The Beacon, April 18, 2011

Florida International University

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University’s strategic plan outlining next five years

GABRIEL ARRARAS
News Director

University President Mark Rosenberg addressed crowds at the Modesto Maidique and Biscayne Bay campuses, outlining the University’s goals for the next five years. Rosenberg hailed the five-year Worlds Ahead Strategic Plan as the end result of a “very collaborative process,” which included the participation of a committee of 115 members made up of faculty, staff, and students.

“There are a lot of similarities with this plan compared to our earlier plans,” said Rosenberg to a nearly full crowd at the Graham Center Ball-rooms on April 14. “We’re maintaining and redoubling our commitment to building a top urban public research university.” However, the Worlds Ahead Strategic Plan comes with some differences. “We are book-ending the centrality of research and creative work with an added commitment to student success and global engagement,” added Rosenberg.

University Provost Douglas Wartzik, who shared the stage with Rosenberg, expanded on the University’s commitment to student success. According to Wartzik, part of the strategic plan would be increasing the student population from 42,000 to 52,000.

“The college was formed when the budget cuts hit,” he said, “so for the first couple of years prior to my becoming interim dean it was about reorganizing the units to meet the demands of the budget cuts. There really wasn’t an awful severe."
Immigrants come ashore in Palm Beach County

Officials say 14 to 15 people believed to be illegal immigrants came ashore on Singer Island.

Riviera Beach police spokesperson Rose Anne Brown says about half of the group was rounded up shortly after they came ashore just before 7:30 a.m. Friday. Officials believe they are from the Dominican Republic and Haiti.

Brown says a pregnant woman who went into labor was taken to a hospital. A search continues for the remaining members of the group.

UN judgments due in Croatian war crimes case

A U.N. court is handing down verdicts on three Croat generals charged in the murder, mistreatment and deportation of Serbs in a 1995 military blitz. Large screens have been set up around Croatia to broadcast the verdicts in a trial focused on Operation Storm, a lightning offensive that seized back land annexed by rebel Serbs at the start of the Balkans conflict.

The three generals charged in the case, Ante Gotovina, Ivan Cermak and Mladen Markac, are considered heroes in their home country.

Nigeria police: Muslim sect kills 2 before vote

Authorities in northern Nigeria are blaming a radical Muslim sect for killing two people and wounding five others a day ahead of the country’s presidential election.

Borno State Police Commissioner Michael Zuokoro said gunmen who hid their Kalashnikov rifles in an election booth killed the two men on Friday.

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SCHRINER, page 1

lot of talking about going forward—it was survival mode,” said Schriner.

In the Worlds Ahead Strategic Plan, an outline of goals set forth by the University for the next five years, the Arts has been established as one of four targeted areas aimed for improvement and expansion.

Due to the current limitations on faculty and space, a focus will be placed on enhancing the College’s infrastructure, which involves hiring more faculty and increasing the number of academic advisors.

“We want to make sure that we maintain our quality. We want to make sure that we don’t just grow the college without building the infrastructure to continue the quality,” said Schriner.

With an improved infrastructure, plans are underway to expand the College’s degree offerings as well.

A bachelor’s degree in communication arts was just recently authorized, and others are being considered after faculty evaluation.

“We’ve had talk of expanding degrees in music, theatre, architecture, so those are all potential ideas. We do have the opportunity, because of the strategic plan, to think about how we can expand our degree offerings,” said Schriner.

Both Schriner and the Strategic Plan intend to use the arts to community problem solving and give students opportunities to participate in service learning.

“I think the President and the Provost realize that the Arts are critical to a city and a University’s development. The city we live in is amazing in terms of access to culture and the arts,” said Schriner.

Capitalizing on South Florida’s diverse culture and access, the Strategic Plan emphasizes an importance on local, national and international engagement from every facet of the Arts.

“It’s not just about putting on a play or a concert. It’s about looking at our community and the various problems that face us, and we can engage the community through the arts to solve the problem,” said Schriner.

