Board of Trustees unanimously approve Nature Preserve construction

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The Board of Trustees meeting was in session Friday, March 11, to discuss building two practice fields over the northern part of the the Nature Preserve. The plans included a give and take resolution, where the University would take the 2,822 acres from the north, and provide a 2.95 expansion of the wetland area to the south.

Those countering the University’s decisions were in attendance, anticipating the outcome of FIU’s Nature Preserve. “The ruling resulted in the unanimous decision in favor of the construction to build both fields in the controversial area, and to add the Preserve’s expansion to the south. It was immediately followed by a walkout by opposing students.”

President Mark B. Rosenberg opened the floor, saying “to the entire group of individuals who care, we want to figure this out.” “It may not always go exactly the way that everybody wants. This is an issue that there is a lot of frustration everywhere. I want you to understand that we are working as hard as we can to do what’s in the best interest of the University,” he said. Some believe that the administration has been working in their best interest.

Aime Estevez, a junior studying environmental studies, presented her concern that the University was not responding to the real needs of the students at FIU. “FIU made an agreement with Miami FC in October of last year, giving them use of the Ocean Bank Stadium,” Estevez said when reporting her claim. “What that means is that it’s displacing some of our athletic students, and they won’t have as much area to practice. So it seems to stand that since October the FIU administration has known that their athletic students have needed another space to practice, and yet we were not made aware of the fact,” she said. Estevez said, “Now I have to ask you what we’re standing for as a University? Are we standing for short term privatized monetary gain, or are we standing for the education of our students?”

Chief Financial Officer Kenneth Jessell addressed the accusation. “This is not something that came up in October, November or December. This has been a long going concern for our students, and our student athletes,” he said. Also he said “we are the only school in Conference USA without practice fields.” “We expect our athletes to perform on the field, on the court and in the classroom which is the most important part. We want them to have access to the best facilities, and to be trained appropriately” said Jessell.

According to Jessell, The University had reportedly planned the project in December with an estimated budget of $1.9 million, and student government had agreed to contribute $500,000 towards its construction. While the Board has been considering many options over which approved plan would be the best location, and also would be the most cost effective. It was determined that the plan to build over the Preserve would do both.

HAPPY RUM TRAILS

AForum for Free Student Expression at Florida International University
One copy per person. Additional copies are 25 cents.

Actress Eva Longoria joins NextGen and Latino Victory Project to discuss Latino vote

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On March 10, NextGen Climate and Latino Victory Project hosted a panel dubbed “Young Hispanic Voters: Climate Change and Economic Opportunity.”

Moderated by Maria Cardona, principal at Dewey Square Group, the panel focused on the importance of voting and participating in the primaries. In the wake of the Florida primaries, Donald Trump achieved a significant victory.

Panelists Tania Soto Zavala, president of NextGen Climate, actress Eva Longoria, founder of Latino Victory Project, congresswoman Joaquin Castro of Texas, and Salome Garcia, student and co-founder of FIU’s Age of Aquarius Group, weighed in on the discussion of environmental and Latino concerns.

“This is probably the most important audience in the United States because you’re young, in Miami, and Latino,” said Soto Zavala. “We’re asking every candidate to say what they’re going to do to solve the problem and move to clean energy, but every poll we have says that of any group, Latinos or Hispanics, care more about energy, climate and environment [issues] than any other group. Every poll we have says that when it comes to age, people under the age of 30 care more about energy, climate and the environment more than any other group.” Latinos, according to Longoria, is the fastest growing demographic in the United States.

“Demography is not destiny,” she said. “I think a big myth is that us Latinos think ‘We’re the biggest group, we’re the largest minorities.’ If we don’t vote, if we don’t show up, that means nothing.”

“We can be the largest group, but we’re still the most undereducated group; we’re the most unemployed group; we’re the group that lives most in poverty. Don’t be deceived by the numbers, our own numbers.”

