GC pit undergoes renovations

CAMILA FERNANDEZ
News Director
philippe.buteau@fiusm.com

University students will now have to wait until next year to host events at the Graham Center pit.

The Graham Center at the Modesto A. Madioue Campus has placed a barricade around the pit for renovations.

Renovations include audiovisual enhancements, acoustical treatment, lighting and a video wall of 150 inches, according to GC director of administrative services, Carlos Carrasco.

Carrasco said the pit will be ready sometime in January.

The size of the pit will not be increasing, but there will be an improvement in the quality of the space, he said. According to Carrasco, past presentations at the pit have been substandard.

“It’s hard to hear, the lighting is poor and the audio is muffled sometimes,” Carrasco said. “There’s too much bouncing around the sound. So unless you’re there at the front [of the pit] or two rows at the front, you can’t really hear what’s going on,” he said.

“It makes it hard to enjoy the presentation.”

The company in charge of the construction is the Turner Construction Company.

According to Carrasco, the total cost of the project is $250,000, which includes the equipment, construction and acoustics.

Students who made reservations to use the pit were notified two or three weeks in advance. Plans to renovate the pit began in November 2014, Carrasco said.

Carrasco also said that the Center planned to start the renovations in November because of holidays and final exams.

“So, there’s not a whole lot of events going on,” Carrasco said.

He said students will now be hosting events mainly at the lawn on the north side of campus, the Green Library Breezeway and the Betty Construction Plaza.

Students continue walk on water tradition in event

MELISSA BURGESS
Contributing Writer
mellisa.burgess@fiusm.com

Every year, architecture professor Jaime Canaves tasks his students with an assignment: to walk on water.

The annual Walk on Water competition event began in 1989, with Canaves’ leadership, but didn’t stick until 1999.

“This will be the 22nd year the competition has been held at the Green Lake, the 175-foot lake behind the Green Library. Canaves’ students, as part of his Materials & Methods Construction class, will compete to see who can cross the lawn on the north side of campus, the Green Library Breezeway and the Betty Construction Plaza.

Canaves’ students, as part of his Materials & Methods Construction class, will compete to see who can cross the lawn on the north side of campus, the Green Library Breezeway and the Betty Construction Plaza.

The idea came from a project assignment that Canaves worked on when he was an architecture student.

“We did a similar project of building boats out of cardboard,” Canaves said.

Students walk on water during the competition, trying to cross the lake in the shortest amount of time.

“They walk,” Canaves said.

Every year, the winners are awarded scholarships, grants and a chance to work with Canaves on a project.

The competition has been held every year to host their events at the Graham Center.

The competition has been held every year to host their events at the Graham Center.

The University hosted the Board of Governors and Trustees Summit Wednesday, Nov. 4 and Thursday, Nov. 5. Representatives of the 12 Florida public universities discussed the future of academics in the state.

“Every year, architecture professor Jaime Canaves tasks his students with an assignment: to walk on water.

“This will be the 22nd year the competition has been held at the Green Lake, the 175-foot lake behind the Green Library. Canaves’ students, as part of his Materials & Methods Construction class, will compete to see who can cross the lawn on the north side of campus, the Green Library Breezeway and the Betty Construction Plaza.

Canaves’ students, as part of his Materials & Methods Construction class, will compete to see who can cross the lawn on the north side of campus, the Green Library Breezeway and the Betty Construction Plaza.

The idea came from a project assignment that Canaves worked on when he was an architecture student.

“We did a similar project of building boats out of cardboard,” Canaves said.

Students walk on water during the competition, trying to cross the lake in the shortest amount of time.

“They walk,” Canaves said.

Every year, the winners are awarded scholarships, grants and a chance to work with Canaves on a project.

The competition has been held every year to host their events at the Graham Center.

The competition has been held every year to host their events at the Graham Center.

