SGA, local officials talk social advocacy

JULIE WALSH
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Local officials visited the campus to discuss using social media and technology to make change.

“The challenge is to find where you will advocate and be an agent of change,” said Aniere Flores, state senator. “There are so many things happening in the world and you know about all of them.”

According to Flores, millennials have taken to social media to their advantage to make change. Flores was a panelist at an advocacy-focused event organized by the Student Government Association with other local officials.

An “agent of change” focuses efforts on the effect of changing technologies, structures and tasks on interpersonal and group relationships within the organization.

Flores said that due to social media and the internet, there’s no excuse to not know about what’s happening in the world.

Allan Collazo, SGA senate speaker, said the topic of discussion was "important to student government, FIU and the community."

The event was an opportunity for students to connect with local and federal officials to discuss issues like higher education and career aspirations, said SGA lobbying coordinator Juan A. Gilces.

The panelists also included Bryan Avila, state representative, Chris Miles, deputy chief of staff and district director for Congressman Carlos Curbelo, and Ralph Ventura, chief of staff for Orlando Lopez, the mayor of Sweetwater.

They sat among

SEE PANEL, PAGE 2

Board of Governors aim for higher online enrollment

PHILIPPE BUTEAU
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The Board of Governors of the State University System approved a plan that, if successful by its end, will have 40 percent of undergraduates taking a course online.

But for Florida students to buy into distance learning, they must be able to afford it, which was one of the main talking points among university presidents and board members during the Innovation and Online Committee meeting Wednesday, Nov. 4.

Committee members said they have mixed feelings about having students take a higher portion of their courses online, especially when considering the costs to have the necessary bandwidth.

University President Mark Rosenberg said putting together a high quality online course is itself a cost.

“We are competing in an increasingly high-production value market,” said Rosenberg.

Rosenberg was one of five university presidents on a task force the Innovation and Online Committee created to set online education goals for the next 10 years.

He said a tactic to spur online education growth is to determine means to get the most out of the distance learning fee, which at FIU is $53 per credit hour.

The pricing for online courses varies from school to school; out-of-state students do not have to pay an online fee at the University of Central Florida.

Most schools charge a fee and there is a “great deal of discussion about fee itself,” said Pam Northrop, executive director of Florida Virtual Campus and Complete Florida.

She said how the fee is used is different statewide and that the fee enabled the SUS to move forward in online education.

The SUS will improve its shared services to support online program development and delivery costs, according to the 2025 SUS Strategic Plan for Online Education. Also, the system will reduce costs of educational materials for students and adopt teaching models that will create “instructional efficiencies.” The SUS will determine the costs of online education for each of its campuses.

Reducing the cost of electronic textbooks and creating a statewide model for their use were plans that Northrop presented.

She said other states, Georgia and New York, for example, have negotiated for their university systems to reduce the cost of textbooks.

“There are many different ways to reduce the sticker price for students,” Northrop said.

She cited $7 million of shared electronic resources the SUS has in its university libraries. And there are tools to make licensing agreements less expensive.

The prior-learning model, which allows students to test out of what they already learned, accelerates students towards completion without increasing the cost.

The BoG’s plan, approved unanimously at their Nov. 5 meeting at FIU, could also swap who’s leading the nation in distance learning; Florida is currently second to Texas in students enrolled in online courses.

The plan’s targets, which start with 2017-2018 in the draft, have distance-learning enrollment increasing incrementally throughout the next 10 years.

In 17-18, the BoG hopes to have 26 percent of students enrolled in an online course. But by 2025, enrollment in online courses should include 40 percent of undergraduates.

Board member Dean Colson questioned the push for online asking, “Why are we aspiring to that? Is it because it’s the best way to teach students? Is it because there will be a demand for it?”

Rosenberg and board members acknowledged challenges in reaching that goal and growing higher education online.

