A closer look into student loan debt

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At the Washington Center for Equitable Growth - founded by John Podesta, former chief of staff to President Bill Clinton and chairman of the Center for American Progress - maps out student loan default rates along with average income and average loan balance per zip code.

For Kendall 33183, the median household income is $55,153, in Westchester 33165, it is $44,863 and in Hialeah 33018, it is $27,371.

The study found that higher default rates occur in low-income families, which have five times the default rate index compared to the national average.

David Wessel, former Wall Street Journal economics editor and director of the Hutchins Center on Fiscal and Monetary Policy at the Brookings Institution, broke down the present student loan issue in a video produced by Brookings.

“The bulk of the increased borrowers is by students who went to for-profit schools and community colleges - a big change from the past,” Wessel said.

And which students are most likely to default? Those very same students, the ones who went to for-profit schools and community colleges. Twenty-one percent of the borrowers at for-profit schools and community colleges defaulted within two years. But, only eight percent of those at four-year colleges and two percent at graduate schools.

And it bears out in debt load rankings. For-profit schools rank 1, 2, 4, 5, 6, 7, 9, 10, 16, 19, 20 and 24 on the top 25 colleges where students owed the most in 2014. In 2000, only one school - the University of Phoenix, made the list, which was then made mostly of flagship state public universities.

“Students who went to for-profit schools or community colleges tended to borrow less, but they also tended to come from lower-income families, were less likely to complete their programs and fared much worse in the job market during the Great Recession and the ensuing slow recovery,” Wessel said.

An Equifax statement in June 2015 - the WCEG used data from an Equifax competitor, Experian, in its report - said one of the reasons millennials aren’t buying houses is their loan debt.

Equifax data suggests that the conventional theory - millennials are the rental generation and uninterested in homeownership - is only a part of the story. Equifax Deputy Chief Economist Dennis Carlson said.

“Importantly, large amounts of student debt and less than stellar job prospects for recent college graduates make the dream of homeownership shine less brightly than in the past. But we also see indications that they will eventually want the family, car and the house that older generations desired, just with a significant delay.”

The timing is terrible, as global fear regarding the Zika virus increases, many South Florida residents are concerned with travel to Latin America and the Caribbean.

To ensure the safety of Florida residents, State Surgeon General John Armstrong released an update to keep citizens abreast of changes in status.

According to the update, there are eight travel related cases confirmed in South Florida.

“There have been no locally-acquired cases of Zika in Florida. None of the confirmed cases involve pregnant women,” the update says.

As global fear regarding the Zika virus increases, many South Florida residents are concerned with travel to Latin America and the Caribbean.

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Everyone that has Zika is concerned, and that is particularly so in our tourism-dependent Caribbean region.”

Dr. C. James Hospedales, Executive Director of the Caribbean Public Health Agency, said at a news conference in Trinidad and Tobago, another tourism-dependent nation.

While supporting recommendations from the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention that pregnant women postpone trips to infected countries, officials in those countries say others shouldn’t be dissuaded. They advise taking standard precautions to prevent mosquito bites, including using repellent, sleeping inside and wearing long-sleeved shirts and long pants.

“We can never let our guard down where infectious diseases are concerned, and that is particularly so in our tourism-dependent Caribbean region.”

Tourism officials alarmed by new Zika cases in Caribbean

CAYLA BUSH
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As global fear regarding the Zika virus increases, many South Florida residents are concerned with travel to Latin America and the Caribbean.

“Don’t let the mosquito ruin your travel,” the Caribbean Public Health Agency says in a fact sheet on its website.

Tourism is important to economies around the world but especially so in the Caribbean and Central America, where millions depend on the industry for their livelihood.

The Caribbean Tourism Organization reported that a record 26.3 million tourists and 24.5 million cruise ship passengers visited the Caribbean in 2014. They spent $29.2 billion, the Caribbean Tourism Organization reported that a record 26.3 million tourists and 24.5 million cruise ship passengers visited the Caribbean in 2014. They spent $29.2 billion.

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The editor-in-chief of the University Daily Kansas has sued University of Kansas Chancellor Bertade Gray-Little, alleging that the student newspaper's funding was cut because of its coverage.

Gray-Little and Tammara Durham, vice president for student affairs, were named in the suit filed Friday in federal court. The suit says a $45,000 annual reduction in student fees for the newspaper was retaliation for an editorial criticizing the Student Senate. KU editor Vicky Diaz-Camacho and former editor Katie Kutsko brought the suit, alleging that student government leaders, in a series of February meetings on Kansan funding, complained about a May 2014 editorial before voting to cut the newspaper's funding.