The University hosted the Board of Governors and Trustees Summit Wednesday, Nov. 4 and Thursday, Nov. 5. Representatives of the 12 Florida public universities discussed the future of academics in the state.
Catholic Panthers to host abortion discussions

Nicole Montero
Asst. News Director
nicole.montero@fiusm.com

A total of 736,322 abortions were reported to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention in 2011, a five percent decrease from 2010. According to Kristina Maldonado, the president of Catholic Panthers, the number is still high.

"Today, these topics are all hush-hush and avoided," Maldonado said. "Keeping the child is not going to wreck your life and [we are] raising awareness on the negative consequences on aborting your child and the emotional consequences, which aren’t really talked about either. Catholic Panthers in collaboration with other organizations, will be hosting an open discussion to talk about the "right to be born" and the different options available for couples facing an unwanted pregnancy. The event will take place Nov. 12 at 7 p.m. in AHCS Room 212. Maldonado hopes to get people to understand the pro-life mindset, a social and political movement in the United States that opposes abortion and believes that human life begins at conception, and stray away from pro-choice, a movement that advocates a woman’s right to choose to have an abortion. The pro-life and pro-choice movements may have started with the 1973 Roe v. Wade Supreme Court decision, which decriminalized and legalized elective abortion in a number of states.

Maldonado wants students to come to discuss this at the event, all while bringing their own opinions and viewpoints for debate.

"Our event is non-religious and non-political," she said. "It’s an educational event based on the fact that, at conception, even if people just say they’re cells, there is a baby. Scientifically, there is a child there. If the cells were not disrupted, a human would form. A person like you and I would be born.

Some students are skeptical about attending the event. "I just don’t know why I would go," said Emesto Menendez, a freshman biology major. "The truth is that it already seems like these people are going to try to convince me to be pro-life. Heck, just look at the title of the event: right to be born. I might just go over and fight them on this." Claudia Hernandez, a sophomore women’s studies major, is excited to attend.

"Of course I’ll be there," she said. "Who else is going to tell them that pro-choice is not only significant to our laws but to women in general? Women have the right to choose what to do with their bodies. You mean to tell me that if a woman gets sexually assaulted and ends up pregnant she has to keep that child? No one is going to do that." Maldonado believes that there are more options, rather than aborting.

"The pro-life community is here to support those who are in crisis pregnancies, so it’s not to look down upon them," she said. "We’re not here pointing a finger at them. Let’s raise awareness about other options, like adoption. There’s people who would love to have a child and can’t [conceive]."

The event is a collaboration between Catholic Campus Ministry, Respect Life Ministry Archdiocese of Miami, Franciscans of Life and the South Dale Pregnancy Help Center.

Analisse Herrera, a junior Italian language major, is glad that the University is hosting an event that can raise awareness on the potential consequences of abortion.

"You’re killing a child, you know?" Herrera said. "Some people don’t think it’s formed yet but, within the month, they have fingernails. They’re real human beings. Who are we to say when someone should or shouldn’t be born? We are not God, so let’s stop being like we are." Read the full story at fiusm.com

NATION & WORLD BRIEFS

New Israeli chief of diplomacy once called Obama anti-Semitic

The appointment of a new public diplomacy chief by Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu kicked up a storm of controversy Thursday when it emerged that the nominee had suggested President Barack Obama was anti-Semitic and derided Secretary of State John Kerry in Facebook postings.

The controversy erupted just one week after NBCUniversal took heat from the other side of the political spectrum _ the Republican National Committee and Republican candidates, including Trump himself _ took heat from the other side of the party after NBCUniversal cut ties with Trump over his allegations that the network is presenting of Mexican immigrant "rapists." This was the eve of Netanyahu’s planned visit to Washington, where he is scheduled to meet with Obama next week in an effort to patch up strained relations.

In June, NBC cut ties with Donald Trump as immigration advocates led furious protests over his allegations of a right-wing website, came on the front door, complete with a petition demanding the president of Catholic Panthers, the network is presenting of Mexican immigrant "rapists." This was the eve of Netanyahu’s planned visit to Washington, where he is scheduled to meet with Obama next week in an effort to patch up strained relations.