The panel discussed the ongoing issue of getting young local band, Rum Trails, plays an acoustic performance on The Pipeline, WRGP’s local music show.

FIU fires Chinn

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Two weeks after women’s basketball team captain Destin Feagin filed a sexual misconduct complaint against Head Coach Marlin Chin, the University fired him.

Chinn was released Friday, March 11 following his admission to violating NCAA rules with athlete benefits. He never admitted to sexual misconduct on his behalf.

The violation of NCAA rules came when Chin gave Feagin $600 to pay off a $500 debt on her FIU account in December in order to register for the spring semester.

Feagin claims she was unaware that the loan Chin gave her was an NCAA violation.

Although Chinn has been fired, the case with Feagin is still under investigation by local authorities. Chin’s firing saves FIU a total of $644,000, which would’ve been his total payout had he served the remaining four years on his contract.

In Chin’s contract, Section 6(e) states he can be terminated with cause for an intentional violation of NCAA rules.

Since Chin’s suspension began Saturday, Feb. 27, Assistant Coach Tiara Malcolm has served as interim coach for FIU’s last two regular season games and in its two Conference USA tournament games.

FIU finished last in the Conference with a 5-26 record. Their season ended after a 76-44 loss to Marshall Thursday, March 9 in the C-USAtournament. During the offseason FIU will recruit and look for a new head coach.
13.1 million US coastal residents could face flooding because of rising sea levels

As many as 13.1 million people living along U.S. coastlines could face flooding by the end of the century because of rising sea levels, according to a new study that warns that large numbers of Americans could be forced to relocate to higher ground.

The estimated number of coastal dwellers affected by rising sea level is three times higher than previously projected, according to the study published Monday in the scientific journal Nature Climate Change.

Dangerous fire stunt at school rally was against district policy

School officials had strong words about a “forbidden” pyrotechnic performance that was approved by a Delray Beach high school principal, then went horribly wrong when a stuntman’s face caught fire in front of 2,000 stunned students at a pep rally.

Students gasped and screamed Thursday morning when the fire breather’s face erupted into flames that spread to his arms and body as he tried to tamp it out. Engulfed in a fireball, he ran onto the gymnasium floor at Atlantic Community High, video of the incident showed. “He panicked, he was swinging his arms, trying to hit it out,” said Danny Lahav, 18, a senior at the rally.

Zuckerberg braves Beijing smog for a jog as his China charm offensive continues

He’s spent years studying Chinese. He’s hosted China’s cyberspace czar at his office, and encouraged employees to read President Xi Jinping’s book “The Governance of China.”

Now Facebook supermo Mark Zuckerberg, whose social network is still blocked by the Great Firewall, has gone yet another mile in his ceaseless courtship of China: He’s gone jogging through Beijing’s Tiananmen Square during a yellow-level smog alert.

On Friday morning Beijing time, when the Air Quality Index had soared over 350, deep into “hazardous” territory, Zuckerberg posted a message on his Facebook account saying he had just jogged through Tiananmen Square. The accompanying photo showed Zuckerberg to be without a protective face mask.

Practice fields to be built on the Preserve

Will the preserve be the same? No. We have unprecedented opportunities for the university, for student participation, and to explore what sustainability leadership means when faculty students and administration partner in truly sustainable way, yet,” she said.

NextGen and Latino Vote Project hosts panel

“I really think that our party, both candidates are speaking to the issues that young people care about in a way that the other party is...not just absent, but they are acting against our interest,” said Cardona. “Both of our candidates were talking about climate change, were talking about clean energy.”

They criticized Ted Cruz and Marco Rubio for not addressing the relation of climate change with the Latino population, and dismissed the idea that Latinos automatically vote for the other party is…not just absent, but...not fully been addressed. “Environmental impacts take a full year to do, and it seemed like here they just went in for four months and said ‘well it looks like there’s invasions here mostly, so take it out.’