In later meetings, a Student Senate member allegedly said the newspaper “bit the hand that fed it” and the staff “got with you undeserved,” according to the suit.

The Student Press Law Center told KU officials the funding cuts were unconstitutional.

The lawsuit seeks an injunction against the administrators to stop the funding cut, plus attorneys' fees and “nominal” damages.

Apple begins offering trade-in credit for damaged iPhones

Apple Inc. has begun offering trade-in credit for damaged iPhones, a strategy that could encourage people to buy a newer model rather than try to fix or sell their current device.

Previously, Apple required iPhone displays, buttons and cameras to be intact for customers to get up to $350 toward the purchase of a new iPhone. Scratched screens and other issues will cut into the trade-in value, limiting it to between $50 for the iPhone 5S and $250 for the iPhone 6 Plus, an Apple spokesman said Friday.

Apple is directing people to its stores to get the most accurate appraisal, though trade-ins also may be processed online.

Scott Travis
Sun Sentinel

College students are supposed to arrive hungry for knowledge, but some local schools say too many just arrive hungry.

As a result, a growing number of Florida colleges have created food pantries to assist students struggling to buy food.

Florida Atlantic University in Boca Raton opened a food pantry last year, while Palm Beach State College in Lake Worth opened one last May. Florida International University in Miami and Miami-Dade College’s south campus also have created food banks in the past few years.

“We have students in dire strait situations, and they ‘ll say to their professors, ‘I’m hungry. I can’t write a paper when I don’t have food in my stomach,’ ” said Jeannie Hoban, director of the counseling center at Palm Beach State College, which also provides needy students with travel-size toiletries.

So far, the Palm Beach State pantry has served 30 students, but “the word is out and it’s been under the radar. Once we make signs and put on our website, I’m sure the numbers will increase,” Hoban said.

Nationwide, more than 250 college campuses now offer food banks, including most of the public universities in Florida and several community colleges. They generally receive donations of canned and boxed items from faculty, staff and students. Many student organizations hold food drives to collect goods.

Colleges started noticing demand for these services during the recession, with Florida State University in Tallahassee and the University of Central Florida in Orlando among the first to respond in 2009. UCF averages about 12,000 visits a year. FSU received 1,101 visits last year from 450 students.

At an increasing number of colleges, the average student isn’t an 18-year-old receiving support from parents, but an adult working full-time and supporting a family, according to the national College and University Food Bank Alliance.

Most of South Florida’s colleges, including FAU and FIU, educate a large number of working adults. But even traditional schools have discovered a need, including the University of Florida in Gainesville, which serves mostly young students from middle-class or affluent backgrounds.

“We just had multiple students within a short period of time that came in who all had similar stories,” said Tanja Philhoffer, assistant dean of students.

UF’s pantry has had about 3,300 visits, both from students and employees, since opening last summer.

FAU partnered with the nearby food bank Boca Helping Hands for its program. The group is called “Beyond Food,” because staff members meet with students to find out if they are experiencing other problems, such as academic difficulty or domestic violence. They are then referred to other departments for support, as well as receiving a three-day emergency bag of food, said Nori Carter, director of FAU’s Weppner Center, which is housing the program.

FAU officials say they don’t know how large demand will be.

“This program was developed as an awareness that there are students who are hungry and that’s such a program will prompt students to seek assistance,” Carter said.

FIU has been offering a similar program since 2014 and has served 320 students since opening.

Some students using these services are homeless, while others are just struggling to pay all their bills, officials said.

“I think some of the students are working, but just working enough to pay for tuition, books, rent and electricity,” said Joanna Garcia, who directs the program on FIU’s main campus. “If you pay for all that, maybe you sacrifice eating and go a week without eating.

There are no income requirements for students on either program, but schools say they haven’t seen any abuse.

“We found that there is already such a stigma coming to a food pantry that we think people are not likely to use the service,” Garcia said.
International students strain for jobs

Communication between administration and students is key

President Rosenberg addressed issues during the Feb. 1 Town Hall Meeting in which he, FIU Student Media, have been interested. These included transportation and the CARTA-SIMC merger.

These have been the subjects of more than a few FUSEX students: we do not believe that simply acknowledging an issue is the same as addressing it.

For example, Rosenberg discussed the addition of departures to the Golden Panther Express shuttle service and to BBC and MMC. While this is helpful for students with early classes, it does nothing to alleviate the cost of attending courses at BBC.

Concerns are raised with his mention of the potential implementation of a train system to transport students. Knowing where exactly the money for such a project would come would be something to pay attention to in March.

