

best *in class*

Sara Giovannoni made FIU history last year when she became the first Golden Panther ever to qualify for the NCAA Swimming Championships. She's a star in the classroom.

Athlete

What I enjoy most about swimming:

The 200 breaststroke is my best event. That was the event I swam in the NCAA Championships. When I'm in the water, I can relax and focus. No worries. It's just me and the water.

The life of a scholar-athlete:

It's busy! I'm taking 17 credits this semester and practicing with the swim team twice a day. I'm really stubborn and ambitious, so I put pressure on myself to do well. My GPA was 4.0 until this past summer when I got an A- in one of my classes.

On life in the United States:

Everything was a surprise. The schedule, sharing a dorm room, the classes, learning to speak the language – it was all new. The one thing I loved from the beginning, though, was the weather. My family supports me 100 percent. They hear how happy I am when they phone. They know this was the right decision for me.

My dream:

I don't know if I'll be living in Italy or the United States. I'd like to be a good engineer with my own business. I like the options that come with being an industrial engineer. I'd love to swim for Italy in the 2008 Olympics. It will be hard, but we'll see what happens.



Sara Giovannoni, 22, Junior
FIU Major: Industrial Engineering
From Modena, Italy. Says the one thing she can't resist in life is chocolate.

"I love the fact that this is such an international city and university. I enjoy meeting people from different places."



FIU

FLORIDA INTERNATIONAL UNIVERSITY

www.fiu.edu