In June, NBC cut ties with Donald Trump as immigration advocates led furious protests over his allegations of a right-wing website, came on the front door, complete with a petition demanding the president of Catholic Panthers, the network is presenting of Mexican immigrant "rapists." This was the eve of Netanyahu’s planned visit to Washington, where he is scheduled to meet with Obama next week in an effort to patch up strained relations.

In June, NBC cut ties with Donald Trump as immigration advocates led furious protests over his allegations of a right-wing website, came on the front door, complete with a petition demanding the president of Catholic Panthers, the network is presenting of Mexican immigrant "rapists." This was the eve of Netanyahu’s planned visit to Washington, where he is scheduled to meet with Obama next week in an effort to patch up strained relations.

In June, NBC cut ties with Donald Trump as immigration advocates led furious protests over his allegations of a right-wing website, came on the front door, complete with a petition demanding the president of Catholic Panthers, the network is presenting of Mexican immigrant "rapists." This was the eve of Netanyahu’s planned visit to Washington, where he is scheduled to meet with Obama next week in an effort to patch up strained relations.
The reality of being a trans woman and a minority

COLUMNIST

UNDoubtedly, large companies are taking advantage of prison labor. According to the Business and Human Rights Resource Centre, popular companies such as JCPenney and Starbucks are just some of the big names that use penal labor to get ahead.

According to the Business and Human Rights Resource Centre, popular companies such as JCPenney and Starbucks are just some of the big names that use penal labor to get ahead.

According to the “The Advocate,” an LGBT-interest magazine, 2015 has observed the murder of 21 transgender women of color. This is nearly double the 13 souls lost in 2014.

With these murders of transgender individuals, the persisting issue of homophobia and racism atop the harmful representations we still see in storytelling, as we culture a have a long way to go until we reach equality.

The fact that a lot of prison labor is somewhat forced on inmates is the primary issue. They should be given the choice to work for these companies. They shouldn’t be subjected to harsh punishment if they do not choose to work.

Sending them from interaction with their loved ones, or humans in general, could take a toll on them mentally and emotionally. In turn, this could hamper chance at rehabilitation.

If the end game of incarceration is in fact to rehabilitate inmates, shouldn’t we remove barriers to rehabilitation instead of creating them?

We Americans may love our products and fancy clothes. However, they should not come at the expense of actual human beings; whether they are “criminals” or not.
Students showcase the beauty of Latin Jazz

RICARDO CHAVEZ
Contributing Writer
life@fiusm.com

The University is well-renowned due to its eclectic vibe and multicultural student body.

It’s no surprise then that, Tuesday, Nov. 3, the Florida International University Jazz ensemble enticed viewers not only with their renditions of well-known Latin classics, but with their original compositions. They attempted to purvey the Spanish ambiance that seemingly fills the university in the Wertheim Performing Arts Center.

Some of the selections that were played during the show included “Pure Spirit,” “Five for Elvin,” “Iracuba” and “To Brenda with Love.”

The musical spectacle was directed by Mike Orta, an associate professor and the Director of Jazz Performance, who has also traveled across the globe in an attempt to display the importance of musical knowledge to foreign individuals.

Many students and university staff alike came to witness the event. Some individuals stressed the importance of a culturally driven event.

“Musical showcases like these display the hard work and dedication put forth by the performers of the event, all of which are students,” said Natalie Lopez, one of our university students, said. “Their perseverance is not only an attempt to play good music, but to bring a culturally enriching atmosphere to an already diverse campus.”

Another student, Jose Fuguet, also enjoys the eclectic side of Jazz. “If there is one thing I like about Latin jazz, it’s the pure and raw feeling that it carries. If you can’t move to the sound of Latin jazz, you need to get yourself checked out,” Fuguet said.

Annis Balcazar, a music instructor, was truly impressed with the performance.

“All in all, the Latin music performance within FIU truly exceeded my expectations,” Balcazar said. “The mere fact that the show was so easily accessible is mind-blowing.”

Students to walk on water

“Students use the design process, sketching, creating ideas, investigation, traction,” he said. “I always advise them to test their prototypes ahead of time.”