“We are making leaps and assuming that if we offer it, they will come,” Rosenberg said. “That issue of access could be worse by 2025.”
Venezuelan diplomat Bernardo Alvarez, who was expelled from the United States in 2010 when he was his country’s ambassador to Washington, made his first speech Monday as the new chairman of the permanent council of the Organization of American States, where he is his country’s new ambassador. His fellow diplomats sharply avoided the current controversy surrounding his leadership, namely that he takes the gavel at a time when his government is rejecting OAS monitoring of Venezuela’s upcoming parliamentary elections.

Ukraine’s military has rebounded despite budget and battle woes

When five Ukrainian soldiers were wounded recently by pro-Russian separatist gun and grenade fire in southeastern Ukraine, the news created little surprise. It is a development of the embattled area known as Donbas, is that small-scale attacks are still commonplace in the region. A soldier was wounded the day before that a cease-fire is holding in the embattled area known as Donbas, is that small-scale attacks are still commonplace in the region. A soldier was wounded a week earlier. A soldier was wounded the day before that.

Cisco and Ericsson partner for ‘networks of the future’

Cisco Systems and Swedish telecom giant Ericsson announced a sweeping global partnership Monday that’s a few steps short of a merger but which should shake up the networking industry with a powerful new combination.

The two companies said they were joining forces to create “networks of the future.” The pooling of the two companies’ research and development teams could accelerate the introduction of faster mobile devices through 5G, the next phase of mobile telecommunications.

But never forget to stay engaged with your elected officials,” Gilces said. “As a student advocate, I truly encourage students and organizers to come to the heart of the campus to celebrate.

Avila wasn’t the only one who felt this way at the panel. “As a student advocate, I truly encourage students to be informed and engage with their elected officials,” Gilces said. “From panels, such as these, to meaningful relationships with leaders that once were students like us. The panelists voiced their personal perspectives on the University’s role in the community.

“The more you know, the more you can be an opportunity to engage with your elected officials,” Gilces said. “As a student advocate, I truly encourage students to come to the heart of the campus to celebrate.

Avila wasn’t the only one who felt this way at the panel. “As a student advocate, I truly encourage students to be informed and engage with their elected officials,” Gilces said. “From panels, such as these, to meaningful relationships with leaders that once were students like us. The panelists voiced their personal perspectives on the University’s role in the community.

“If you look across the county, most of its leaders went to FIU for either undergraduate, or a degree. FIU is at the forefront,” Miles said. “You have a phenomenal law school, medical school and I don’t know what’s next. FIU just keeps growing and growing.”
We must protect black women at all costs

DONALD "TRASH"

COLUMNIST

DONALP "TRASH"

COLUMNIST

When people start to care about black girls?

People are usually at rallies with their signs for black boys that instruct police and other domestic terrorists to “stop killing our boys,” but there’s no one speaking up for the black girls of America that are being beaten and misjudged because of the negative stereotypes society has placed upon them.

No, I don’t identify as a woman, but this issue is important to me because I was raised by three black women: my mother, nana and aunt. I also have two cousins that I fear for on a daily basis who need to be protected; they are 15 and 18-year-old girls.

The plight of black women in this country goes beyond what I will ever know and experience. But what I do know is that black women already have to peel back layers to be seen and heard. And even then, many white women in particular are especially troubling because of the racial dynamics.

Holtzclaw’s case is gross. As history has shown, black women are seen as “sex objects” and “promiscuous,” and black girls are accused of maturing too fast. It’s sad to think, but there’s absolutely no hope for the victims. As always, case by case, the stands to testify and face victim blaming. Of course no one will believe them. They’re black women, a marginalized group with no social credibility.

I find it strange that white people praise the likes of Beyoncé, Nicki Minaj and others, take from Black culture (that’s to you, Kylie Jenner, Iggy Azalea and Miley Cyrus), but denounce the black woman’s existence and refuse to speak up when issues like Black Lives Matter affect the entire community that you “appreciate”.

It’s vital that black women have a voice, representation and protection in a society that physically disrespects them and portray them as hyper-sexualized, loud talking, neck rolling, finger snapping stereotypes. It seems as if the representation of black women is changing with the likes of young black girls like Zendaya Coleman, KeKe Palmer and Amandla Stenberg.

Their profiles in the entertainment industry and on social media sites have been Коломбия. There has been a 

The world has this idea that you have never tried cocaine.