Although it was addressed that the CARTA-SIMC merger would not result in the dismantling of either school, the changes involved are still unclear to many students, including this editorial board.

It is encouraging to think that more courses and more opportunities will be available to students. However, it would be even better if Panthers knew what those would be.

Much the same could be said regarding the newly formed College of Arts, Sciences and Education.

This editorial board also hopes that programs about consent, sexual assault and sexual health will not be allowed to fall to disrepair, despite the potentially Singleton “It’s on Us” campaign.

As much as the renovation of Panther Square and the BBC tennis courts may be, one must wonder at the prioritization of a remodel rather than explaining issues which are perhaps more pertinent.

Communication between administration and students is key. Understanding both problems and successes. These town hall meetings should be held more often to relieve student anxiety.

What FIU needs to prove to its students is that it makes good on its promises, and let us walk with them every step of the way.

Panthers need to disconnect from technology

Technology has evolved over the years and now has the ability to do a lot of wonderful things. From connecting to keeping track of our health, technology has taken a lot of work out of our hands and showed people a more efficient way of doing things. However, like anything, there is an excess in excess, which can have a dark side too.

Despite how far technology has taken humans, and how convenient and seemingly normal it may be to everyday life, there are still some disadvantages to its constant use. Cellphones in particular are something many people don’t give much thought to. We use cellphones to stay connected, to network, to get fit and so much more. But, in all their glory, cellphones also have a distraction and can be an addiction.

On campus, most, if not all, students are preoccupied with their cellphones. Among the most common problems associated with looking down at the phone for too long are Anterior Head Syndrome and eye problems.

Looking down for too long strains the neck, pushing the head forward past the center of gravity. This can lead to muscular tension, damaged vertebrae and even compressed and degenerated discs in the back. Prolonged staring at the screen causes squinting and straining of the eyes which can lead to blurry vision, dry eyes and even long-term nearsightedness can occur in the long run.

Cellphones can also harm our ability to communicate with people face-to-face. Conversations have come to seem simpler and more cut off from each other, which could lead to meanings being misinterpreted. Students are also easily distracted in class when they receive notifications of a new messages, notifications or emails.

Yet, despite all of these issues, Panthers remain connected, but not always in the best way.

One junior, Vanessa Macias, said that using a cellphone does have its advantages.

“Sometimes they allow us to have a wealth of knowledge at our fingertips. They allow people to converse with each other and are especially helpful in the case of emergencies,” Macias said.

However, she does admit that cellphones have disadvantages, and uses her cellphone more than she’d like to admit.

“Disadvantages are more on the social and psychological side. Most are simply checking social media or playing games,” Macias said.

A senior, Jimmy Zeledon, admits to using his phone often enough in a day. He likes sometimes looking at my eyes by staring at my phone excessively. On some occasions I’ve even got headaches from sitting uncomfortably and using my cellphone,” Zeledon said.

It all comes down to whether we use technology for our progress and not for our destruction. Our cellphones are definitely not supposed to make us sick, nor was it meant to hinder our communication skills.

Rather than spending all day scrolling through Instagram and messaging on Facebook, Panthers should engage in healthy daily activities. Whether it be going out with friends, exercising, enjoying a lovely date or putting in that extra time toward studying, Panthers should take a break from technology.

Panther Health is a commentary on college health in nutrition. Maytsee Kramer is a staff writer for FIU Student Media. For more commentary, please contact Maytsee at opinion@fiusm.com.

Disclaimer

The opinions presented within this page do not represent the views of The Beacon or the editor in chief. Rather, these are the views of the editorial board and reflect individual perspectives of contributing writers and/or members of the University community.
Astrophysicist takes over the Wolfsonian FIU for a tour

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Astrophysicist Jorge Gallego will be taking over Wolfsonian FIU for a tour of the museum’s special exhibition “Margin of Error.”

The event is part of the museum’s “Takeover Tour Series,” created in an attempt to bring knowledgeable professionals to explore the tours of the museum’s collections.

“The idea is that this person will bring a fresh perspective, an interesting new angle to look at the art from,” said Heather Cook, public programs manager at the Wolfsonian-FIU.

“Margin of Error” is an exhibition found on the museum’s sixth floor galleries that explores modern art’s responses to mechanical mastery and engineered catastrophes. The exhibition contains over 200 works that date from the mid-nineteenth to twentieth centuries, including industrial artifacts, paintings, graphic and decorative art, photography, ephemera and sculptures.