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Brian Schriner, Dean
College of Architecture and The Arts

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Schriner looks to enhance College of Arts and Architecture’s infrastructure

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Final regular season match canceled due to weather

Brandon Wise
Staff Writer

The FIU Golden Panthers tennis team, ranked No. 69 in the nation, ran into a disappointing day on April 16 as rain caused their match against the Central Florida Golden Knights, ranked No. 68 in the nation, to be canceled.

The match had only just begun when the rain began to fall on the courts, causing an hour and a half rain delay. When the teams returned to the court, it was only minutes before the rain began again and forced the teams to call it a day. Senior Maria Spenceley was sad to see her last home match end the way it did, “It was disappointing,” said Spenceley. “It was our last home game and we got to play about three games in total. But it does happen, there is nothing we can do about it.”

Liset Brito, ranked No. 61 in the nation, had a slightly different feeling about today. “It is always good to play,” said Brito. “But this isn’t going to affect us.”

Golden Panthers split doubleheader vs. WKU

Malcolm Shields
Staff Writer

The Golden Panthers returned home to open up a crucial three game conference series against Western Kentucky beginning on April 16 in a doubleheader.

FIU split the doubleheader, winning the first game 7-1 and falling in game two to the Hilltoppers by a 5-4 score.

UL 7, FIU 1

Starting pitcher Jenn Gniadeck got off to a slow start in the top of the first inning for the Golden Panthers. The Hilltoppers placed runners at first and second with a fly out to left field.

After compiling a 6-2 lead, the Golden Panthers scored two more insurance runs in the seventh and eighth innings to seal the deal.

“We had a tough night last night, but R.J. really stepped up and was in rhythm. He only struck out two, but he read the hitters pretty well tonight,” said Thomas, who was pleased with giving the bullpen some rest.

Bryan Garcia, the only relief pitcher needed that night, pitched the ninth for FIU.

“It was important to get this win and take it to a game three with something to contend, but we have to be consistent and play all three spots better,” said Thomas. “If we slip on defense, pitching or even our hitting we’ll let the others slip as well.”

UL 7, FIU 3

The Golden Panthers began a three-game set against the Ragin’ Cajuns on April 14. Louisiana-Lafayette came in fourth place in the Sun Belt Conference. ULL (19-14, SBC 6-8) runners singles up the middle to give FIU a 3-0 lead over the Cajuns.

After Louisiana scored on a sacrifice fly by shortstop Amanda Thomas, the Golden Panthers scored two more insurance runs in the second inning with a single to left field.

Zimmerman would continue to struggle with his fastball throughout the game. Innell Leon knocked single to center field, driving Shantz home to give FIU a 3-0 lead over the Cajuns.

After Louisiana scored on a sacrifice fly in the top of the fourth, FIU responded back in the bottom half of the inning. Martinez and Henry both had singles up the middle to give FIU (21-16, SBC 6-8) runners on first and second. Shantz stepped into the box and drove a half past third base to load the bases for FIU. forcing ULL (20-15, SBC 8-6) change pitchers.

Yoandy Barroso knocked single to right field to bring Martinez home. Innell Leon grounded into a double play as Fabri Henry scored to put FIU up 5-1 going into the fifth.

Zimmerman only pitched three innings, giving up four earned runs while allowing five hits. FIU had to respond once again after the Ragin’ Cajuns cut the deficit to 5-2 in the fifth.

After a base hit from Wittels and ground out by Patton, which advanced Wittels to second, Mike Martinez drove in another run with a single to right that advanced Wittels to third base.

Second base, Mike Martinez drove in another run with a single to center field, driving Shantz home to give FIU a 3-0 lead over the Cajuns.

The Golden Panthers tried to bounce back against Ragin’ Cajuns in the second game of the three-game set on April 16 and starter R.J. Fondon continued his success on the mound as the Golden Panthers kept the Ragin’ Cajuns with an 8-2 victory.

Fondon only gave up one earned run in eight innings of work.

“Fondon is a four pitch guy, fastball, change up, cutter, and a slider. If he gets them all going well we’ll be in good shape,” said coach Turtle Thomas about Fondon.

