Soledad O’Brien, award-winning journalist and a CNN correspondent, said that college students are the people who will shape national issues on the Latino community.

O’Brien returned to the University a second time to discuss topics such as voting elections, education, leadership and the entertainment industry among Latinos.

“I feel that people of your age group are the ones trying to move the needle on a lot of these important issues,” said O’Brien, who kicked off her “I am Latino in America” tour at FIU on Monday, Sept. 28.

She was invited by the Biscayne Bay Campus Student Government Council earlier this year to talk about racial profiling and protests against police brutality during her “Black in America” tour. Through her “I am Latino in America” tour, O’Brien said she wants to empower Latino Americans, especially students.

“I know that the student body is really interested and active and loves to be engaged in a conversation,” said O’Brien in an interview with FIU Student Media.

“When you do a presentation like ‘Latino in America’ tour, you really want the students to come back with questions and to be part of the conversation you’re having. For all those reasons, FIU is a great place to begin.”

O’Brien said she chose to kick off her tour at the University because of its outreach to the Latino community, its student engagement and involvement.

FIU ranks No. 9 out of 50 colleges in the nation to successfully award degrees to Hispanics, according to BestColleges.com.

Experts on the topic issues were also a part of the discussion. One of the panelists was Elisabeth Brieskorn, president for Academic Affairs, who spoke about education.

O’Brien talked about “Latino in America” documentary, which includes interviews on families and individuals of Hispanic descent within American society.

O’Brien interviews a high school student named Cindy in her Latino in America documentary. She said Cindy was determined to graduate on time, even though she was pregnant and was 46 credits behind.

O’Brien used Cindy’s story to discuss the importance of Latinos having hope.

“Hope is sort of another word for feeling like you have an opportunity somewhere, and I think what she lacked was a sense that there was another door through which there was a lot of possibilities,” O’Brien said.

O’Brien said students should engage with others and find out about their day-to-day experiences, and discuss why they are the way they are.

“I think the thing about being a good reporter is being curious and to try to understand why people are how they are and how they got that way,” she said.

“Students of this generation have a personal connection with trending social issues in which they feel they can do something and know that they are contributing to the greater good,” said O’Brien. She said that is what makes today’s generation different from her own.

O’Brien also said that in addition to education, immigration is a big issue that is affecting the Latino community. However, she said that supporting an issue is not the only way to increase voter turnout for the Hispanic community.

“My advice to students would be: figure out what’s a change you’re interested in, get behind a candidate who is going to bring the change to the world and help that person achieve it.”

At the Sunday mass, the Pope highlighted the importance of the family in the 21st century. “It’s important to reaffirm what the pope is, a foundation of family,” she said.

“In the 21st century, we need to get the family back. We need to celebrate the family.”

At the Sunday mass, the Pope highlighted the importance of the family in the 21st century. “It’s important to reaffirm what the pope is, a foundation of family,” she said.

“The pope is someone who has an actual message and his opinion matters.”

Lucia Benigni, Tommaso Benigni and one of the coordinators of the trip, said the pilgrimage was a special opportunity to be in communion with the pope.

“We are Catholics, the pope is a foundation of love where we learn to give our life to the other.”

In his homily, Pope Francis spoke about this same thing and focused on what it means to be a family.

“It’s a father and mother united in love with their children,” said Lucia. “It’s for the service of the other, not only for happiness.”

The group returned to Miami on Tuesday, Sept. 29.

“We’ll hopefully get to find our vocation,” said Lucia. “Our mission is to evangelize because we’re all called to announce the love of God to all men.”

And that’s what the group did when they spoke about God’s love to strangers, telling them He loves them “as they are and with all their flaws”.

“This trip has made me see how important the family is,” said Hernandez. “I wouldn’t have lived it the same way if I was home. It’s once a lifetime opportunity.”
University dean represents FIU

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Mike Heithaus, dean of the College of Arts and Sciences, testified before a the House Agriculture Subcommittee on Biotechnology, Horticulture, and Research in Washington D.C. Tuesday, Sept. 29.