Kevin Kasmai, a sophomore majoring in architecture, has been preparing for this project by doing research online and by looking at shoes used in previous years. “I’m pretty confident in my design being able to survive the trip across the lake,” said Kasmai.

He explained his technique by using solid Styrofoam coated in a thick layer of gorilla tape. He said the fins on the bottom are deep in the foam and are secured with caulk, a waterproof filler and sealant used typically in building work and repairs.

“I’m not too worried about my design coming apart in the lake,” he said.

Canaves said that this project is important for students because it’s very similar to the complexity of designing and constructing a building.

“In any exam, you are testing memory and knowledge, but it doesn’t build anything at all,” Canaves said. “Students are going to be responsible, in the future, for designing buildings and making sure they have strong foundations. This project is a similar process where the students have to design, build, look at the collections, see how it performs and how it works. It’s similar to the cycle of the designing of a building.”

But Kasmai is nervous. “I would love to say I’m only excited for the competition, but an entire exam grade is riding on the success of the shoes. I’m pretty nervous,” he said. “At this point, I’m going to be happy by just making it across the lake.”

Kasmai said he’s making his sister walk across the lake due to her small size. “I don’t want to make a fool out of myself so having [her] do it alleviates me of some of my nervousness,” he said.

Canaves said the youngest person to ever participate was a 9-year-old girl who competed in place of her mother and came in ninth place, while the oldest was a 67-year-old female student. “It doesn’t even matter who you are, what their size is, anyone can do it,” Canaves said.

Walking on Water has been an FIU tradition for the past 25 years. Previously, the event has been covered by news stations, including Channel 10, Channel 7 and Channel 2.

This year, the event will take place Tuesday, Nov. 11 at 11:30 a.m. behind the Green Library. The event is free and open to the public.

“The will be a documentary about this event that will cover the past 25 years, and it would be a dream for more students around the world to participate in Walk on Water, turning this annual tradition into an international affair,” said Canaves.

INTERNATIONAL OPPORTUNITY

Carlos Fernandez (front right), a freshman marketing major, signs up for information at the International Study Opportunities Fair held in the College of Business Complex Lobby Thursday, Nov. 5.

Humans of FIU is a photography project that aims to expose the variety of personalities and stories of students, faculty and staff of the University.

Matt Bendt, BBC Library Staff and Alumni, Class of 2008, Major: Political Science, Journalism

“Actually, I’ve been asked a couple of crazy questions. One time it was, ‘Where’s the library?’ And another it was, ‘Where’s the exit?’ So I’m kind of like... over there (points to door about 10 feet away from him). I think they were probably new students that had no idea what this building was. Maybe they thought it was the bookstore. Who knows.”
University presents TEDxFIU

CAMILA FERNANDEZ
News Director
camila.fernandez@fiusm.com

People with autism do not live in their own world; they live in ours, said Patricia Kayser.

Kayser, a senior liberal arts major, talked about her purpose in life to help people with autism through music at the fourth annual TEDxFIU on Thursday, Nov. 5.

TEDxFIU is a self-organized event branded TEDx, which is a nonprofit organization devoted to spreading ideas in the form of short, powerful talks. Kayser and a group of six other women have served more than 250 families who cope with autism. Two years ago, she created a nonprofit organization called, “Autism and Music,” to enhance the quality of life for people with autism through music interaction.

Kayser was inspired by her 15-year-old brother who was diagnosed with autism at the age of three. She realized that music helped him to socialize more when she played with him the guitar.

“It’s like music unlocked something in him,” said Kayser. “It’s through him that I found my path in life.”

One in 68 U.S. children has an autism spectrum disorder, a 30 percent increase from one in 88 two years ago, according to a 2014 report by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

According to the American Music Therapy Association, music therapy brings into effect changes in behavior and it facilitates development of skills.

“Music lets people with autism feel free. It gives them the opportunity to release stress and to interact and socialize with others,” Kayser said.

Todd Crawl, co-founder of the University’s Sea Level Solutions Center, also spoke at the event. 

“Autism and Music,” to serve more than 250 of six other women have of short, powerful talks.