While Fondon was having success against the Ragin’ Cajun bats, Joe Zimmerman, Louisiana’s starter, struggled against the Golden Panthers offense.

After allowing two runners on base in part of an error and a walk, Jeremy Patton singled down the right side for the first run of the game.

With a 1-0 lead early on, Rudy Flores hit a dribbler past second. Although Patton got called out on the play, Wittels sped home for FIU’s second score.

Softball

Golden Panthers split doubleheader vs. WKU

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**BASEBALL, page 3**

Phil Haig for FIU (20-14, SBC 5-7).

Prior to the series opener, Haig made eight appearances for the Golden Panthers, pitching 48 innings with an ERA of 4.10. The Golden Panthers were denied any hope of a sweep this weekend, losing to the Ragin’ Cajuns 7-3, slipping after building a three-run lead early on.

Things appeared to open up well for the Golden Panthers. Leadoff Bermudez has had a great season offensively up to now with a batting average of .425. Hubbell took no chances, walking Bermudez to put him at first.

After a Garrett Wittels singled to right field to take the speedster Bermudez to third, Mike Martinez grounded out to the shortstop to score Bermudez in the bottom of the first.

With the lead in their favor, the Golden Panthers opened the second inning with a bang. Jabari Henry crushed a solo shot to left field, putting FIU up 2-0. Henry, who belted 12 home runs last season, recorded his fifth home run of the season.

Another FIU hit rose to the occasion in the following inning. Off a low, sinking pitch from Hubbell in the third, Bermudez belted his first home run of the season. It was another solo home run over the left field wall to not only give Louisiana a 4-3 lead but also forcing the FIU pitching coaches to make a change.

FIU brought in Jose Velazquez in relief for Haig, but things did not change. Mike Petello continued to make the situation difficult for FIU. In the seventh inning, the right fielder for the Ragin’ Cajuns would double to left field, bringing their leadoff Alex Fuselier home for an insurance run to build a 5-3 lead.

After just pitching two innings and getting five strikeouts, Masin McVay would relieve Velazquez in the seventh inning. McVay, another lefty would give UL another insurance run, after a low pitch to Lance Marvel resulted in a double down the left field line, bringing Petello home for the 6-3 lead.

The Golden Panthers would make two more pitching changes after McVay. Logan Dodds was sent to the mound but after one inning of play, Dodds would be relieved by another lefty, D.J. Swatchen to close for FIU.

Despite all five pitchers combining for 14 strikeouts, the pitching staff allowed seven runs, which resulted in a 7-3 loss to the Ragin’ Cajuns. Haig gave up four runs in his outing, resulting in his third loss of the year.

“We imploded on the mound. We couldn’t find the strike zone,” coach Turtle Thomas said after the loss.

**SOFTBALL, page 3**

Through the first four innings, the Golden Panthers had multiple opportunities to put runs on the scoreboard but left runners stranded on base.

In the first inning, the Golden Panthers loaded the bases with no outs. On a Brie Rojas flyout to right field, Alfonso was thrown out at home on a throw by Smith for the Hilltoppers. Kayla Burri followed with a groundout to end the inning.

In the second and third innings, the Golden Panthers put runners on base but were unable to drive them in as Mallorie Sulaski for Western Kentucky was able to pitch out of jams. Golden Panthers’ starting pitcher Mariah Dawson matched Sulaski pitch for pitch as she kept the Hilltoppers scoreless through three innings.

In the fourth inning, the Hilltoppers got timely hits to take the lead. Western Kentucky put two runners on base and Amanda Walden executed a sacrifice bunt to move both runners to second and third. Megan Johnson laced a single and following an Alfonso walk, Peller was hit by a pitch to load the bases. In a very tough at bat, McClain battled Sulaski and drew a bases loaded walk. With two outs Burri cleared the bases with a double to left center field to give Western Kentucky a 2-0 lead.

The Hilltoppers added another run in the fifth inning on a Dew triple to right field.