The hearing, called “Research Innovations from our Nation’s Agricultural Colleges and Universities,” will give the opportunity to highlight the University’s innovative work in detecting and protecting crops in South Florida, according to FIU Federal Relations.

Crops have recently been susceptible to the deadly laurel wilt disease, which spreads by an invasive insect. The dean also discussed FIU’s outreach efforts to attract minority high school students to the agricultural sciences. The University is trying to connect Hispanic farm workers, Hispanic agricultural scientists and engineers.

Other participants involved during the hearing included Mandy Brashears, director of the International Center for Food Industry Excellence at Texas Tech University and Michael Lacy, professor and department head of the Department of Poultry Science at the University of Georgia.

Other topics that were planned for discussion include veterans and small farmers outreach, economic growth and job creation and research partnerships of which the University is engaged.

Police find three bullet casings found in FIU arena

CAMILA FERNANDEZ
News Director
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Three bullet casings were found in the FIU Arena at the Modesto A. Maidique Campus.

Wayne Rustad, equipment athletics facilities manager, said he found an empty silver Winchester 9mm casing in a laundry room on the first floor of the arena. The casing was visible in the dryer’s lint trap, according to a report by the University police department on Sept. 8.

Rustad said that the laundry facility is used by staff for athletic wear and used by FIU athletes.

He spoke about his finding to Julie Berg McGraw, associate athletic director, who said the police advised her not to comment on the matter to Student Media until an investigation was completed.

Rustad also reported two other empty bullet casings that he found about three to four months ago in the laundry room. The cartridges are a Blazer .45 AUTO and a 1-FC Luger 9mm, both

The casings were taken as found property and will not be sent to the Miami-Dade Police Department laboratory because the police do not know how long the bullet casings were in the lint trap and who held them.

According to Alexander Casas, chief of the FIU Police Department, the police have conducted forensic analysis to determine the origin of the casings.

“We don’t just completely dismiss it as a random action,” Casas said. He also said it is possible that a recreational shooter did not empty his pockets before cleaning.

Casas says concerns about the casings are minimal, since the only people who had access to the facility was staff from Athletics. Otherwise, the police would have sent a security warning to the University community.

Casas said it would have been a bigger issue if the casings were to have been found in a parking lot, for example.

University dean represents FIU

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Wynwood’s gentrification displaces impoverished residents

NICOLE STONE Contributing Writer
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Gentrification, in a sense, is all about the classic notion of “out with the old, in with the new” and it is occurring in Wynwood.

Wynwood is now affectionately titled “art district” after being taken into the hands of various wealthy developers who saw its potential.

Graffiti brings the district to life; anyone who has been there has felt the atmospheric magic of being dwarfed by the art on the district’s towering buildings.

A night of enjoying this new Wynwood culture is quickly being added to bucket lists everywhere.

There are coffee shops, classy restaurants and numerous bars to suit the nightlife groove sought by many checking out the district.

This rebirth would not have been possible without the encouragement of its developers. Among these developers are David Lombardi and Tony Goldman who helped push out the old and replaced it with upscale art museums and dining venues.

Unfortunately, all this came at the cost of the people who didn’t fit the portrait of a hip, new Wynwood.

Gentrification is a dark and ugly process. A massive part of urban redevelopment is improving property values, something that isn’t foreign to Wynwood’s own redevelopment.

More often than not, the original inhabitants are forced to leave, as they are unable to pay the increased rent.

During an interview featured in Camila Alvarez’s documentary, “Right to Wynwood,” Lombardi proudly recalls pushing out an entire building of tenants in order to demolish the structure.

“I delivered a big machine that rips the building down...I pushed it there as an ornament for them...That morning I got the permit [for demolition], I had the policemen come and knock on every door and tell them they had one hour to get out...They all stood on the sidewalk with their suitcases...I went by and wished them well on their future endeavors,” said Lombardi.

This displacement of one community of people for another should be firing alarms in the minds of Wynwood’s visitors. Maybe they are unaware of what gentrification truly means for the community; and it only means the destruction of the community.

If Wynwood is really about diverse people coming together in an urban landscape, there should be options for the lower-income residents who existed there previously. What is happening in Wynwood is not progress at all. It is just a flip in the social hierarchy of the city.