The event included Nelson Hincapie, a University 2006 alumnus, who works with children in foster care. He is currently mentoring adolescents who have aged out of foster care and are making a transition to independent living.

Carolyn Runowicz, Academic Affairs executive associate dean and a gynecologic oncologist at the University’s Herbert Wertheim College of Medicine, talked about a breakthrough in removing cancer cells.

She and Sakhrat Khizroev, an electric and computer engineering professor, are using nanotechnology to selectively target cancer cells to possibly offer new and innovative treatment.

However, they have only been able to use the technology successfully on lab rats.

“We actually, in the real-time, can see, can monitor the process. We can see where the particles with the [nanotechnology] how they go inside the cancer cells,” said Khizroev.

They hope to help impact overall cancer and eventually eradicate all cancer.
Panthers to celebrate Senior Night in final home game

**SPORTS**

FIU drops out of the picture, who could join?

**FOOTBALL**

Florida Atlantic (2-6, 2-3) this Saturday, gets a week off and travels to South Florida International (4-5, 2-3); MU travels to UTSA this weekend and hosts FIU. In the West, Louisiana Tech (6-3 overall) and Southern Miss (6-3) are tied at 4-1, with the Bulldogs playing North Texas on Saturday and the Golden Eagles off. The only team that can mess up the “semifinal” up is Rice (4-4, 2-2), which hosts Southern Miss on Nov. 14. Tech booted the Owls out of the upper echelon with a dominating 42-17 win last Friday in Houston. The Bulldogs jumped to a 35-7 lead after the first possession of the second half, outgaining the Owls 455-281 for the game. Jeff Driskel threw for two touchdowns and Kenneth Dixon ran for two, but the Owls could not keep up. Southern Miss (6-3) is fifth in C-USA play. However, the Hilltoppers and Thundering Herd will play at Bowling Green, giving WKU the edge.

FIU's bowl hopes likely came to an end last week, making it unlikely that Conference USA fulfills its seven bowl tie-ins. FIU (4-5, 2-3) is no longer in the bowl hunt thanks to its 31-17 loss at FAU Saturday. The Panthers should beat Charlotte this week, but there's no way they beat Marshall or Western Kentucky in the final two games. Middle Tennessee (3-5, 2-2) will likely be 3-6 after facing Marshall Saturday, but it has three very winnable games after that -- at FAU, vs. North Texas and at UTSA. Old Dominion (3-5, 1-3) and Southern Miss on Nov. 14, but that game is looking more like a loss for Rice. Colorado State is just 3-5, but it could be a favorable draw in its four remaining games -- Wyoming, UNLV, New Mexico and Fresno State.

Ro-L Carrier New Orleans Bowl -- Southern Miss vs. Arkansas State -- 8 p.m., Dec. 19 (ESPN)

This match-up seems fairly likely unless USM (6-3, 1-3) wins the Conference USA West and the New Orleans Bowl decides AGAIN that it wants Louisiana-Lafayette. Arkansas State (5-3) has a big game when it travels to Sun Belt co-leader Appalachian State (7-1, Thursday)

Miami Beach Bowl -- Western Kentucky vs. Houston -- 1:50 p.m., Dec. 21 (ESPN)

It’s becoming more apparent that WKU (7-2, 4-0) can be beaten and Marshall appears to be the team capable of doing it in C-USA play. However, the Hilltoppers and Thundering Herd will play at Bowling Green, giving WKU the edge.

Under FIU’s apparent out of the running for a bowl game, this is likely the place that MTSU (3-5, 2-2) will land if it reaches the six-win mark. Ohio (5-3) is looking like a seven-win team in a tough MAC.