The administration has recently suggested their conscious effort to be environmentally aware for the University by acknowledging the necessary demands to care for natural areas on campus
Everyone knows gifts and women menstruate, so there is no reason to treat periods as dirty little secrets. However, society still places a taboo on this naturally bodily function. This is a persisting stigma that still leaves women feeling uncomfortable discussing menstruation or even needing to go to the bathroom to “take care of business.” Luckily, a growing number of advocates, entrepreneurs, and female lawmakers are challenging the taboos and putting all cards about the subject on the table.

Periods should be put squarely on the public agenda as an issue that both women and men need to change their views towards menstruation. It’s one of the most natural things in the world, just like breastfeeding, and neither men nor women should be uncomfortable about feminine hygiene.

She also addressed her thoughts on the struggle for funds for menstrual health. “Women having access to these things helps and benefits society as a whole and I absolutely believe they should be available to women just as condoms are handed out for free at student health centers.” Pecold told FIU student media.

FIU should consider providing free tampons dispensers in the university bathrooms because it will help eliminate the stigma of using tampons or pads and female Panthers will have a safe, private space where they can obtain sanitary products without embarrassment.

“Menstrual products should not be treated as luxury items.” said Free the Tampons representative Grace Meng, a New York Democrat, stated that “menstruation is something women cannot control,” adding that she had heard reports about homeless women not having access to basic products. “Menstrual products should not be treated as luxury items.” According to The Washington Post, all but five states have imposed a tax — either a regular sales tax, or gross receipts tax or luxury tax — on feminine sanitary products. Sanitary products are of critical importance and an expected part of any life. Unfortunately, they are not. All public bathrooms provide free toilet paper, soap and even covers, but not tampons and pads.

“People, like all bathrooms should be equal. Unfortunately, they are not. All public bathrooms provide free toilet paper, soap and even covers, but not tampons and pads.” According to the nonprofit Free the Tampons organization, a national organization dedicated to the free access to feminine products in government facilities such as schools and airports to stock essential products at no charge.

“Menstruation is a taboo and putting all cards about the subject on the table. Currently, feminine hygiene products are largely inaccessible in the Unites States, despite the access to such products being a basic human right. Still, many citizens do not actually have access to these basic hygiene products.

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Black Beans are the Heart of Miami

Black beans offer a wealth of nutrients such as fiber, plant chemicals known as flavonoids, folate and a significant amount of protein.

Fiber is important for a variety of reasons. The USDA recommends 25-30 grams of fiber per day, but most people get only 12 grams per day.

There are two main types of fiber: soluble and insoluble. Soluble fiber controls blood sugar, prevents the absorption of fat from the digestive tract and fuels the gut’s beneficial bacteria to improve immune function. Insoluble fiber helps you feel full longer and allows for the smooth elimination of waste.

It’s easy to get the fiber you need by adding black beans to your diet since a one-half cup of canned black beans contains six grams of fiber.

In addition to fiber, black beans are loaded with the B Vitamin, Folate, associated with the prevention of heart disease, neurology defects in developing babies and some forms of cancers.

Black beans also contain seven grams of protein per serving, but it’s important to understand that proteins from plant sources only provide a few of the essential amino acids.

Whether you want to go on vegan, vegetarian or would like to add an occasional meatless meal to your menu, you’ll want to pair beans with a whole grain such as brown rice. This pairing will give you all the nutrients you need to stay healthy.

Aside from numerous health benefits, black beans are a source of cultural pride. From Cuba to Brazil, frijoles negros are found on the stovetops and tables of many Latin homes - making it a delicious staple in our diverse Miami community.

Students longing for the taste of home can pop over to Pollo Tropical in the Graham Center for a quick fix. If you’re on a budget and strapped for time, canned black beans are available at any supermarket and can be popped into a dorm room microwave for a fast, hot meal.

For those moments when that sweet tooth just can’t be satisfied, here is a recipe for Black Bean Brownies. They have all the fudgy richness that you expect from a brownie with all the nutrients and health benefits found in black beans. Black beans will keep you performing your best for many years to come.