Instead of those with low income, we now have high-income residents. Progress does not breed the elimination of entire communities; rather, it should integrate them. The truth of Wynwood’s revamping in particular is essentially “out with the poor, in with the rich.”

The artists of Wynwood may not realize their rule as catalysts for their own exploitation and the exploitation of their art. The art district in Wynwood was once an outlet for artists to put themselves out there and further develop their careers.

After the success of Wynwood’s gentrification, art in Wynwood is no longer about art.

This art is a device to bring in an audience and raise property values. This art is about making money. Many of the artists featured in “Right to Wynwood” state that they didn’t care why the art was there - what mattered to them was that it simply existed there, and bountifully.

The gentrification of Wynwood is not a light matter, and the costs of its progress should be taken into account when throwing this is truly a nays-to-scribes success story.

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Have something on your mind? Send your thoughts (400 words maximum) to opinion@fiusm.com or drop by our offices at either G-210 or W-134.

With your letter, be sure to include your name, major, year, and copy of your student ID. The Beacon will only run one letter per month from any individual.

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Thursday, October 1, 2015
Nancy Meyers reflects on working in Hollywood

Nancy Meyers was not allowed on the set of her first movie without a male chaperone. Thirteen films later, six of them as director — Meyers can laugh about it. It was 1979 and Warner Bros. was making “Private Benjamin” from a script Meyers had written with Charles Shyer, and she would later marry. Her contract stipulated that Meyers, then 29, had to be with Shyer or another male producer at all times while on set.

“Assumed” is because I was an inexperienced woman,” Meyers said. “It was a very male world, I didn’t know any women directors. I’m sure there were other women writers, but I didn’t know them. It was a bit isolating. There were pinups in the crew guys’ boxes. It made me realize, uncomfortable I walked around and introduced myself. I said, ‘Hi, I’m the co-writer. I’d love to hear you would take that down.’”

Meyers’ latest movie as writer and director, “The Intern,” centers on a character who would find that chauvinist world unreconcilable to any way. Jules, a young CEO of a tech startup played by Anne Hathaway, is the boss of 200 employees. Considering the mortgage on a tastefully decorated Brooklyn brownstone, married to an attentive stay-at-home dad. And Jules has something Meyers says she never really did — mentor, a 70-year-old who was her position.

It came from something that was missing in my life but I never thought of,” said Meyers, now 66. When somebody’s in a stressful situation, wouldn’t it be nice to have someone with some wisdom to watch you back, remind you who you and what you are doing and what? Wouldn’t we all like that?”

Meyers has an unusual, dichotomous quality — she takes the details of life and her movies utterly seriously while having a sense of humor about herself. Petite, crisply dressed at a busy Los Angeles breakfast spot on a recent morning, she spoke an Oscar-winning screenplay — cross the room. “I’ll introduce you,” she said. “He’ll have no idea who I am.”

Asked if she could go back and offer her younger self a piece of advice, Meyers said, “I’d rather be able to talk to me now. I’d say, ‘Call damn.”’

A female director of several successful studio movies, Meyers is the unofficial president of one of the world’s finest: She has ridden out trends in the film business — many of them grim for the category of relationship-driven movie she makes — and watched as women in Hollywood have grown increasingly vocal about what they perceive as a second-class status.

For her fans, many of whom have been female, Meyers’ tales of triumphant women in films like “It’s Complicated” and “Something’s Gotta Give” occupy event status. Milden Kaling tweeted recently, “I’m going to send a picture of my coffee cup with the words ‘I’m 38. I’d love if you would take that down.’”

Meyers introduced her and I bet you a million dollars we both love it and also try a little,” while Jezabel, Gawker’s female-driven blog, accompanies breathless posts about “The Intern” with a picture of the director wearing a tiny clip-art crown on her head. Though Meyers’ movies have all been commercial successes, her audience is not typically an opening-weekend crowd. And film critics tend to be less charmed by them than moviemakers — they use evocative phrases “chick flick” and “middle-age porn” crop up in reviews. Meyers’ films dwell in an affluent, mostly white world and often touch off cultural discussions about gender.