**FOOTBALL**

Divisional races could go down to the wire

**FOOTBALL**

FIU's bowl hopes likely came to an end last week, making it unlikely that Conference USA fulfills its seven bowl tie-ins. FIU (4-5, 2-3) is no longer in the bowl hunt thanks to its 31-17 loss at FAU Saturday. The Panthers should beat Charlotte this week, but there's no way they beat Marshall or Western Kentucky in the final two games. Middle Tennessee (3-5, 2-2) will likely be 3-6 after facing Marshall Saturday, but it has three very winnable games after that -- at FAU, vs. North Texas and at UTSA. Old Dominion (3-5, 1-3) and Southern Miss on Nov. 14, but that game is looking more like a loss for Rice. Colorado State is just 3-5, but it could be a favorable draw in its four remaining games -- Wyoming, UNLV, New Mexico and Fresno State.

Ro-L Carrier New Orleans Bowl -- Southern Miss vs. Arkansas State -- 8 p.m., Dec. 19 (ESPN)

This match-up seems fairly likely unless USM (6-3, 1-3) wins the Conference USA West and the New Orleans Bowl decides AGAIN that it wants Louisiana-Lafayette. Arkansas State (5-3) has a big game when it travels to Sun Belt co-leader Appalachian State (7-1, Thursday)

Miami Beach Bowl -- Western Kentucky vs. Houston -- 1:50 p.m., Dec. 21 (ESPN)

It’s becoming more apparent that WKU (7-2, 4-0) can be beaten and Marshall appears to be the team capable of doing it in C-USA play. However, the Hilltoppers and Thundering Herd will play at Bowling Green, giving WKU the edge.

Under FIU’s apparent out of the running for a bowl game, this is likely the place that MTSU (3-5, 2-2) will land if it reaches the six-win mark. Ohio (5-3) is looking like a seven-win team in a tough MAC.

**FOOTBALL**

Divisional races could go down to the wire

**FOOTBALL**

It would be good theater for Conference USA if Thanksgiving weekend turns into the league championship semifinals. How about Marshall at Western Kentucky for the East Division title on Friday the 27th, followed by Southern Mississippi at Louisiana Tech on the next day for the West? That's three weeks away and there's a little football to be played, but the chances are better each week.

The East picture is crystal-clear. WKU (7-2 overall) and Marshall (8-1) are both 5-0, with third-place Middle Tennessee (3-5, 2-2) already two losses out. What does that mean? The Hilltoppers and Thundering Herd can absorb a loss in their two remaining pre-Thanksgiving games and still play for the East title on Black Friday. WKU plays
Panthers’ defense get grounded

DAVID J. NEAL
The Miami Herald

Remember when FIU’s 2012 defense, with 11 starters back and two future NFL players, imitated the mortgage mortgage collapse that made Goldman Sachs a lot of money? Now, in a sequel, FIU’s 2015 defense is starting to resemble the Greek economy.

Inside of a run on the banks, it’s a run on the Panthers — over five conference USA games, FIU has allowed an average of 255.4 yards, gaining 5.3 yards per carry. Only North Texas, winless this season before Saturday, allows more per game and per carry.

Florida Atlantic pounded FIU for 229 yards on 49 carries in Saturday’s 31-17 upset of the Panthers. Two weeks earlier, Middle Tennessee ripped big holes for freshers on the senior line, and the Panthers piled up most of Middle’s 200 yards rushing in a 42-34 Panthers loss. To the naked eye, it looked awfully similar.

“A few missed hits here and there,” FIU senior middle linebacker Jephete Matilus said Saturday after the loss to FAU. “Our guys played hard defensively. Those guys found the creases and outleveraged us a bit.”

Before the FAU game, sophomore outside linebacker Anthony Wint said, “They have a lot of two-back runs, which we struggled with against Old Dominion.”

But no scabs had grown over that game and per carry. Only North Texas, winless this season before Saturday, allows more per game and per carry.

Through FIU routed Old Dominion 41-12, after three quarters with the game still in doubt, the Monarchs had 255 yards on 24 carries. Granted, 132 yards came on 57 and 75-yard runs that stood as Old Dominion’s only two scores. Removing those still leaves 123 yards on 22 carries, a 5.5-yard pop.

225.2 Rushing yards per game allowed by FIU in five C-USA games 5.3 Yards per carry allowed in conference games

Football Logic 101: if you can’t stop the run, your pass rush must pay attention to play action. “Our nose guard [freshman] Max [Johnson] with pre-season all-conference defensive ends Michael Wakefield and Denzell Jeremiah McKinnon. Johnson and McKinnon were second and fourth in tackles with sophomore safety Niko Gonzalez fifth.