How to make Black Bean Brownies:

Makes 12 small bars

15 ounces canned black beans
1/4 cup margarine, melted
2 eggs
six tablespoons cocoa powder
1/4 cup all-purpose flour
1 teaspoon baking powder
1/2 cup walnuts

1. Open can of beans, emptying the can into a strainer to drain the liquid and rinse them under running water. Place beans in a food processor or blender with sugar, oil, eggs and cocoa powder. Process ingredients until smooth. If you do not have a food processor or blender, you can mash the beans in a bowl with a fork.

2. Mix the flour and the baking powder then stir into bean mixture.

3. To prepare the baking pan spread a teaspoon of oil over the inside of the pan using a paper towel (or use oil spray if preferred). Scrape the brownie batter into the pan and place in an oven preheated to 350 degrees Fahrenheit for 15-20 minutes, or until a toothpick tests clean. If you don’t have access to a conventional oven, you can spoon the batter into several coffee mugs or a large plastic bowl and “bake” in the microwave for 30 seconds (mug) to three minutes (large bowl).

4. Let the brownies cool, refrigerated, for at least two hours before cutting. Cut the brownies as follows: four across, three down for 12 small bars. If microwaving in mugs, there’s no need to wait, dive right in.

SDA Health is a weekly column written by members of the Student Dietetic Association. The column focuses on healthy eating and living. For more commentary or to suggest a topic, email life@fiusm.com
Disney gets real in latest animated feature ‘Zootopia’

LIFESTYLE POINTS

JOSEPH CARDENAS

Over the weekend Walt Disney Animation rolled out its 55th animated feature film, “Zootopia” and took the world by furry storm.

Moreso, it took everyone by surprise with its deeper message: a social commentary on racial politics and the societal damages of stereotyping and how it can be used to help people climb their way to the top.

As impossible as it sounds, a cute movie about talking animals teaching kids real world faults and degradation? What? - this very fact becomes blatant within the first few minutes of the movie.

“Zootopia,” in its basic form, is about a world where animals have surpassed their “savage” nature and now co-exist in different communities, small towns of society.

The big city — the aforementioned Zootopia, where every animal exists like a big melting pot reminiscent to New York City.

Different districts and sections create the city map, such as Tundra Town and the Rainforest District; it sets up to provide any animal from big to small an opportunity to be equals.

The question is, are these animals really equals in a society where predators and prey co-exist?

Ginnifer Goodwin lends her voice to Judy Hopps, the new cop in Zootopia. Hopps receives the brunt of much of the social conflict as the first rabbit officer on the force, which is treated like a joke to everyone around.

Nevertheless, Judy lands her first missing persons case: Mr. Otterton, part of a series of missing predatory mammal cases.

Crossing paths with the hustling fox, Nick Wilde (Jason Bateman), the two uncover a shaky conspiracy involving animal predators mysteriously “going savage,” calling into question their biological natures and causing a rift in Zootopia’s equilibrium.

Is it just predator nature or is there something bigger at play?

This is where we get into the heart of “Zootopia’s” commentary; it is to say that an entire species of animals deserve to be treated differently simply because of who they are? It is almost too easy to be shunned off from understanding how similar our society is to ours and that’s what makes it even more perfect.

It’s actually the perfect timing for this movie.

“#OscarsSoWhite,” Beyoncé’s release of “Formation” and “Black Lives Matter.”

The biggest thing they have in common are the backlash from people who don’t understand why these movements are important for their respective communities.

We as a majority are so quick to preach that we don’t understand what the real stigma is - that it’s not about understanding what the real stigma is - that it’s about being willing to listen.

Disney paints this very real picture and breaks it down in a way that makes sense. “Zootopia” is a lesson on social issues that came out of left field, but doesn’t take itself seriously whatsoever.

“Zootopia” currently holds a 98 percent on Rotten Tomatoes, the highest score for any Disney animated feature of recent years, and has beaten "Frozen" for Disney Animation’s biggest opening weekend.