In the fifth inning, the Golden Panthers got a chance to get back into the game. Casals started with a one out single and following an Alfonso walk, Peller was hit by a pitch to load the bases. In a very tough at bat, McClain battled Sulaski and drew a bases loaded walk. With two outs Burri cleared the bases with a double to left center field to give FIU a 4-3 lead.

“I guess I hit well under pressure,” Burri said. “I was looking for [a pitch] inside in my zone. When there are runners out there, I just hit.”

The Golden Panthers (24-22, 10-7 SBC) were unable to hold on to the slim lead as Dew, who went 2-2,3 hit a two out, two-run homer to left, to give the Hilltoppers a 5-4 lead. Sulaski closed out the game for Western Kentucky (23-21, 4-10 SBC) to collect her tenth win of the season.

**TENNIS, page 3**

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**LOOKING FORWARD**

The Golden Panthers are now looking forward to next week’s Sun Belt Conference Tournament, which will begin on Thursday, April 21. They will be hoping to win another conference title, adding to the four they have won since 2005.

The will enter the tournament with the No. 1 seed and are expecting nothing but a championship from their trip to Mobile, AL. Spenceley thinks the team will dominate.

“I expect us to win and beat everybody,” said Spenceley. “But you never know, anybody can beat anybody on any given day.”

The team will play their first match on Friday against either the No. 8 or 9 seed in the tournament at 9 A.M.

**SUN BELT TOURNAMENT**

**FIU vs. TBA**

- **Time:** TBA
- **Where:** 04/21/11
- **Where:** Mobile, AL
The Student Programming Council (SPC) is about to lose its president. Adriana Rodriguez spoke with The Beacon Newspaper and gave us some insight on the council and what she calls, “The organization that has been the rhythm of my college experience.”

As president of SPC, Rodriguez’s main focus is organizing events throughout each semester. The events range from comedy shows to movies, lectures, pool parties and concerts. Today, the council programs over 70 events for students and the community. SPC continues to develop and will continue to provide cultural, educational, recreational and social programs directed at building unity and pride among the student body.

Rodriguez believes that in order to be able to run an organization such as SPC, “You need to be able to have an eye for detail. Whether it is programming, marketing, finances, administration or membership, it is all equally essential for success.” She has been able to attain much success for SPC.

Part of our accomplishments has been having a shared vision and allowing for all the members of the organization to have ownership of that vision,” said Rodriguez. “I’ve been lucky to have such a talented team, with members specialized in various areas, which has made SPC a well-rounded autonomy.”

Members of SPC, such as Gabriela Lambertus, VP of Outreach, said, “Cristina quickly became an essential part of SPC.”

“Few times in life have I seen someone as passionate and committed as Cristina is with SPC. She truly has left a strong mark on the organization itself as well as all of us that have had the privilege of working beside her.” Lukas Calafell, treasurer of SPC, added, “Cristina has always maintained a positive influence in the organization.”

“She always kept in mind that we do for our fellow students and peers. I believe she set a positive and proactive foundation and vision for the organization and for those who will follow after her term as SPC President.”

Rodriguez began her involvement with SPC as a General Member in 2007. She was selected as the VP of Outreach for the 2008-2009 academic year and embarked into the world of marketing and public relations.

Not only did she learn how to properly market the programs as VP of Outreach, but she “explored programming, assisted with the daily office operations and oversaw what is now a $320,000 budget.”

A year later she became President of SPC and had the opportunity to develop professionally in the field of Student Affairs. She became the Student Projects Coordinator for the NACA South Conference which offers students a wide variety of resources for college event planning, including work shops and entertainment information.

Rodriguez finished the year as the reelected president of SPC, guiding the organization through a second transition.

Stephanie Suarez, Vice President of Programming, said, “UP-Roar week turned out amazing. All of SPC worked very hard and I think it showed through all of the events. All of the UP-Roar events were filled with students who definitely were enjoying themselves and having a great time. Overall, I’m almost definitely very pleased.”

For more info, contact sspc@fiu.edu or follow them through their website at www.fiu.edu/~sspcc.
KATHY PAZ
Staff Writer

The week of Art Basel isn’t the only time South Beach offers a cultural experience in the arts to both visitors and locals. In fact, the area hosts a prominent and well-established South Florida museum.