The emotion of FIU tailback Alex Gardner FIU sophomore running back Alex Gardner, who ran for 105 yards on 20 carries against Florida Atlantic, was a bit upset after the Panthers lost 31-17. The loss hurts FIU’s bowl eligibility chances. Video by David J. Neal

Panthers try to rebound from tough loss

DAVID J. NEAL
The Miami Herald

Perhaps instead of hip-hop or an incongruous Bob Dylan interlude, FIU football could’ve played Pick Up the Pieces for this week, as it was strewn to portion. They’re trying to put their season back together while trying to piece together an increasingly banged-up lineup.

They said the right keep-a-goat” words Wednesday. FIU coach Ron Turner said Tuesday’s practice was so Wednesday, FIU coach Ron Turner said Tuesday’s practice was so

“We talked about it. We didn’t play as well,” senior defensive tackle set up junior middle linebacker Jephete Matilus said Saturday after the loss to FAU. “Our guys played hard defensively. Those guys found the creases and outleveraged us a bit.”

Before the FAU game, sophomore outside linebacker Anthony Wint said, “They have a lot of two-back runs, which we struggled with against Old Dominion.”

But no scabs had grown over that game and per carry. Only North Texas, winless this season before Saturday, allows more per game and per carry.

Through FIU routed Old Dominion 41-12, after three quarters with the game still in doubt, the Monarchs had 255 yards on 24 carries. Granted, 132 yards came on 57 and 75-yard runs that stood as Old Dominion’s only two scores. Removing those still leaves 123 yards on 22 carries, a 5.5-yard pop.

225.2 Rushing yards per game allowed by FIU in five C-USA games 5.3 Yards per carry allowed in conference games

Football Logic 101: if you can’t stop the run, your pass rush must pay attention to play action. “Our nose guard [freshman] Max [Johnson] with pre-season all-conference defensive ends Michael Wakefield and Denzell Jeremiah McKinnon. Johnson and McKinnon were second and fourth in tackles with sophomore safety Niko Gonzalez fifth.

The emotion of FIU tailback Alex Gardner FIU sophomore running back Alex Gardner, who ran for 105 yards on 20 carries against Florida Atlantic, was a bit upset after the Panthers lost 31-17. The loss hurts FIU’s bowl eligibility chances. Video by David J. Neal

ATTENDANCE GOAL CLOSE

The official numbers say FIU will manage to stave off NCAA attendance probation.

FBS schools are required to average 15,000 per home game in actual or paid attendance. FIU’s total official paid attendance after three of five home games is 48,327, an average of 16,109 per game.

With 26,673 over the last two home games, 13,337 per game, FIU will meet its attendance requirement. Saturday’s noon game against Charleston and the Nov. 21 2:30 p.m. regular season finale against Western Kentucky remain. For the latter, FIU might have to outscore one of the NCAA’s most prolific offenses for bowl eligibility.

With two of five home games being attendance-crippled noon starts and no Power Five conference opponents visiting.

There was concern at FIU that the school would fall short of the requirement for a second consecutive season. Two consecutive seasons would put FIU one misstep from receiving a conference championship game ban and a bowl game ban.

This Saturday, FIU’s attempting to boost the in-house attendance with a Salute to Hometown Heroes Day. Active or retired military personnel and first responders (fire, police, emergency medical folks) and their groups will receive free admission.
Objectification vs. empowerment discussion at BBC

FRANCOIS CARDIER
Contributing Writer
bbc@fiusm.com

Students met up last Wednesday at the Biscayne Bay Campus at the “Lunch, Learn and Lean in” event organized by the Women’s Center of FIU. The event was set as an open forum for the discussion of the subject “empowerment versus objectification” and it raised the question “who has the power?”

The event started with a presentation that encouraged people to voice their opinions and preferences. The presentation was conducted by Rogihanee Avih, an assistant of the Women’s Center.