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We are not talking about the FARC. The FARC just signed a peace treaty with the Colombian government a month ago. Yes, my country has been dealing with a civil war since the 1960s against the guerrilla group and is just now negotiating peace.

Netflix briefly skims through the time of terror in Bogotá, when buildings were getting bombarded left and right, but the program does not make you realize the ugliness of what Pablo did in order to force politicians and the president to make them accept his offer.

The Medellin Cartel was responsible for unaspeaksable crimes against the citizens of Colombia, not just government officials. Escobar was responsible for over-running the Palace of Justice and displacing thousands of innocent people. This man has affected millions of Colombians, both directly and indirectly. Massacres, kidnappings, terrorism; these were part of his goals.

The government had no way of stopping him and had to resort to desperate measures. In 1992, the mayor of Bogotá decided to establish a curfew in the city; after 7 p.m. nobody was allowed to leave their house in order to keep families and people safe.

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Metric pulls out all the stops for performance

When indie rock band Metric came on stage, they emerged in the dark, their faces covered in colorful animal masks. A horse, a rabbit, a unicorn and a rabbit, all settled in as a narrator spoke of an apocalyptic wasteland overhead. When the lights went up, guitarist Jimmy Shaw, bassist Joshua Winstead and drummer Joules Scott-Key performed “Cascades” wearing glasses flashing LED lights while singer Emily Haines played her keyboard in a neon green cape.

A sentiment likely felt by the whole band. After so many years making music it’s only natural. She reflected on her past self, who along with the band, had changed so drastically throughout their careers, and on the future of Metric. Whether it was planned or spontaneous from their shared nostalgia, the set list was incredibly even, playing a perfect balance of old songs and new.

Haines glided across to center stage gracefully singing, “Lie, lie, lie, lie, lie” (lyrics to track one off the new album “Pagans in Vegas”). You could tell they’d be pulling out all the stops.

The concert Monday, Nov. 2 at the Fillmore Miami Beach was one of the better ones I had attended. Ft. Lauderdale band Kids, the opening act, had wowed the crowd; some fans rushing to buy their album after they’d left the stage. The crowd was full and hyped despite it being a weekday. And best of all, the band played superbly and had a great time with the audience.

Metric played four or five songs (among them “Black Sheep,” “Youth Without Youth” and “Help I’m Alive”) before Haines paused to talk to the crowd. The band remarked how pleasantly surprised they were to see such a good turnout on a Monday night. The audience ranged from teenagers to middle-aged, evidence of the band’s nearly two decade run.

Haines said she felt nostalgic that night, with their guitars or singing enthusiastically into their microphones. Frontman Mike Hranica was by far the most active member.

From playing guitar wildly, to belting into his microphone, to dropping to the ground and screaming – he definitely provided quite the performance.

What truly made The Devil Wears Prada’s performance spectacular was the performance of their entire Space EP. The lighting effects with the band members having black and white images of the moon and space casted on them definitely added to the experience.

Once The Devil Wears Prada gave their goodbyes and stepped off the stage, the air remained alive with anticipation. Motionless in White, the main headliner, was up next.

The props used throughout their show were brilliant and fitting for their spooky theme. Fake candles serving as backdrop lighting, bassist Devin Ghost donning a Michael Myers mask, a girl who would emerge on stage dressed up as Abigail from The Crucible, an undead cheerleader, a dark carnival maiden and a man with a Jack o’ Lantern head set the stage for what could be described as a metal second Halloween in Orlando. These props, together with an 18-track setlist, resulted in an adrenaline-fueled show.

Despite slower songs, such as “Sinematic,” the crowd still found a way to be active, whether it be through sensual dancing or swaying.

Once the last note was played, something truly special happened. Frontman Chris Motionless stepped off stage and headed towards the barricade. Motionless began to greet fans, take photos and interact with them. He did this from one side of the barricade to the other, making sure to greet as many fans as possible before leaving.

Overall, the vibe from the Apollo X Tour is one of unity. Although the crowd was initially composed of strangers as many fans as possible before leaving.