The Bass Museum of Art strives to expose the community to both classic and contemporary pieces that provoke discussion and engage audiences. The Bass Museum of Art was established in 1963 when John and Johanna Bass donated a private collection of 500 Renaissance and Baroque works to the city. Most of the pieces were European paintings, important textiles and religious sculptures.

Since its founding, the museum has grown considerably, now housing over 3,000 pieces that include 15th century to present European painting and sculpture; seventh to 20th century textiles, tapestries and ecclesiastical vestments and artifacts; 20th and 21st-century North American, Latin American, Asian and Caribbean art.

Along with these, there are photographs, prints and drawings and modern and contemporary architecture and design with emphasis on the pre and postwar design history of Miami Beach. Currently on display at the Bass is “Come Together,” an exhibition by married artists Frances Trombly and Leyden Rodriguez-Casanova. The couple, widely known in the Miami art scene, put together installations that are inspired by everyday objects.

Those who attended last year’s “Aesthetics and Values Fine Art Exhibition” at the Frost Art Museum may recall Trombly’s works.

For “Come Together,” the artists combine their efforts; Trombly showcases hand-stitched, embroidered household pieces such as mops, canvases and drop cloths, and Rodriguez-Casanova takes decorative items and attempts to deconstruct a domestic environment. In this, they will merge and contrast hand-made elements with mass-produced ones. This exhibition will be up until June 19.

A second current hosting is “An Invitation to LOOK.” Featuring approximately 40 works from the permanent collection, this presentation aims to move away from the conventional approaches taken by museums in organizing and arranging art by historical context.

The exhibition features paintings by American, Dutch, English and French artists.

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One of the collection’s most prized pieces, “Coronation of the Virgin with Saints” by Sandro Botticelli and Domenico Ghirlandaio, will also be on display. “An Invitation to LOOK” is on exhibit until early July.

In addition to the two, current exhibitions, the Bass Museum of Art is also the home of Florida’s only Egyptian gallery. This sponsored collection is made possible by multiple entities including the City of Miami Beach Cultural Affairs Program, the Miami-Dade Board of County Commissioners and the John S. and James L. Knight Foundation.

Hosted in the Kaisr and Kosh Family Gallery, the exhibition is comprised of 16 ancient Egyptian artifacts, including a sarcophagus and mummy, that have been gifted to the museum or are on long-term loans from the Brooklyn Museum and Lowe Art Museum.

The museum is open to the public from Wednesday to Sunday. Admission is $6 for students with a valid ID on location or $2.50 via Culture Shock Miami for those who are aged 22 and under.
Deficit compromise a limited solution

In recent weeks, the media's attention has been focused on how best to address America's $1.4 trillion deficit and ballooning debt. President Barack Obama has proposed a funding plan that reduces federal agency budgets by more than $38 billion for the second half of the year. However, the House of Representatives has approved only $4.3 billion in additional cuts, in addition to further cutting tax revenues by $4.2 trillion. The plan does not reduce the U.S. towards a balanced budget. In fact, if this ridiculous plan is implemented, the U.S. is looking at an even deeper deficit.

The current deficit is too large, and merely shrinking the budget will not eliminate the deficit. Realistically, the government needs to generate more revenue and that will only come through increased income taxes. President Obama provides a great analysis. During his speech on April 13, the President summarized the poor plan designed by Republicans. He said, “There’s nothing serious about a plan that claims to reduce the deficit by spending a trillion dollars on tax cuts for millionaires and billionaires.” Let’s back-track a little to the 90’s with former President Bill Clinton, a Democrat. In an article published on April 12, the New York Times summarized the economy at the Clinton’s tenure. “The Clinton years disproved the notion that higher taxes would inevitably stifle economic growth, or cost politicians their jobs. Taxes were raised in 1993, including higher income tax rates on the wealthiest. The economy was strong, and the stock market surged. Taxes were cut in 1997 in a deal with the Republican-controlled Congress, but by then the combination of higher tax rates on the wealthy, a strong economy and a rising stock market was boosting revenues significantly. By the end of Bill Clinton’s term, the federal budget had been in surplus for four straight years.” This example supports that a mixture of budget cuts and increase in revenue is a necessary to shrink the deficit and reduce the debt.