Major artists and designers showcased are Lewis Hine, Julius Klinger, Man Ray, Margaret Bourke-White and many more. Gallego holds a Ph.D. in Astronomy from the University of Florida.

He is a designer, educator and science developer at the Patricia and Phillip Frost Museum of Science.

Gallego will be speaking about the science behind the accidents portrayed in the exhibition, exploring what creates the margins of error in these situations.

Museum curator and curator of this exhibition, Matthew Abess, will be joining Gallego in leading tours.

According to Cook, Abess is a literary man, so it is expected that he will draw upon his background in literature and literary theory.

“He [Abess] will be bringing insight on the left side of the brain - the more ‘humanities’ focused side,” said Cook. “And Jorge will be bringing the right side of the brain that we don’t really talk much about in an art museum, which is the science and technology side.”

Gallego is looking forward to this tour and to talking about this subject, which he describes as not the most pleasant to talk about.

“This is because it deals with small errors that translate into catastrophes and pain. Progress, a lot of times, comes at a price,” said Gallego.

He will be speaking about catastrophic events including the space shuttle Challenger accident that occurred in 1986, early railway and factory accidents and the Titanic.

“The mistakes we make are an opportunity for us to learn and do better, they help us realize that we need a greater understanding of the things around us,” he said.

Gallego promises to allocate time to go off on tangents, allowing the audience to participate and be involved in the conversation.

The Takeover Tour is $10 for non-members. It is free for members and FIU students.

RSVP is encouraged and available on the museum’s website.

For more information about Gallego’s Takeover Tour and the “Margin of Error” exhibition contact the museum at 305-531-1001 or visit wolfsonian.org.

FIU clubs welcome Panthers in the global first year

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Freshman year can be stressful, considering the awkward attempts to fit in, adapting to a different culture, and dealing with homesickness.

According to Victoria Vaccari, a science student studying chemistry and the Global First Year, this nervousness can be overcome by getting involved in activities in any manner, but most freshmen are unaware on how to take the first step.

“The most lots of international students who are apprehensive about their first year in college,” Vaccari said. “For most of them, it is their first time away from their homes.”

For freshmen, the foremost recommended campus activity is getting involved in a club that caters to their interests. With over 200 clubs to choose from, there is something for everyone here.

However, in case a student does not find a suitable club to get involved in, it is more than easy to create your own club or organization.

“Registering a club is easy,” interested individuals have to fill out an Orgsync orientation,” said Nadine Matas, Vice President of the council for student organizations.

Orgsync is an online portal which contains the information of every single club at FIU. It also acts as medium of communication between the club members regarding meetings, activities and goals.

“We even provide funds to run the organizations,” thanks to the student government association”, Matas said. “We try to encourage more and more freshmen to join clubs.”

For the hobbyists, there are numerous organizations within FIU that range from niche, “Anime Etc.” for anime enthusiasts, to nature-friendly clubs like “Wings @ FIU,” which aims to create awareness and danger that threatens the natural habitats of birds.

The billiards, Astronomy and Chess clubs are perfect opportunities to pursue a different hobby while learning something new.

Hamdan Alhalwaji, a member of the Billiards club at FIU said, “We, the members, of the club, promote billiards to students ... represent FIU by competing against other schools and organizations, and ensure members have a great time.”

For freshmen who are still uncertain of what club they want to join, they can explore and weigh their options at the convention for clubs and organizations, put forth by the council of student organizations during the first week of every semester. Representatives from various clubs set up stalls in GC ballrooms and provide information about their club, along with engaging activities and free food.

For those who wish to get involved in University governance, several student organizations are influential; voicing different student opinions to the University administration.

The Student Government Association is one such organization at FIU. It is a unified student body that aims to establish a student government providing representation for students in administration. The sheer choice of academic related clubs is helpful for more students who are interested in joining.
Sick Flicks’ 10 most anticipated films of 2016

DAVID SEELY

While January and February are notoriously slow months for new movie releases, there are tons of movies to get excited about this year. It will no doubt be a huge year for superhero films and franchise sequels and prequels, but there is a number of other films that will fight for a piece of that box office pie. Here are my top 10 most anticipated movies.

No. 10. The Lobster (March 11): This film was released in the UK in late 2015, but will finally get a proper release in the US at the beginning of March. The plot alone should pique your interest enough to give this film a try. Sometime in the future all single people get sent to “The Hotel” where they must find a romantic partner within 45 days or be turned into an animal of their choice.