The band’s showmanship was stellar. A pyramid of lights dazzled the theatre from behind Scott-Kay. Haines made multiple costume changes after her peacock ensemble, including a neon green flowing cape, and an assortment of rocking leather jackets each to reflect the feel of the songs they performed.

Live shows are made special by bands playing songs uniquely during every performance. A beautiful duet of “Other Side” between Haines and Shaw and soft “Gimmie Sympathy” (which sounds even better acoustic) were a treat. As was an acapella “Combat Baby” which Haines sang with the audience.

After the audience begged for an encore, the band obliged with a few more songs. “Breathe Underwater” was the farewell song. Haines asked the crowd to sing with her, “the existential question ‘is this my life?’” from the song’s last lyrics. After all these years, Metric’s still got it.
Metal Night at the Apollo makes for a great musical lineup

Emily Haines played her keyboard in a neon green cape.

Left to right: Guitarist Jimmy Shaw and drummer Joules Scott-Key performed ‘Cascades’ wearing glasses flashing LED lights while singer

Above:

Garret rapp, lead singer of The Color Morale performing in the Apollo X tour in Downtown Orlando, Nov. 7

Sarah Knapp/The Beacon

Five tips to avoid jet lag when traveling

If you’ve ever experienced jet lag, you know how much of a drag it can be. Jet lag occurs as a result of air travel when traveling between two or more time zones. Your body is accustomed to operating a certain way and when you disrupt its timing, you’re likely to encounter problems.

As the holiday season approaches, many of us are taking trips to visit family members or simply vacationing in other parts of the world. Traveling can be exhausting, especially if you’re fighting off jet lag symptoms. A drastic time change can set you back and prevent you from fully enjoying your vacation. Jet lag can really bring you down, making you uncomfortable and kind of lost. No one wants to feel like this, especially during the holidays.

Follow these 5 quick but effective tips on dealing with jet lag:

Tip #1 Get a good night’s rest the night before your flight. Chances are, you’ll probably be exhausted during and after your flight. Get rest so that your immune system is at its best. Getting a good night’s rest will also help you control your sleeping pattern during the flight, which is very important so that you’re not taking a five hour nap at two in the afternoon.

Tip #2 Set your external clock to match your internal clock. After boarding the plane, set your watch to match the current time of your destination. This will help you immediately begin working according to your new schedule, which is vital to fighting off jet lag. Every time you glance at your watch, it will trigger your mind to think as if you were in that time zone.

Tip #3 Eliminate alcohol and caffeine intake. If you’re drinking a lot of water to keep hydrated, drinking a lot of alcohol will counter that effect and dehydrate you. Drinking in the air is not the same as drinking on the ground, as one drink is the equivalent of over two drinks on the ground (due to the altitude and air pressure). Too much caffeine can cause problems with sleeping, which can really throw you off.

Tip #4 Watch what you eat. Before and during your flight may not be the best time to eat greasy meals. Stick to healthier foods with normal sized portions that aren’t going to make you lazy, or make you want to sleep from the moment you hit your seat.

Tip #5 Immediately adjust your sleep pattern to your new local time. Do not, I repeat, do not arrive at your hotel at noon and take a 6 hour nap. If you arrive at midnight, do not stay up until 9 AM and then decide to turn in. Your first day at a new location (whether arriving in a foreign country or returning home), take up your normal sleep patterns. Go to sleep at 10 p.m. or 11 p.m. if possible. Limit yourself to 6 – 8 hours of sleep. If you’ve arrived in the morning, stay awake until 10-11 PM. Do everything in your power to avoid taking a nap during the day. Start sightseeing or keep yourself busy the minute you get there. If you do take a nap, try to keep it short, 30 minutes to 1 hour maximum.

Keep these helpful tips in mind when you’re making your rounds across the country. These should make your traveling experience more blissful and allow you to fully enjoy the holidays.

Healthy, Happy, Humble is a monthly holistic health column.

‘Kingdom City’ highlights controversial topics

FIU theater’s premiere of Sheri Wilmer’s “Kingdom City” was the first of its kind. Inspired by true events, “Kingdom City” brings controversial topics to light for a new generation, centered on themes of censorship, religion, rape and suicide.