It’s a fantastic film and even better message to tell kids while they’re still young enough to absorb this important discussions.

This is definitely a Disney classic that will stand the test of time.

Lifestyle points is a column covering films and culture by Joseph Cardenas. For suggestions and comments email joseph.cardenas@fiu.edu

Motivate yourself to be the change

WE ALL HAVE LOW POINTS IN OUR LIVES AND IN THOSE TIMES WE DISCOVER WHO WE REALLY ARE. A FEW YEARS AGO I WAS OVERWEIGHT, NOT MOTIVATED TO CHANGE, AND I FELT I HAD SUFFERED FROM A CASE OF LAZINESS. ALL IT TOOK WAS ONE DECISION TO CHANGE MY LIFE AROUND. THE SOURCE OF ALL THIS WAS MY NEPHEW, ADRIAT. AS HIS ADVICE WOULD MOLD ME INTO A BETTER VERSION OF MYSELF IN ORDER TO BE THE PERFECT ROLE MODEL FOR HIM.

NADINE RODRIGUEZ

Five studio albums, four extended EPs, twenty-five singles, one video album and one compilation album, including albums that have peaked in the top 10 on Billboard 200 and won them three Grammy awards is an incredible resume for US rock band 3 Doors Down.

Now, the five-man ensemble is ready to drip their sixth full-length studio album, “Us and the Night.” This album will be the first studio album since the band’s 2011 album “Time of My Life.”

“Us and the Night” was recorded by the group Rivergate Studios in Nashville, Tennessee with producer Matt Wallace’s guiding hand. Wallace has also worked with the very well-known Maroon 5 and Train, so quality is assured.

One single off the album, available for download to individuals who pre-order the album, “In The Dark,” shows a completely different side of 3 Doors Down compared to their last release.

Powerful guitar riffs compliment a striking, sensual chant that reveals a whole new swagger that 3 Doors Down has acquired over the past five years.

The album will consist of 11 tracks and was released March 11 through Republic Records.

Fans should expect a very busy year from the rock ensemble. With upcoming performances at northern Florida’s very own music festivals Welcome to Rockville and Fort Rock, as well as Carolina Rebellion, a headlining tour soon to be announced and a new album the band has truly come back with a vengeance.

However, if Florida fans don’t see waiting until the end of April for Welcome to Rockville and Fort Rock as an option, 3 Doors Down will be playing on March 20, at Moc’s Southwest Grill in Orlando.

“Us and the Night” definitely appears to be a promising album; the band’s official website claims that, “It nods to the spirit of their breakout debut with seasoned songwriting and the biggest and boldest songs of their 16-year career to date.”

For more on this story visit fiusm.com!
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Monday, March 21, 2016

BEACH VOLLEYBALL

University clinches first CCSA victory

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After losing to the Louisiana State University Tigers in its last 3-0 loss to the University beach volleyball team traveled to Baton Rouge, Louisiana, Saturday, March 12, and Sunday, March 13 for a rematch. However, the Panthers had to wait until the second day of the Tiger Beach Challenge to get their hands on the Tigers. On the first day, Saturday, March 12, the team faced off against the University of New Orleans and No. 10 ranked Georgia State University.

In the FIU Fort Lauderdale Beach Invitational, the Panthers defeated New Orleans 5-0. The outcome this time around was exactly as they swept the Privateers once again.

The team did not drop a set and was led by its No. 1 duo of junior Ariana Cupp and graduate student Martyna Gluchowicz. At the No. 5 spot, senior Lindsay Levorin and freshman Katie Friesen made their collegiate debuts winning 21-13, 21-12.

The Panthers later squared off against their first ranked opponent of the season. The Panthers of Georgia State, a CCSA conference foe, possessed an outside with a 3-0 advantage, already having clinched the match before losing to FIU’s No. 5 duo, sophomore Natasha Giron and redshirt sophomore, Savannah Davis, for their only defeat of the match. Although losing 4-3, FIU kept the match close. At the No. 3 spot, junior Anabela Satoric, and sophomore, Kari Peterson, formed a third set, Graduate student, Ting Taophyinyi, and junior, Estefanie Bethancourt, also forced a third set at the No. 4 position.