“Nancy has an awareness that her position is somewhat unique,” said Susanne Farwell, who started as Meyers’ assistant on her first film as a director, “98’s Parent Trap,” and served as a producer on “The Intern.” “She always had a lot of clarity about what she wants, but now she has more confidence.”

Making “The Intern” tested that confidence, however, as Meyers found a film industry dramatically changed since the release of her last film, 2009’s “It’s Complicated.””

Meyers was trying to make something else when I finished the script and sent it around,” Meyers said. “Everybody was trying to make ‘Spider-Man,’ so it hit the market not at the right time. I just kept taking more meetings and sending it out again. I got to the point where I was going to bury the script in my backyard. Dig a hole. Buy a nice little box at the Container Store. At a certain point I thought, ‘enough.’”

As Meyers worked to set up the film, cast members came and went — Reese Witherspoon and Tina Fey were both attached at one point. The kind of young producers who budgets Meyers had worked with in the past, on films like “What Women Want,” which starred Mel Gibson, and “The Holiday,” with Cameron Diaz and Kate Winslet, were no longer involved: “We now had to do work without caps or visual effects. (The Intern) cost about $40 million.”

“I knew that, and so I didn’t feel that,” Meyers said of the evolving Hollywood economics. “Things change. I’m sure there was a sense of, ‘Can she do it for this number?’

‘Cause I’ve made a lot of movies that had really healthy budgets for movies that most people love, and...”

“Older people have value. The millennials are so big. They’re everywhere. That’s fantastic. You can’t open the paper without seeing someone who invented what and wow,” she said. “But I’m not that far back from Bob De Niro’s age. These things are kind of personal. You’re just realizing what’s happening.

Other scenes, including one that showcases the still-present tension between working and stay-at-home moms, are pulled directly from Meyers’ experience as a working mother of two.

“One of the things that have happened to me in 35 years, why do I remember South Beach from 1998, or Snow White get a gory steam zone hosts horror icons such as Dracula, Frankenstein and Count Orlock. If you’re a horror aficionado, it’s “Scary Tales” where fairy tale characters like Red Riding Hood or Snow White get a gory steam punk update.

Aside from many of the park’s rides that are available for use, there are two shows to check out: “Horror Icons” featuring Jack The Clown.

“Bill and Ted” features the duo on a quest to stop Kanye West from ruining pop culture after he steals their time machine phone booth. It’s as every bit ridiculous as it is enjoyable with laughs and air guitar.

HHN came back this year with the intention of pulling out all the stops and reminding everyone why they’ve been around for 25 years.
**‘The Grinder’ and ‘Grandfathered’ are good sitcoms**

**ROBERT LLOYD**

**TNS Staff**

With the Tuesday premieres of “The Grinder,” starring Rob Lowe, and “Grandfathered,” with John Stamos, Fox proffers a brace of genial, even family-friendly sitcoms of a sort not usually associated with the network of “Married With Children” and, recently, “The Last Man on Earth,” in which Will Forte fills a swimming pool with his own human waste.

There is a lot of nostalgic energy generated from the get-go. Each series stars an actor not much over 30 whose youthful pinup prettiness hasn’t reached its half-life — indeed has been remarkably slowly to decay, supporting and underscoring their characters’ substantial but not unwavering self-regard. And each of them has been partnered with a younger, former child star: Fred Savage of “The Wonder Years” for Lowe and Josh Peck of “Drake & Josh” for Stamos.

Both are well-made, well-cast series about finding purpose and untangling what you really want from what you only think you want and what you want from what you need, and specifically about discovering this all in (still-foxy) middle age. Splitting the difference between hectic life and what you need, and specifically about discovering this all in (still-foxy) middle age. Splitting the difference between hectic and gentle, they’re warmhearted without being terribly sentimental — that is, they point to their own warmheartedness and make a little face.