The first act opens with two native New Yorkers who find themselves out of place in a small town and are in need of money. Daniel (Anderson Menendez), a struggling fiction writer and teacher at a nearby college, encourages his wife Miriam (Monica Abreu), a theater director with Broadway experience, to accept a job as a temporary drama advisor at the local high school.

Miriam hopes to introduce contemporary plays into the lives of three students, shy Katie (Melanie Menendez), foul-mouthed Crystal (Roselyn Marie Moreno) and church loving Matt (Lavanno Gomez). But, she is not prepared for the opposition she has to face from this conservative town and its pastor, stonemason Luke (Reginald Anthony Bari)

The second act opened with a different tone, a darker presence. The audience remains on the edge of their seats as the story begins to unravel, and characters begin to show their true colors. We see just how far these characters will go to protect their children and their community.

Each actor was masterful in his or her respective roles, nailing every line without fault or error. The star of the night however was Roselyn Marie Moreno whose role as Crystal the troubled atheist in a religious community stood out from the rest. Her character was a troubled child seeking attention from her teacher Miriam and her husband Daniel. Moreno’s passion echoed through the curious theater, her lines begging for attention, her character deserved to be heard.

“Kingdom City” runs through Nov. 15, with shows Wednesday through Friday nights at 8 p.m, and a Sunday matinee at 2 p.m.
Bowl hopes kept alive with victory over Charlotte

The story of the 2015 FIU Golden Panther football team has been full of inconsistencies. One week they look like a top team in Conference USA with an explosive offense and stout defense. The next week, they lose to a team such as the University of Massachusetts or Florida Atlantic University.

They’ve been unable to rattle off consecutive wins, yet they have only lost two games in a row once this season. Each week it seems nearly impossible to tell which FIU team will show up to play.

It was the “good version” of FIU (5-5, 3-3) that played against the University of North Carolina at Charlotte 49ers (2-7, 0-6) on Saturday, Nov. 7. The Panthers used a quick start to propel them to their fifth victory of the season; improving to 4-0 at home this season.

“We did a lot of good things... and made some plays in all phases,” Head Coach Ron Turner said after the game. “I think it was a team win, [as we scored a touchdown on offense, defense and special teams].”

Turner also mentioned that there are some key aspects of their game that the team can do better; specifically citing a need to improve clock management and cut down on unnecessary penalties.

FOOTBALL

JAKE’S TAKES

The Panthers’ defense, an extremely questionable targeting penalty on Wakefield in the fourth quarter got him ejected from the game. Due to NCAA rules, he missed the rest of the Charlotte game. In addition, Wakefield will also have to sit out the first half of the game against Marshall University next week.

Wakefield won’t be the only key player missing significant time in the Marshall game. Turner confirmed that tight end Ya’Keem Griner, who was having a career year before missing the last few games with a foot injury, will miss the remainder of the season.

The status of star tight end Jonnu Smith is also uncertain after he missed the last two contests with a sprained knee.

FIU will need all the help they can get to beat an extremely talented Marshall team (8-2, 5-1). The Thundering Herd have been one of the top teams in the conference all season long. The Herd are coming off a heartbreaking three point overtime loss to Middle Tennessee State University last week. That doesn’t make them any easier of an opponent for their upcoming match against the Panthers on Saturday, Nov. 14.

What might make this game even more difficult for the Panthers is how important this game is to Marshall. Not only does winning guarantee the Herd a spot in the C-USA Championship game, but this is also being played on the 45th anniversary of the plane crash that resulted in the deaths of 37 Marshall football players (as well as 38 others). Joan C. Edwards stadium will be electric with energy and the Herd will be highly motivated while playing to honor their university.

The one potential bright side for FIU in this situation is that Marshall’s star running back, Devon Johnson, may not be able to play this weekend. This is significant because Johnson ran over the FIU defense for almost 200 all-purpose yards a season ago. The Panthers’ chances improve exponentially if the senior running back misses his fourth consecutive game.