No. 9. Sausage Party (August 12): Seth Rogen and his merry band of comedy pranksters are at it again but this time they get an eye on the younger crowd. People get sent to “The Hotel” and if you haven’t seen “Kiss Kiss, Bung Bang” from director and writer, Shane Black, drop everything you are doing and watch it immediately. His new film “The Nice Guys” looks like it will have the same, quick comedic writing and original visual storytelling that Black is known for. The film stars Ryan Gosling and Russell Crowe as two cops in a dark comedy, mystery-thriller that promises to be one of the most entertaining movies of the year.

No. 8. Assassins Creed (March 22): Ubisoft has the opportunity to carry out the film for $17.5 million; keep an eye on this film to get an offi- cial release later in the year.

No. 7. The BFG (July 1): Stephen Spielberg’s new movie is an adaptation of the classic Roald Dahl children’s book, The BFG (aka “Big Friendly Giant”). As “Hook” and “ET” are highlights on his resume, Spielberg is an expert in bringing emotional family stories to life on the big screen. The film was written by Melissa Mathison who co-wrote “ET. The Extra Terrestrial” with Spielberg back in 1982.

No. 6. Suicide Squad (August 5): This film will be unlike any other superhero movie we have seen because it’s all about the bad guys. When the government needs to perform a dangerous and highly classified mission, it brings together a group of super-villains to either get the job done or take the blame if some- thing goes wrong. These villains include Will Smith as Deadshot, Margot Robbie as Harley Quinn, and Jared Leto with his own inter- pretation of the iconic Joker.

No. 5. The Birth of a Nation (Release TBD): The breakout hit of this year’s Sundance Film Festival is a biographical telling of Nat Turner’s slave rebellion in 1831. The controversial film is seven years in the making for writer, director and star Nate Parker.

It could not have come at a better time, with the important racial discussions happening around the country. Fox Search- light won the distribution rights to the film for $15.7 million; keep an eye on this film to get an official release later in the year.

No. 4. Rogue One: A Star Wars Story (Dec. 16): The first spinoff in the “Star Wars” universe will introduce us to a group of fighter pilots on a mission to steal the Death Star’s blueprints. After the now $2 billion release of “Star Wars: The Force Awakens,” the series is at a fever pitch and Disney is hoping these spinoffs will keep the money rolling in.

This film will expand the ever growing universe and will hope- fully answer at least some of the unknown questions from Episode VII.

No. 3. Silence (Release TBD): Martin Scorsese’s new film does not have a release date yet, but one is expected toward the end of 2016.

This new film from the filmmaking legend sounds just as unconventional as it does intriguing. It stars Adam Driver and Andrew Garfield as two Jesuit Priests who travel to 17th century Japan to spread the teachings of Christianity and seek out their mentor played by Liam Neeson.

No. 2. The Nice Guys (May 20): If you haven’t seen “Kiss Kiss, Bung Bang” from director and writer, Shane Black, drop everything you are doing and watch it immediately. His new film “The Nice Guys” looks like it will have the same, quick comedic writing and original visual storytelling that Black is known for. The film stars Ryan Gosling and Russell Crowe as two cops in a dark comedy, mystery-thriller that promises to be one of the most entertaining movies of the year.

No. 1. Midnight Special (March 18): Jeff Nichols is a writer, director and star Nate Parker. He throws his hat into the science fiction genre.

An eight year old boy is found to have a special gift, and his family must race him to a secret location while being hunted by the government as well as an extreme religious group.

Michael Shannon has starred in all of Nichols previous films and returns along with Joel Edgerton, Adam Driver, and Kirsten Dunst.

Selene Basile/The Beacon

These are the albums getting the most spits on FIU Student Radio. Tune into 95.3 to hear songs from these great albums and more.

1. Beach House/Thank Your Lucky Stars
2. Hibou/Hibou
3. Wray/Hypatia
4. Shannon & The Clams/Gone By the Dawn
5. Hinds/Leave Me Alone
6. Daughter/Not to Disappear
7. Protomartyr/The Agent Intellect
8. Helvetia/Dromomania
9. Childbirth/Women’s Rights
10. Cheatahs/Mythologies

FIU clubs welcome

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freshmen with undecided majors, as they can explore various clubs and rule out on a major to pursue.

For every major, there is at least one club that caters to students interested in the field.

The former president of the American Marketing Association, an organization under the College of Business said, “Everything we do is marketing-related. Our members have the opportunity to carry out on-campus promotions, conduct integrated marketing campaigns and more! In addition, we are extremely active. We meet twice a week every week.”

The club also manages its own blog, posts internship opportunities and provides career advice. Each year, they take part in a case competition which includes brands like Vitamin Water and Ice Breakers.