Unfortunately, former President George W. Bush and Congress united Clinton’s progress with $1.65 trillion in tax cuts for the wealthy, a typical Republican position on taxes. This paved the way for increased deficits, on which track we continue to travel. I am not in any way defending no cuts to the budget. Obviously, government spending needs to be brought under control if we have any hope of cutting and eliminating the deficit.

Representative Paul Ryan of Wisconsin, chairman of the House Budget Committee, has similar goals as Obama, but an unfavorable plan to attain that goal. According to the Washington Times, Ryan’s plan entails the following: “Medicaid would become a block grant controlled by the states; Medicare would become a voucher program starting in 2022. On taxes, Ryan would continue the Bush tax cuts for wealthy Americans set to expire at the end of next year.” Basically, Ryan plans on neglecting senior citizens while the rich continue to thrive.

As of now, the problem is being addressed, but not taken care of. The new budget plan implemented is merely the simple way to avoid a government shutdown, not a solution to America’s deficit. Econ with Neda is an economics op-ed column.

When the University finalized and announced the extension of Pete Garcia’s contract on April 1, they locked themselves into a long-term investment to the tune of $1.9 million in base salary, making him by far the highest paid athletic director in the Sun Belt Conference. Though Garcia’s four years at the University have been seen, by most measures, an increase in on-field success, particularly in the revenue-generating sports, it is still prudent for students to question whether that investment will prove fruitful moving forward.

While an athletic director’s main goal is to maximize the school's athletic performance, there is also an expectation that the department will be represented well in public matters. In this area, The Beacon feels Garcia’s tenure has been far from successful.

The 2009 season saw much contention from Garcia. From the controversial and oft mocked hiring of men’s basketball head coach Isaiah Thomas and the ensuing embarrassment with regards to the ‘Coaches Vs. Cancer’ tournament,” to former University President Motsudo Madique’s admonishment and reprimand of Garcia for “unprofessional behavior and poor leadership style, misuse of state resources [and] hostile work environment,” Garcia’s time here has been marked by a seemingly constant series of public relations mistakes.

It would be hard to question the success Athletics has seen under Garcia, but when taken in total, Garcia has a lot to improve on to make that investment worthwhile.

The timing of Garcia’s contract also brings some questions with it, as it came just weeks before a proposal to increase the athletic fee student pay with each credit hour received by up to five percent.

According to University Chief Financial Officer Kenneth Jessell, part of Garcia’s salary comes from the athletics fee, along with other auxiliary funds and the South Beach Wine and Food Festival.

Looking at the contract prior to the athletics fee vote seems to pressure the committee, made up of both students and faculty members, into approving at least a partial increase in order to make up the difference.

As students, we view the athletics fee as an investment, taken from our pockets and diverted towards Athletics to fund the sports teams competing on our behalf. Students also receive free admission to all sporting events on campus in which student athletes compete, as well as the occasional discounted ticket to on-campus events, such as the upcoming Gold Cup soccer games.

However, we feel Athletics can and should do more to give students a return on their investment. From the U.S. Century Bank Arena to the football stadium, students are effectively bared from using Athletics’ facilities when games are not being held. Increased access to facilities is just one way in which Athletics can reward students with a return on their investment; free tickets to a fraction of games a typical popula
tion takes advantage of is not enough.

With how heavily we subsidize the depart-
ment itself, there is an opportunity for Athletics to develop a positive relationship with students and see to it that we are not wasting our money.

In a time when it is easier to cheat, and more prosperous to have students pass, the lack of integrity displayed by students and professors will continue on.

Student, professor integrity on the frint

According to University Chief Financial Officer Kenneth Jessell, part of Garcia’s salary comes from the athletics fee, along with other auxiliary funds and the South Beach Wine and Food Festival.