In “The Grinder,” created by Andrew Mogel and Jarrad Paul (co-writers and directors of the recent Jack Black film “The D Train”), Lowe plays Dean Sanderson, the son and brother of lawyers. Dean only plays one on TV, or did — after nine years, his series, also called “The Grinder,” is airing its last episode and he has come home to Boise, Idaho, to watch it with his family: kid brother Stewart (Savage), father Dean Sr. (William Devane), sister-in-law Debbie (Mary Elizabeth Ellis from “It’s Always Sunny in Philadelphia”), his niece and nephew.

The conceit of the show is that Stewart, though a real lawyer, lacks the confidence to be a great one — he is dependent on note cards, mumbles his way through arguments and, when the going gets tough, he stops — and that Dean, whose divorce from his TV character is causing him some existential distress (“Right now I’m just driving on the highway of What the Hell Is My Life, looking for an offramp,” he says with typical drama), has the stuff to be one, though his knowledge of the law consists entirely of things picked up from TV scripts. They will have much to teach each other.

Little of what happens in the pilot would make much sense outside the borders of popular fiction. Or perhaps that’s just how things work in Boise, you are free to believe.

But it has emotional truth, let’s call it, and it plays well. Like the judge and jury who are happy to let Dean have his way in and with the courtroom, we are inclined to overlook troublesome details for the sake of entertainment.

“Grandfathered,” created by Daniel Chun, formerly a head writer on “The Office,” takes a well-worn trope — the confirmed, usually swinging bachelor whose life is turned upside down by the arrival of a child or children — and adds an extra generation. Stamos plays restaurateur Jimmy Martino, an energetic, somewhat fretful human tornado who, when we meet him, is plucking a gray hair from his head as though it were a tick. Soon enough, after a brief bit of establishing this and that, we see him meet his unsuspected son, the woolly-headed Gerald (Peck), who has a child of his own, a baby daughter.

Gerald’s mother is played, happily, by the great Pajet Brewster, with whom we have seen this year also as a regular on “Community” and “Another Period” and who at 46 seems to be coming into her own — 127 episodes of “Criminal Minds,” 126 of which I never saw, notwithstanding. Brewster is an actress who can simultaneously seem capable and eccentric, calm and unpredictable: “If you hurt my son or his daughter,” she tells Jimmy, “I will choke you to death with your own overly moisturized hand.”

What’s nice about the series is that, after the required moment of shock, confusion and temperamental if not factual denial, Jimmy moves on quickly to acceptance and interest. Though the pilot hits some of the expected beats — don’t mess my pants, baby with dirty hands — it doesn’t reveal in the comedy of discomfiture common to such stories. It doesn’t artificially harden Jimmy’s heart just to melt it.

Still, it’s no accident that we see him early on in his skyscraper apartment, with its floor-to-ceiling views of the city below, eating breakfast for one, his only company a voice-activated music system — not lonely, necessarily, but visibly alone — and that by the end it is filled with his new extended family. Though everyone in “Grandfathered” is single — meaning there will be “love interests” or “sex objects” passing through — the main business will be with the community they all define.

They will have much to teach each other.

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**THE FAIR, BE THERE**

Jordan Lukshinski, a senior computer science speaking with a representative from the Geospatial Intelligence Agency at the Career Fair held at the Graham Center Ballrooms.

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**‘Hotel Transylvania 2’ features positivity**

**MATTWIE KRANER**

Vampires, zombies, mummies and werewolves may be thought of as terrifying, but if you were to ask Count Dracula, he would simply tell you monsters are nothing but peace-loving creatures that have been unfairly labeled and treated.

Just in time for Halloween, the follow-up family comedy to “Hotel Transylvania,” “Hotel Transylvania 2,” starring the voices of Adam Sandler, Selena Gomez, Andy Samberg and Ashor Blinkoff, puts the fun in funny, giving adults plenty of appropriate jokes to appreciate while children have their boo-ha-ha.

“Hotel Transylvania 2” is cute and slightly spooky, but definitely sends out a positive heartfelt message on family unity and diversity. Having a change of heart over his monster-only guest policy, Dracula opens up his hotel to humans, and it seems things are changing for the better.

Though having opened up to humans and monsters living amongst each other, he is still concerned that “being different is okay.” Moreover, “Hotel Transylvania 2” functions as a social-allegory on a number of levels and recognizes the need for an open mind in life and love. This spooky feel-good family comedy gave me a heart-warming feeling, and is quite the treat mixed in with a few tricks.