This is just one of many academically influenced clubs available on campus. Each club is equipping their members with the necessary skills needed to succeed in their respective careers. Many alumni who visit the campus for talks and speeches testify to the fact that enrolling in clubs like these provided the head start they needed to survive and succeed in their respective fields.

The full list of clubs and organizations at FIU is available at www.orgsync.com.

Sia makes it out alive

on her seventh album

Selene Basile/The Beacon

Jennifer Law, associate professor of English at Florida Atlantic University, speaks to audiences about typography and woodcut design in the edition of Hamlet produced by the scene designer Edward Gordon Craig at the “Book as Artfact” panel hosted by Green Library.

TO BE, OR NOT TO BE

Eric’s Corner

We all have heard the debate of a Sia song, whether we want to or not. She has single handedly infiltrated our radios and yet fans still don’t have a face to match the name.

Many music enthusiasts have become aware of Sia’s influence on their ears. The Kiwi singer is responsible for Beyoncé’s “Penny Hurts,” Rihanna’s somber single, “Stay” and Katy Perry’s “Firework,” along with other notable hit songs.

In an effort to avoid the spotlight, Sia has opted to write chart-topping hits for music’s biggest stars. This is Anting, Sia’s seventh studio album, is in essence a reject album. Composed of songs originally written for Beyoncé, Rihanna, Adele and Katy Perry, Sia has recycled what other artists have scrapped. The album’s title cleverly reflecting Sia’s portrayal of the artists the songs were meant for.

“It’s like when you have a bunch of stuff in the fridge that’s about to go bad, but you’re such a great chef you make something delicious out of it,” Sia said on “The Ellen Show.” This Is Acting is a collective of potential radio hits; making it impossible not to love every song. Singles include “Cheap Thrills,” “One Million Bullets” and “Bird Set Free.”

With a voice as powerful as Sia’s, any song can become a hit. But Sia does not settle, crafting her album with rhythmic beats and pulsating electronic synths, united with her unforgettable melodies.

Her voice overpowering the background, building into a climactic chorus she has become known for.

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Eric Duran

We all have heard the debate of a Sia song, whether we want to or not. She has single handedly infiltrated our radios and yet fans still don’t have a face to match the name.

Many music enthusiasts have become aware of Sia’s influence on their ears. The Kiwi singer is responsible for Beyoncé’s “Penny Hurts,” Rihanna’s somber single, “Stay” and Katy Perry’s “Firework,” along with other notable hit songs.

In an effort to avoid the spotlight, Sia has opted to write chart-topping hits for music’s biggest stars. This is Anting, Sia’s seventh studio album, is in essence a reject album. Composed of songs originally written for Beyoncé, Rihanna, Adele and Katy Perry, Sia has recycled what other artists have scrapped. The album’s title cleverly reflecting Sia’s portrayal of the artists the songs were meant for.

“It’s like when you have a bunch of stuff in the fridge that’s about to go bad, but you’re such a great chef you make something delicious out of it,” Sia said on “The Ellen Show.” This Is Acting is a collective of potential radio hits; making it impossible not to love every song. Singles include “Cheap Thrills,” “One Million Bullets” and “Bird Set Free.”

With a voice as powerful as Sia’s, any song can become a hit. But Sia does not settle, crafting her album with rhythmic beats and pulsating electronic synths, united with her unforgettable melodies.

Her voice overpowering the background, building into a climactic chorus she has become known for.

This Is Acting, Sia’s seventh studio album, is in essence a reject album. Composed of songs originally written for Beyoncé, Rihanna, Adele and Katy Perry, Sia has recycled what other artists have scrapped. The album’s title cleverly reflecting Sia’s portrayal of the artists the songs were meant for.

Selene Basile/The Beacon

Jennifer Law, associate professor of English at Florida Atlantic University, speaks to audiences about typography and woodcut design in the edition of Hamlet produced by the scene designer Edward Gordon Craig at the “Book as Artfact” panel hosted by Green Library.
FIU welcome 24 new signees

SANTIAGO ARCHER

The softball season began over the weekend with the Panthers ranked sixth in the final Conference USA preseason poll. The results came off a pool of league coaches within C-USA. Last year, the University was ranked first in the conference in the same preseason poll. However, FIU ended up missing the C-USA tournament.

"The way we played last year, I think that is a fair rating," said Head Coach Gator Rebhan. The team is not paying too much attention to the rankings, but with the season right around the corner, it will be some extra motivation to prove the naysayers wrong.