The Panthers dropped their second match of the season, only one away from matching last year’s total (20-5). On Sunday, the team competed against LSU and the University of Louisiana at Monroe. The Panthers clinched their second match of the season with a 3-2 victory over the Tigers.

The team got its first two wins as its No. 4 duo, Toghiyani and Bethancourt, and No. 5 duo, Davis and Giron, handled their opponents. After the No. 2 spot was dominated and No. 3 spot Dominique Dodd and Katie Hogan fell, the No. 1 duo was the deciding factor.

Cupp and Gluchowicz went the distance, as they defeated the Tigers in three sets, 21-12, 21-15, and 15-9. Not only did the Panthers win the rematch, this victory marked the first CCSA win in program history. Also, Toghiyani’s 42nd dual victory moved her in sole possession of first place in the program’s all-time dual victories list, passing Maryna Samborska.

The Panthers continued with their winning ways in the Sunday match against ULM, downing the Warhawks 4-1. The No. 1, Cupp and Gluchowicz, No. 2, Peterson and Dodd, No. 4, Toghiyani and Bethancourt, and No. 5, Davis and Giron, also took care of business. Davis and Giron improved to 7-0 together and remain the team’s only undefeated duo in all seven duals.

The Panthers will be competing in their most difficult event of the entire season, as they compete in the Stetson Invitational Friday, March 25 and Saturday, March 26. The team competed against No. 3, University of California at Los Angeles, and No. 4, Florida State University, Friday, March 18. The Panthers took on No. 9, Stetson University, and No. 5, University of Hawaii.

While most students were spending spring break poolside for leisure, the swimming and diving team was poolside with one goal in mind: bringing home gold medals.

For sophomore Rolfe Tallman, her time in the pool, both in the NCAA Championships and the CCSA conference championships, has been nothing short of successful. However, it was her performance during the CCSA competition last weekend that made the most impact.

Tallman’s mark of 5:37.02, in the 500 yard freestyle, is now the CCSA record in the event the Botswana native was invited to compete in. Tallman, however, is not the only one to achieve new heights.

Senior Kellie Calvert had a near-record breaking month in the 200 yard IM, with a time of 2:07.24.

Junior Jeppe Mosted is also making waves, with his 1:49.03 in the 200 yard breaststroke being the second fastest time in FIU history.

In the women’s 100 yard backstroke, junior Jade Altenkirch broke the school record with her time of 57.33.

On the second day of competition, FIU took the men’s 200 yard medley relay with a time of 1:31.76.

Although the swim and dive team saw mixed results during the weekend, the team’s hard work and focus will undoubtedly pay off in the future.

The team will now take a break before the ACC Championships, which begin March 24 in Greensboro, North Carolina. The ACC Championships will be a great opportunity for the Panthers to set high expectations for the upcoming season and look to continue the trend of 2015-16.

SWIMMING AND DIVING

FIU invited to swimming and diving NCAA zone B diving championships

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Panthers look to forget the past and rebound for the next season

As the final buzzer rang in the 76-44 defeat at the hands of Marshall, a season of misery and controversy finally closed for the FIU women’s basketball team.

Nothing went their way during this season, after a season opening win FIU stumbled the rest of the way, finishing with a 5-26 record. The worst in Conference USA and one of the worst in the history of the program.

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Losing ways
Despite FIU only managing five wins this season it was shocking an improvement from last season. Let that sink in, a 5-26 record is an improvement. Yikes. FIU went 3-26 the season before and was 0-18 in conference play, they are better off not going to the Conference USA tournament.

Before FIU’s home opener for the 2015-2016 season, the FIU women’s basketball team had failed to win a game in the year 2015.