Night at the Movies is a movie review column that runs every Thursday. life@fiusm.com
FOOTBALL

Panthers expected to defeat UMass 27-14

JAKE’S TAKES

I’m just going to go on record and say it: FIU’s next game will set the tone for how the team plays for the rest of this season, and may just determine whether or not we see the Panthers (2-3) playing in a Bowl Game this winter and maybe competing for the Conference USA Championship.

A midseason matchup against the bottom-feeding University of Massachusetts Minutemen (0-3), which will take place this Saturday, Oct. 3, may not seem like that big of a deal on the surface, but hear me out on this; through the first four games of the season, FIU has split with 2 wins and 2 losses.

The two wins were against a terribly underperforming University of Central Florida team (0-4) and the FCS North Carolina Central University Eagles (1-2). On the other hand, their two losses are against two very solid teams in Indiana University (4-0) and Louisiana Tech University (2-2).

So why exactly is this game so important? Momentum. This is FIU’s last non-conference game before getting fully into their C-USA schedule. With the Minutemen struggling mightily, FIU should get a solid victory and get a much-needed confidence builder for an improving FIU team.

Plus, FIU needs as many wins as they can get early in the season to be on pace for a Bowl appearance. Generally a team needs 6 wins to clinch a berth in post-season play, but due to FIU’s low attendance and lack of national exposure they’ll more than likely need 7 wins to be invited to a Bowl Game.

With games later in the season against C-USA powerhouses such as Marshall University and Western Kentucky University, FIU must win games against schools like UMass when they have the chance.

UMass shouldn’t be a huge problem for the Panthers on paper, as the Minutemen have struggled mightily on defense and don’t have an overwhelming offensive offense whatsoever.

They’re not necessarily a bad team, and their extremely difficult non-conference schedule is partially to blame for their wireless record. Either way, I don’t view the Minutemen as being on the same level as FIU, and this is a game the Panthers need to win if they want to be viewed as a legitimate C-USA contender.

FIU has beaten both of the lesser teams they’ve played thus far, and if that trend continues this weekend they’ll improve to 3-2. However, nothing is guaranteed in college football, and FIU will need to bring their A-game to take down a Minutemen squad that also views this as a must-win game.

Early weather forecasts predict a cool night with temperatures in the high 50s. This is a game that could point to an advantage for UMass. The Minutemen weather is vastly different than here in Miami, and the Panthers will definitely need to adjust to weather in the high 50s.

If it is indeed raining with the 12 mph winds that are predicted, FIU will have to count on running backs Alex Gardner and Anthon Samuel to lead the offense on the ground. FIU’s running game looked awful last week, but most of that can be attributed to the sheer size and strength of LA Tech’s front seven.

This UMass defense is nowhere near the size and talent of LA Tech’s, so I see FIU’s running backs playing a much better game and helping the Panthers move the ball.

Prediction: FIU defeats UMass 27-14. I don’t expect this to be a blowout, but the Minutemen have been playing too well lately to show any reason why they can’t handle a team like UMass. The Panthers defense will force at least 2 turnovers and sophomore quarterback Alex McGough will turn in another solid performance despite the weather, leading FIU to their third win of 2015.

“Jake’s Takes” offers commentary on the University football team with predictions or recaps of gameplay. For commentary, email Jacob at jacob.spiwak@fiusm.com.
Women’s soccer attempts three-peat

FIU women’s soccer is hitting the road this weekend. The Panthers are set to play Rice University on Friday, Oct. 2nd at 7:00 P.M., which will mark their third Conference USA match-up of the season. The Panthers are on a roll, coming off two straight victories to put them atop the C-USA standings.

Their opponents, the Rice Owls, also had their first C-USA contests of the season this past weekend, finishing with a 1-1 record after losing to Marshall University on Sunday. Rice is welcoming FIU with a 5-4-1 overall record. FIU is currently at 6-5-0, as they are above the .500 mark for the first time since they won their season opener against the University of Dayton.