Coach Rebhan is going into his second season as head coach for the softball squad. Although a 30-24 overall record last season might not bring this talented group to be a part of the conference tournament, a tournament which FIU hosted, the Optimistic about the future. The Panthers have 16 letters winners returning, along with seven starters and two pitchers. When it comes to the pitching rotation, Rebhan showed his enthusiasm about starting a season fresh with Corrine Jenkins and Rachel Dywer. The two best statistical pitchers from a year ago.

As the rotation might revolve around them, the team is also welcoming two freshmen pitchers and a leftie transfer. Perhaps one of the biggest parts for the upcoming season is bringing back a powerhouse offense. FIU finished last year ranked second in doubles and triples, while fourth in RBIs among C-USA teams.

The Panthers will be bringing back their hitting core, as the three strongest hitters in the 2015 season will be back. Leading the way will be Stephanie Teixeira, the two time All Conference USA Preseason team winner and league leader in walks and on-base percentage last year. Along with these two titles, Teixeirin is third in batting percentage with .444, which marked the school record for the Panthers.

With so many positives going for FIU looking ahead into the season, a six place spot in the polls wasn’t exactly what they were expecting, at least not Rebhan.

"I think we are much better than a sixth spot, but that is a fair assessment based off last season," said Rebhan.

The 2016 season kicks off nationally ranked Florida State Seminoles at FIU and continue to play five games over the weekend. Santi’s Arch is a weekly column that discusses various sports topics. To offer commentary or suggestions, email santiago.archer@fiusm.com.

Panthers ranked sixth in C-USA

SANTITS ARCHER

Friday, February 10, 2016

Dominant play secures Panthers’ six match win

REINALDO LLERENA
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The FIU women’s tennis team swept Stetsion University and Bethune-Cookman University the weekend of Feb. 6-7 at the Mandy Stoll Tennis Center in DeLand, and rebounded from a frustrating home opener.

The Panthers (3-1) dominated throughout the weekend, sweeping both opponents, 7-0, and did not lose a match. The dominating weekend started when the Panthers played the Stetson Hatters (1-2) on Saturday, Feb. 6.

After the home opener, junior Nina Nagode said the team needed to play more aggressive in doubles and not come out as tired as they did versus Troy.

In the match against the Hatters, the Panthers won all three doubles matches to claim the first point of the match. Senior Carlotta Orlando and redshirt-freshman Andrea Lazaro defeated Arijana Korac and Carolina Meregalli, 6-1. Freshman Maryna Vekslker and Nagode defeated Eveline Lepinay and Maja Salibasic, 6-2, to clinch the doubles point. Senior Kaiation Brozovic and sophomore Nerma Caluk defeated Danielle Connell and Alexandra Lyubimova, 6-3, to complete the Panthers win.

The Panthers continued to dominate the match, winning the next three singles matches to shutout the Hatters, 7-0. Brozovic defeated Brittany Hill, 6-1, 6-1, and Vekslker defeated Lepinay in straight sets, 6-2, 6-3. Caluk finished the shutout when she won her match, also in straight sets, 6-2, 6-4, over Meregalli.

Head Coach Kevin Peterson said after the opener the team needed to execute their shots better and be more consistent in their matches moving forward.

In the match against the Bethune-Cookman Wildcats (3-3) on Sunday, Feb. 7, the team continued their dominant play from the day before. Orlando and Lazaro defeated Hilary Hanton and Karen Romero, 6-1, and the duo of Caluk and Brozovic defeated Ancia Hill and Alejandra Vidal, 6-2. The two victories put the Panthers up 1-0 against the Wildcats.

The consistently dominant play continued into singles play, where the Panthers won all six matches. Vekslker defeated Mina Matsuba in straight sets, 6-1, 6-2, and Nagode defeated Matea Roki, 6-1, 6-1, to put the Panthers up 3-0 in the match. Orlando defeated Hanton to get the match-clinching fourth point, but there were two matches still playing.

Caluk defeated Romero, 6-2, 6-0, and Brozovic beat Vidal, 6-1, 6-2, to sweep the Wildcats, 7-0.

With the wins over the weekend, the Panthers improved to 19-5 all-time versus the Hatters and 4-0 all-time versus the Wildcats. The Panthers will take on the Georgia State Panthers in Atlanta, Georgia, Friday, Feb. 19. First serve from Atlanta is set for 4 p.m.

During the banquet, he announced that on Monday, March 7, the football team will begin spring practice.

One of the early signees, offensive lineman Dallas Connell was excited to come and play for FIU. Now a freshman, he and his twin brother Doug, who also plays offensive lineman, are loving every minute of FIU.