Looking at the contract prior to the athletics fee vote seems to pressure the committee, made up of both students and faculty members, into approving at least a partial increase in order to make up the difference.

As students, we view the athletics fee as an investment, taken from our pockets and diverted towards Athletics to fund the sports teams competing on our behalf. Students also receive free admission to all sporting events on campus in which student athletes compete, as well as the occasional discounted ticket to on-campus events, such as the upcoming Gold Cup soccer games.

However, we feel Athletics can and should do more to give students a return on their investment. From the U.S. Century Bank Arena to the football stadium, students are effectively bared from using Athletics’ facilities when games are not being held. Increased access to facilities is just one way in which Athletics can reward students with a return on their investment; free tickets to a fraction of games a typical popula
tion takes advantage of is not enough.

With how heavily we subsidize the depart-
ment itself, there is an opportunity for Athletics to develop a positive relationship with students and see to it that we are not wasting our money.
Family flees post-earthquake Japan, tells their tale

KATIE LAWRENCE  Staff Writer

Japan's 9.0-magnitude earthquake and subsequent nuclear plant failure has thus far caused 13,500 deaths and uprooted many homes and families, including that of Ayato Kaneko.

Kaneko was at the Biscayne Bay Campus on April 15 to present his work on "Japanese Nuclear Crisis: A Family's Odyssey," an event the University's Asian Studies Program sponsored.

The event centered on Kaneko, who fled Japan after the news of spewing radiation began to develop.

"I think it was seeing the prime minister cry on television," Kaneko said of the final motivator to leave behind his life in Japan and move his wife, 3-year-old daughter, and 6-month-old son to Miami. "It made me realize this was bigger than what they were telling us, and I needed to do what was best for my family."

Jerry Brown, founding professor of Global and Socioculture Studies at the University and event moderator, and some of his students had heard of Kaneko's plight and have devoted their time and effort to helping him find employment and make it as comfortable a transition as possible.

Kaneko recounted his ordeal and mentioned what he and his family did after the earthquake.

"I was taking a nap and everything started shaking sideways," said Kaneko, who was 70 miles from his family at the time and could not get in touch with anyone due to busy phone lines.

A nuclear meltdown is caused when the core of a nuclear reactor overheats to critical levels. The earthquake in Japan disrupted off-site power and caused the cooling system to fail at the Fukushima plant in northern Japan.

Brown spoke on Chernobyl and the lasting effects of such a catastrophe. Chernobyl is one of the most recognized nuclear disasters which occurred almost 25 years to the day before the Fukushima, Japan incident.

Brown said, "This has the potential to exceed Chernobyl in death toll when the process is done," Brown said.

And the process may never be done. Nuclear radiation deteriorates in measurements of half-lives, in which it becomes half as radioactive as it originally was. Plutonium, a common chemical element in nuclear technology, has a half-life of 24,000 years. Even with containment, as was done at Chernobyl, the area surrounding the incident will remain unlivable.

Highways and trains were closed, but Kaneko found the subway was still running, and upon returning with his family they kept shelter inside their home for two weeks.

"My daughter just wanted to go to the park. It was nice outside, and she couldn't understand why we couldn't go," Kaneko said, tearing up briefly. "I spent that time trying to figure out the safest way to raise our children. It was tough choice. Just grab four suitcases and go. I thought, 'I think, I made the right decision.'"

"I was taking a nap and everything started shaking sideways," said Kaneko, who was 70 miles from his family at the time and could not get in touch with anyone due to busy phone lines.

Some of the new building projects will be the creation of a new residence hall; however, Rosenberg stated there would be opposition to a new dormitory at the University because of containment, as was done at Chernobyl, the area surrounding the incident will remain unlivable.

Brown, who has also contributed numerous articles on nuclear power to scientific journals, pointed out the effects if the material is leaked into the water supply can be felt for generations. "Our children and grandchildren are not merely statistics to which we can be indifferent," Brown said.

Kaneko, 30, born in America but raised in Japan, expressed his gratitude to the University community and for the safety of his family.

"We’re lucky to be alive today," Kaneko said. "We’re just not drinking faucet water."