The Owls, on the other hand, are on bit of a cold stretch over the past two weeks. They have dropped three of their last four games, being outscored by a total goal difference of 9-4 in that span. It is a different story for the Panthers. After losing by five goals to the nationally ranked University of Florida Gators, FIU was able to dominate the University of Texas at San Antonio, and pulled away with a clutch victory after a stoppage time goal against the University of Texas at El Paso. The Panthers will be looking to feed off this momentum heading into Houston.

FIU will need to keep up this pace in order to be a contender in C-USA. The rest of the games of the season are against conference opponents, and it is time to put their 4-5 start and ugly losses behind them. The 2-0 start in conference play could be a sign of a complete turnaround for their season, and there is no better way to prove that than a weekend road trip against a team that is prepared to bounce back off a loss.

Women’s soccer attempts three-peat

Junior forward Luis Betancur was named the Conference USA Offensive Player of the Week on Sunday, Sept. 27, for his hat trick against Florida Atlantic University and his goal against Marshall University.

Betancur has scored a total of five goals on the year and provided a surprising source of offense for the No. 14 men’s soccer team. Betancur scored his second, third and fourth goals of the season on Monday, Sept. 21 during a matchup with FAU. The Panthers exploded for seven goals against the Owls, adding their fifth-straight win in a row in the process.

Betancur was a big reason for his team’s offensive production - he converted two rebounds into goals in the 35th and 77th minutes and added a goal on a header in the 58th minute. The junior also stepped up versus the Mean Green on a strike to the bottom right corner of Marshall’s net to put FIU up 2-0 in the 26th minute.

FIU’s entire offense has been electrifying lately. The Panthers recorded 12 goals in their first two conference games and have outscored opponents 20-6 during their six-game winning streak. As for Betancur, the Plantation, Fla. native has seen his role with the team fluctuate in his three years at the University. As a freshman in 2013, Betancur recorded three goals and an assist while appearing in 17 games. During his sophomore season, however, Betancur only saw action in 11 games and scored one goal. Now a junior, Betancur has bounced back with 10 points on five goals in 2015 with plenty of soccer left on the schedule.

It’s good to be on top

Forward/Midfielder Jamar Campion-Hinds about to kick the ball after receiving a pass from Midfielder Ismael Longo during the game against Marshall.

Midfielder Daniel Gonzalez at the home game against Marshall at the FIU Soccer Stadium on Sept. 26. The next home match will be Saturday, Oct. 3 against the Charlotte 49ers.

Forward/Midfielder Jamir Hamid-Hinds about to kick the ball after receiving a pass from Midfielder Ismael Longo during the game against Marshall.
**Swimming open season in Jacksonville**

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This Saturday, Oct. 3rd, FIU swimming will take on both the Ospreys of the University of North Florida, and the Eagles of Georgia Southern University.

This will be a meet only for the swimming portion of collegiate action this Saturday.

McNamee created this event as a part of a workshop series that tackles social justice topics.

“The All Lives Matter Series tackles different things about stereotypes, racism, cultures, and its efforts to bring about social change. Students responded to the title of the workshop series with Curiosity and suspicion. Seeing the title I honestly thought that it was disrespectful. I mean obviously I feel really strongly of the movement and that it should get the recognition it deserves—so I was expecting it to be a counterproductive thing behind it,” said Laura Hernandez, a member of N.O.W.

I’m not opposed to changing the name but I want to talk to people about what this Stewart Hornor thought about it—so we’re supposed to talk together and prompt good intelligent discourse and it’s a discourse I think sincerely agree with.

I’m against it, I understand the reasoning for it—global diversity, etc. If we want to talk about these issues that’s great but I wish a title was used to articulate that.

Hornor thinks that this will work to GSU’s advantage “Freshman do pretty much feel their first meet, because they’re pretty hyped up and excited.” This weekend’s accomplishments won’t be measured in wins, losses, or points.

Rather, it was emphasized that “It’s all about training our athletes to be the best they can be at the end of the season.”

This team intends to use Saturday as a stepping stone towards reaching peak form for C-USA championships at the end of February 2016.