"I love FIU so far," said Connell. "It’s been great with all my classes and meeting with the team, it has been a great experience so far. I just love the atmosphere and great mindset for this coming season. I think coach Turner has been doing great things here."
Panthers end regular season on high note

CAYLA BUSH
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The FIU swimming and diving team was able to end the regular season on a high note, defeating the Florida Atlantic University Owls 115-71, Sunday Feb. 7.

This win follows last week’s season low loss against the University of Miami Hurricanes, 95-205. It also adds extra momentum to the team as they gear up for the Conference USA Championships.

Marking its second win over the Owls, the team took home seven first-place finishes from five individuals and two relay teams.

The Panthers kicked things off early with junior Jennifer Alfani, freshman Nicole Hunnewell, junior Jennifer Deist and sophomore Naomi Ruele placing first in the 200 yard medley relay. The women finished with a time of 1:46.69.

Sophomore Kyna Pereira followed this up with an individual win in the 200 yard freestyle, with a final time of 1:51.05. Pereira, two-time C-USA Athlete of the Week, is most notably known for finishing the regular season undefeated in the 1000 yard freestyle at dual meets.

Following these back-to-back wins, the match followed a give and take pattern, with the University winning one and then losing one.

Sophomore Letizia Bertelli claimed the win in the 50 yard freestyle with a 24.07 second finish. There wasn’t another win until two events later, with Deist claiming a second win in the 100 yard butterfly.

Senior Jessica Piper placed first in the 500 yard freestyle with a final time of 5:02.44 and Pereira finishing in a close second at 5:04.13. FIU shut out this event, only allowing Owls to place fifth and below.

Ruele followed up this win with another of her own, taking off the 100 yard backstroke in 56.11 seconds. The Panthers closed out the meet with a first and second place win in the 200 yard freestyle relay. Alfani, Bertelli, Deist and Pereira taking first with a final time of 1:37.17, and sophomore Skye Carey, junior Anna Jonsson, freshman Marie Lauridsen and Piper finishing second with a 1:40.24 time.

Overall, the University brought home seven wins of the 12 events, coupled with seven second place finishes.

Next up for the Panthers is the C-USA Championship meet, run, in Atlanta, Georgia. Conference championships begin Feb. 24, and end Feb. 27.

Community unites to save trapped kitten

SOPHIE HERBUT
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Dean Diann Newman took another approach to demonstrating the importance of team as she brought her class together to help save the life of a kitten.

After a student discovered a kitten trapped under cars in the BBC faculty parking lot, Newman’s students worked together to save it.

“A student saw the small kitten with no food or water and became concerned for its safety,” Officer David Navas said. “In fear of a car running the kitten over, the student called FIU Police.”

According to Navas, Officers Deanna Sydnor and Douglas Sykes answered the call at about 9 a.m. and attempted to lure the cat out from under the cars.

After the kitten avoided and dodged several attempts at capture from the officers it stayed stationary under one particular car and could not be reached by Sykes, Sydnor or the student.

The officers contacted the owner of the car, Jill Brookner, an instructor with Newman for a class on Leadership Training for Team Building.

“[Brookner] was with them in the parking lot for over 40 minutes,” said Newman. Brookner came back unsuccessful and said she needed to call for AAA to lift her car.

Brookner and Newman were in the middle of class when the police contacted Brookner. When they heard of the news, the students immediately reacted and offered to lift the car themselves, according to Newman.

Two students had jacks in their car and they brought them over to lift the car. Another student then reached under the car to scoop the kitten. The students tried for about 45 minutes to save the kitten, said Chelsea Kinjorski, a higher education administration grad student.

“When the kitten was rescued, we all cheered,” said Newman. Associate Dean of the Chaplin School of Hospitality & Tourism Management.

After the students lifted the car, Kinjorski put the kitten in a box and it stayed with them throughout the rest of class time. She then decided to take the kitten home.

Kinjorski said her neighbor fosters stray cats and there were several students who could not take the kitten home, so she took it home knowing she might be able to find it a home.

The class named the American shorthair kitten Jack after the jacks they used to lift the car. Kinjorski took the cat to the vet and found out the kitten was female so she changed her name from Jack to Jackie.

Jackie is about 6 weeks old and was infested with fleas, ear mites and ringworm. But the vet agreed the kitten was in good health for being a stray, Kinjorski said.

“I have never had a cat of my own before, but I knew as soon as I saw her, I had to keep her,” she said. Kinjorski is expected to keep Jackie under her care and is currently tending to her with “lots of patience and anti-bacterial soap.”

“I learned that when a group puts their mind to something, it can be accomplished,” Kinjorski said.
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