Prediction: Marshall defeats FIU 38-28. This prediction is tough to make until the status of Smith and Johnson are revealed, but either way I think Marshall and their intimidating home field advantage will overpower FIU. The Panthers will stay in it until the very end, but freshman quarterback Chase Litton will exploit some holes in the FIU defense and lead the Thundering Herd to victory.

“Jake’ s Takes” offers commentary on the University of Miami football team. For recaps of gameplay. For commentary, email Jacob at jacob.spiewak@fiusm.com.

Pete’s Pick: Marshall defeats FIU 38-28. The Panthers simply outmatched the Herd to victory. Those 48-31 points were enough to earn him the title of C-USA Defensive Player of the Week.

Unfortunately for Wakefield and the Panthers’ defense, an extremely questionable targeting penalty on Wakefield in the fourth quarter got him ejected from the game. Due to NCAA rules, he missed the rest of the Charlotte game. In addition, Wakefield will also have to sit out the first half of the game against Marshall University next week.

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The one potential bright side for FIU in this situation is that Marshall’s star running back, Devon Johnson, may not be able to play this weekend. This is significant because Johnson ran over the FIU defense for almost 200 all-purpose yards a season ago. The Panthers’ chances improve exponentially if the senior running back misses his fourth consecutive game.

Prediction: Marshall defeats FIU 38-28. This prediction is tough to make until the status of Smith and Johnson are revealed, but either way I think Marshall and their intimidating home field advantage will overpower FIU. The Panthers will stay in it until the very end, but freshman quarterback Chase Litton will exploit some holes in the FIU defense and lead the Thundering Herd to victory.

“Jake’ s Takes” offers commentary on the University of Miami football team. For recaps of gameplay. For commentary, email Jacob at jacob.spiewak@fiusm.com.

Pete’s Pick: Marshall defeats FIU 38-28. The Panthers simply outmatched the Herd to victory. Those 48-31 points were enough to earn him the title of C-USA Defensive Player of the Week.

Unfortunately for Wakefield and the Panthers’ defense, an extremely questionable targeting penalty on Wakefield in the fourth quarter got him ejected from the game. Due to NCAA rules, he missed the rest of the Charlotte game. In addition, Wakefield will also have to sit out the first half of the game against Marshall University next week.

Wakefield won’t be the only key player missing significant time in the Marshall game. Turner confirmed that tight end Ya’Keem Griner, who was having a career year before missing the last few games with a foot injury, will miss the remainder of the season.

The status of star tight end Jonnu Smith is also uncertain after he missed the last two contests with a sprained knee.

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The Panthers home-winning streak came to a screeching halt this past weekend against Big 10 opponent University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, losing to the Fighting Illini 197-174.

FIU came into the meet on Friday, Nov. 6, just one day after completing their highest volume week of the 2015-16 season, but the Panthers weren’t a step, or too slow.

Things began with a business-as-usual feel to them, with FIU taking a 20 point lead, and three out of four first point breaks in the first break of the two-day meet. This was after they swept platform diving, placing first, second, third and fourth, earlier in the day, and taking the last event in a sweep before the break, the 50 yard freestyle, first going to Naomi Ruei, second going to Jenny Deist, and third going to Letizia Bertetti.

After an enthusiastic (and satirical) team cheer of “Dale”, a purposeful mispronunciation of Pitbull’s “Dale”, the Panthers were back in the pool with the Fighting Illini, and they began to put up quite the fight.

Illinois swimmer Sloane McDermott placed third in the 100 yard backstroke, behind Naomi Ruei (first), and Jessica Piper (second), but that wasn’t enough to quench the thirst of the struggling visitors, as they took all three top spots in the next event, the 200 breaststroke, and second and third in the 200 freestyle behind a well-conditioned Kyna Perny’s entry to the second and final break of the day, 21:85:64 after falling behind 71:41.

FIU managed to take the day 100-85, but couldn’t keep the lead through day two. The Panthers dropped Saturday to the University of Texas at El Paso 112-74, leaving the final score at 197-194 in favor of the Fighting Illini.