“We’re really not too worried about results right now” will be the mantra should be if the girls and their coaches aren’t excited if they come back to Miami Saturday night with the feeling of absolute dominance over their first opponents.

**Black Lives Matter**

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When FIU NOW re-posted an Instagram photo that brought to attention the name of an event being hosted at BBC, the “All Lives Matter” series was thrust into the spotlight.

The series, hosted and sponsored by Multicultural Programs and Services, was inspired by Associate Professor Jeffrey McNamee, came under fire for the title, which FIU NOW considered disrespectful to the Black Lives Matter campaign.

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**Airship and Autumn Festival**

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The Moon Festival roared loud in Panther Square at the Biscayne Bay Campus this past Monday, Sept. 28. Students celebrated with food and traditional decor of the festival.

The Moon Festival, also called Mid-Autumn Festival, started with the lunar eclipse that darkened the skies this past Sunday, Sept. 27.

In Korea, China and Vietnam the night is marked by a tremendous celebration, in which families close and distant, get together to celebrate and give thanks for the harvest and pray for good fortune for the next year.

At BBC, the members of the International Student Club came together to organize an event for Pantherson to experience the tradition of this festival.

Andre Dawson, ISC advisor, at BBC, was one of the members in charge of organizing the event.

“We do this festival every year to expose the students here in FIU to a new culture,” said Dawson.

Moon cakes and other sweet treats were present at the gathering as students mingled and got to know more about one of Asia’s biggest holidays of the year.

Panther square was decorated to top with lanterns and images of the Moon Festival so that students could feel the vibes of the real festival.

The event ended with an outdoor lunch for all accompanied by the tradition of giving thanks for the blessings in their lives.

Former student faces prison

JAY WEAVER AND DAVID OVALLE
TNS Staff

David McConnell described McCollum’s upbringing in suburban Miami-Dade as “certainly anything but normal.” His parents divorced but continued to live together, while the ex-wife started dating a man who moved into the family home.

That man introduced McConnell to drugs, leading to his use of marijuana as a teen and then a “fattify” of other drugs, including cocaine, ecstasy, methylene and crystal meth.

McConnell’s desire to fit in with his peers at school led him to start selling drugs, eventually turning McConnell into one of South Florida’s biggest smugglers of the club drug Molly, all of it ordered from China -- an illicit narcotics pipeline highlighted by the Miami Herald in a recent three-part series.

On Monday, McConnell’s defense attorney hoped to persuade a federal judge to give him less than 13 years in prison for importing 30 kilos of the synthetic drug into the U.S. as well as making false statements to the postal service.

He was also convicted of firearms possession offense.

Federal prosecutors are on board with that punishment, just U.S. District Judge Joe Hood could give the 28-year-old up to 20 years in prison.

Perrazzi described McConnell’s upbringing in suburban Miami-Dade as “certainly anything but normal.” His parents divorced but continued to live together, while the ex-wife started dating a man who moved into the family home.

That man introduced McConnell to drugs, leading to his use of marijuana as a teen and then a “fattify” of other drugs, including cocaine, ecstasy, methylene and crystal meth.

McConnell’s desire to fit in with the others ultimately led him to start selling methylene, according to the memo. Unfortunately, [he] knew exactly what he was doing, and, like everything else in his life that he had ever put his mind to, he became good at it.

Using the Internet, McConnell ordered kilos of drugs from China and had them delivered to an unassuming barber shop just outside Coral Gables. After a 20-month investigation, which included an undercover agent posing as a mail carrier to deliver packages, federal authorities this spring quietly arrested McConnell and two others.

One of McConnell’s cohorts, Brian Scott Bailey, who received packages to his home, was acquitted at trial in July. His defense lawyer told jurors that McConnell told him the drugs were legal.

Another co-defendant, Bryan Granados, pleaded guilty and will be sentenced on Tuesday. Agents earlier had arrested a barber shop employee, Bryan Romero, who also pleaded guilty.

McConnell developed his Molly operation in the mold of McDonnell’s, franchising 20-30 something-age dealers while supplying them with methylene. Two of them also cooperated with agents for that.

The Mayor and they too did federal prison time.