Last season also featured another lowlight, which was a 14 game losing streak, which was finally broken at home vs the University of Birmingham Alabama in early February. That marked FIU’s first conference win since 2014. Almost two calendar years prior.

Conference Tournament run
Despite the festering turd that was FIU’s season, they managed to pull off an upset win over the 11 seed UTA in the Conference USA tournament.

To keep FIU’s season alive Taylor Shade had one her best games of the season, scoring 22 points, including the go-ahead layups very late in the game.

Freshman Kristen Hudson also had her Stephi Curry moment of the season, making a step-back contested three to the game with under two minutes to play. The game felt like a passing of the torch as it would be the last game FIU would win after falling to Marshall two days later, because senior Taylor Shade and freshman Kristen Hudson both had huge games.

The two were FIU leading scorers in that game and were clearly the two best players for the Panthers that game. As Shade won’t be playing collegiate basketball anymore, Hudson will have to lead the team for the next few years.

Marlin Chinn’s scandal
The losing was, even the worst part, now former FIU Head Coach Marlin Chinn was accused of not only committing NCAA violations, but also pursuing a sexual relation with team captain Destini Feagin.

According to David Neal of the Miami Herald, Chinn told Feagin that he has “sexual fantasies about” her among other creepier things. It is to be noted that the University has since “relived” Chinn due to committing in NCAA violation and not the alleged sexual harassment of Destini Feagin. Chinn gave Feagin $660 to pay a debt on her FIU account, which is a violation of NCAA rules.

Going Forward
Another rebuilt yet again, after Cindy Russo’s retirement it appeared FIU had a leader going forward coming from a successful program in Maryland. This summer was set to be his first recruiting tour and a step in a new direction.

Now, FIU is a program who exiled a disgraced figure and is again in a sports purgatory. No coach in place and no idea what’s next. Their best player is graduation after improvements each year and there is no one in place to succeed her.

Hudson is still too green and the rest have had shaky seasons. Expect a few more seasons in the gutter before things can reasonably get better.

T-Time is a bi-weekly column about FIU’s Women’s Basketball. For commentary and suggestions email Giancarlo Navas at giancarlo.navas@fiusm.com.  

FIU’s fall from grace has been shocking, but they can and will rise to the occasion. It’s a matter of time and who can lead the charge.

Marlin Chinn wasn’t the problem. The program is the problem.

Quesnel joined Naomi Ruele at the NCAA Championship. 

Ruele enters the NCAA Championship following her strong performance at the C-USA Swimming Championship. She placed first in each event she participated in, earning seven gold medals from the conference championships.

Ruele was also named the C-USA Swimmer of the Meet during the Championships, following two record-setting performances in the 100 Freestyle Relay and the 200 Meter Freestyle Relay.

The redshirt freshman was invited to the NCAA Championships after setting the C-USA Championships record with 22.23 second time during her performance in the 50 freestyle event. Her time is also tied for the 27th fastest in the nation.

Prior to the NCAA events, Head Coach Randy Homer had high expectations for Quesnel.

“Becca fought back after missing a few dives in the prelims. She is a legit threat to contend at the NCAA’s next week if she can put all her dives together in one list,” said Horner to FIU Sports.

During the NCAA Championships, which took place March 16-19, both Quesnel and Ruele were eliminated from the competition during preliminaries.

Quesnel placed last in both the 1 Meter and 3 Meter Diving competitions, keeping her from moving on to the Finals. At press time, the Platform Diving event hadn’t taken place, but Quesnel is expected to finish last.

Ruele tied for 41st place in the 50 yard freestyle, the only event the Botswana native was invited to compete in.

Additional reporting by Cayla Buck.
Panthers sweep first Conference USA matchup

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The FIU softball team got back to their winning ways with a three-game sweep on the Charlotte 49ers, Saturday, March 12, and Sunday, March 13. This stretch of games came after the Panthers went 1-2 in their mid-week battles.