The Panthers will have a chance to keep their road winning streak alive at the Purdue Invite, from Nov. 22-24, taste a victory, and potentially solidify their way to Paris, so to speak.

The Panthers’ new recruits offer a mix of athletic ability, three-game shooting and hard-nosed physicality. The six returning players should up the game tempo, but however; talents like forward freshman Eric Turner and transfer Donté McGill may score on their own and take the floor earlier than expected.

The Panthers’ have their work cut out for them as a team develops chemistry, but their schedule should be a good launching pad. FIU’s first six opponents; Trinity Baptist University, Florida Memorial University, James Madison University, University of Tennessee at Martin, Oral Roberts University and Long Island University, opportunities for the Panthers’ to build.

In addition to a soft early schedule, the Panthers will play 18 games at home this year, and are 2-0 after they played in 2014-15. FIU was 8-4 in Miami in those games last season.

FIU’s season begins Friday, Nov. 13 when the Panthers play Trinity Baptist at 7 p.m. at Lime Court.
SGA plans to clean the bay

ROBERT SOLOMON
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Each year, students come together to clean the bay of waste to participate in the Day on the Bay initiative.

Day on the Bay was created in 2007 by SGA-BBC’s chief of staff and the co-event coordinator. Morisset clarified that this event is open to the Miami community, not only FIU students.

“Day on the Bay is an initiative to take out the invasive species in the bay right now, trash, dead animals, bottle caps, boats, which we have found last year and any other things that do not belong in the Bay,” Morisset explained.

Day on the Bay plans to take it a step further with Project Garden Wall.

Project Garden Wall will be led by SGA-BBC’s Comptroller Maria Pulido. According to Pulido, there will be mangroves planted in plastic bottles that were collected from the bay.

“This will make waves in the plastic bottles that were collected from the bay,” Pulido said.

Students are required to pay $2 and 50 cents each way, resulting in a $5 round trip. For faculty, the amount increases to $5 each way, making their commute $10 round trip. I can’t really speak to how this cost must affect faculty, but one thing for sure, the round trip is no walk in the park on an FIU professor’s salary. As a student, I can definitely attest to how this cost must affect our education.

“I think it’s great that people are trying to clean up their own mess,” said Hanna Gonzalez, a graduate communications student. Around 50-75 students attended last year’s event. “Everyone was busy, everyone was very involved, and everyone had something to do,” said Anne Dorcius, director for Environmental Affairs and co-coordinator of Day on the Bay. She said at least 100 student participants are expected at this year’s event.

Morisset and Dorcius are planning to have teams of people assigned to specific duties this time around.

“Last year was fun, but having more people would make it better because the bay extends all the way to 135th street. Last time we didn’t get to clean the whole thing,” said Morisset. “Having more of the community involved such as North Miami, Aventura, Alonzo Tracy Mourning High School, rather than just FIU students, will be a great help.”

Morisset says that the event will begin with sign up at 9 a.m., and clean up beginning at 9:30 a.m. The event’s guest speaker, Nicholas Ogle, will speak at 11 a.m., followed by lunch at noon.

“Help us make an impact in the environment, bring family, bring friends, and let’s have a great fun time,” said Morisset.

The event also featured the reading of poems and raps that dealt with themes of self acceptance and the true meaning of beauty. The poems and raps were written and performed by FIU students Moise Mosser and Gabriel Sanchez.

“I wouldn’t be happy with the person I saw in the mirror when I was younger,” said Sanchez, a sophomore majoring in English literature and author of the poem “You Are Beautiful.” “Looking back, I realized that I was fine the way I was and am now.”

The event, held on Monday, featured stations that provided students with different materials for promoting self esteem, including different educational materials on ways to prevent feelings of self doubt and insecurity and banishing the bad habits used to create badges for students to write and display what it is that they love about their appearance.

You should feel comfortable as you are right now because it’s your body and all that should matter is how you feel and not what others feel,” said Morisset.

SGA plans to clean the bay

The Growl is a commentary on campus-related issues. Erica Santiago is the Opinion Director for FIU Student Media. For commentary, e-mail her at erica.santiago@fiusm.com