“Now, what is objectification for you?” said Avih. Attendees pondered for a while. One by one, people casted their opinion.

During a discussion about Miley Cyrus’ appearance at the “MTV Video Music Awards” in 2013, the participants were asked whether her performance was empowering or objectifying.

“Objectification depends on a personal line and everybody knows when to draw their personal line,” said Michael Talalaevsky, a business major.

Questions led to opinionated answers that divided the luncheon attendees on the different topics discussed during the presentation.

Meredith Morgan, coordinator of the Women’s Center, voiced her opinion during the event and maintained the topics moving so that everyone had an opportunity to speak.

“As the [society] structure is set, the way society is, women are more objectified than men,” said Morgan, during a discussion about the objectification between men and women.

During this discussion, the example of Caitlyn Jenner and her public gender change this past year came up.

“Take, for example, Caitlyn Jenner. When she was Bruce Jenner, people talked about his athletic achievements and stuff like that, but when he became Caitlyn all she was, was her gender and her body,” said Morgan, illustrating her previous point.

Chicken wings, chips and salsa provided fuel for the debate of ideas that lasted until 2 p.m.

Coral reefs in danger: can they be saved?

DAVID HELVARG
Los Angeles Times

Two Steps is a perfect snorkeling spot on the Big Island of Hawaii. Black lava rocks step down twice into the clear waters of a small bay where, on a good day, you’re guaranteed to see brightly colored fish and green sea turtles shoaling through myriad forms of coral in shades of brown, green, yellow, pink and purple.

But if you had happened to visit last month, you would have found about 30 percent of the corals bleached wedding-cake white.

It’s a sure sign that the ocean is heating up.

Overly warm water causes living coral polyps to expel the photosynthetic algae, called zooxanthellae, that give them their varied colors and about 70 percent of their nutrients.

If the bleaching lasts too long, the corals starve to death.

All of Hawai‘i’s coral reefs are bleaching this year, a “really serious problem,” says Sheila McKenna, a marine ecologist at Hawaii Volcanoes National Park. And a problem that seems to be accelerating.

With the return of a strong El Nino in the Pacific Ocean and the continued effects of global warming, the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration has just declared the third global coral bleaching event in history (the first two took place in 1998 during an earlier El Nino and in 2010).

Ninety-five percent of U.S. corals, which are mostly concentrated off the coasts of Hawaii and Florida, are likely to be exposed to conditions that can cause bleaching.

Tropical coral reefs cover less than 1 percent of the ocean, but they are home and nursery to 25 percent of all marine species.

Billions of fish, mollusks and other creatures rely on reefs for their food and shelter. Their beauty generates tourism dollars, and they act as barriers providing storm protection for millions of coastal residents.

Unfortunately, they are especially fragile in the face of pollution, ocean acidification, overfishing and climate change. Most are not expected to survive this century.

There is some hope. Emerging science suggests coral reefs that are fully protected from pollution and overfishing are more resilient to the impact of climate change.

That’s one reason a coalition of Hawaii-based groups is calling for an emergency moratorium on the collection of aquarium-trade fish off their reefs.

At the same time, those who care about coral are looking at triage — not every reef will survive.

Wayne Levin, whose underwater photographs can be found in the Museum of Modern Art in New York, recently sent me a distressed email from the Big Island:

“I just returned from a one-month trip to the mainland…. When I dove at Keauhou (Bay) I was utterly shocked. … There was an enormous amount of bleached coral. At Honaaunau (Two Steps), it was even worse. Almost all the beautiful plate coral along the drop-offs was bleached. Yesterday I dove Ho’okena (Beach) and all the cauliflower and antler coral was bleached. I was completely blown away…. When I left in mid-September all seemed fine. When I returned in mid-October complete devastation.”

Come December and the U.N. climate summit in Paris, our choices for the future will become as starkly black and white as Levin’s photographs of Hawaii’s bleached corals.

We can stay on our present path of multiplying disasters or adopt that most basic of survival axioms: If you find yourself in a hole, stop digging.