, April 14
- Time: 6:00 p.m.
- Where: FIU
- Broadcast: Radiate FM, 88.1, 95.3, 96.9

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**SOFTBALL**

- What: FIU vs. Florida Atlantic
- When: Today, April 14
- Time: 6 p.m.
- Where: FIU
- Broadcast: None

FIU now has a 6-6 conference record, losing four of those contests on the road in series losses against Arkansas-Little Rock and Middle Tennessee. Overall, the Golden Panthers are now 3-4 away from home this season.

Turtle Thomas among a pitching unit that has struggled against Florida Atlantic.

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