FIU picked up a dominating victory Tuesday, March 8, against East Carolina. The following day, the Panthers found themselves facing the nationally ranked Notre Dame Fighting Irish.

The Fighting Irish came into Felsberg Field for a double header against the Panthers. In the first game of the doubleheader, the FIU was completely annihilated with a final score of 17-8.

The Fighting Irish were able to leave Miami with two wins in one night, winning the second game of the double-header 6-3. Corrine Jenkins dropped to 2-4 with the loss, allowing 11 hits and six runs in a complete game.

The series started off with a doubleheader Saturday as Charlotte came into FIU in the receiving votes category of the USA Today Coaches Poll.

Jenkins pitched yet another complete game, picking up her third win of the season (3-4) in a 2-1 nail biter. She only allowed four hits and had six strikeouts in the contest. Jackie Schof led the Panther batting going 2-4 with an RBI.

Megan Kugelmann, the spectacular freshman, stole the pitching show once again on the mound in the second game of the double header. Kugelmann (5-1) tossed her fifth shutout in five starts in the 9-0 win.

She also set a new career high seven strikeouts, while allowing just two runs in the game. The Panthers used a pair of home runs to end the game with the run-rule in the fifth inning.

Dani Mowry went 2-2 with two RBI’s in the game, while Erin Eiland had three RBI’s of her own. The Panther scored in each of the final three innings of the game after being held silent in the beginning of the match.

Although they may not be the most talented team, the Panthers are a battle tested team with leadership and hard work.

The hometown Hurricanes have had an outstanding year with their veteran transfers combined with underclassman talent.

University of Virginia

Although they may not be the most entertaining team to watch as they rank as the slowest team in the division one college basketball, they are among the most efficient teams both offensive and defensively. Coach Tony Bennett has a full complement of seniors led by Malcolm Brogdon who will not produce any lottery picks in the NBA, but certainly understand the game at the highest level and play the game the right way sharing the basketball.

I watched them play live versus University of Miami in a game they about a month ago, but I was thoroughly impressed. They are a battle tested team with leadership all over the place, so I don’t expect them to go quietly into the night.

University of Miami

The first day of conference play, the Panthers had a combined 10 runs on 15 hits. The Charlotte 49ers had the second lowest ERA (1.93) allowed and batting average (.200) in the league prior to their double-header.

FIU looked for a sweep on the ensuing day, as a noon matchup was prepared for the two teams. After a rough start to the season, Jenkins picked up her fourth win (4-4) as she makes her way back up to the .500 mark on her games this season. FIU improved to 17-10 (3-0 C-USA) after a 4-2 win.

Kugelmann picked up her first save of the season, and AJ Belans crashed two out of Felsberg field. It was the second time this season Belans had a game with multiple home runs, the last one being against Holy Cross in February.

The sweep for the Panthers is the first sweep that FIU picked up against a Conference USA opponent since April 2014, when they swept North Texas in three games.

Ballin’: 2016 NCAA March Madness predictions

G-MADNESS

It’s March ladies and gentlemen and the basketball madness has officially begun. With the conference tournaments just wrapping up this past weekend, there’s already been a surplus of drama across the country, with impossible shots, buzzer beaters and even game winners.

University of Connecticut

Going into the American Athletic Conference Tournament, the Huskies were actually on the outside looking in at the field of 68. A matchup versus Cincinnati gave the Huskies a bye to the Sweet Sixteen, and the Huskies entered the tournament as the number two seed in the AAC.

The Conference USA Tournament, the Huskies were almost full court to tie the game. The momentum carried the Huskies through the fourth overtime and to eventually win the AAC tournament, earning an automatic bid into the NCAA tournament.

With head coach Kevin Ollie, a compliment of scoring guards, and a 7-foot rim protector, expect them to be a tough out in this tournament.

University of Kentucky

As always, coach John Calipari has a team full of abundance of talent and size that looks like it’s capable of making a deep run.

Led by sophomore point guard Tyler Ulis, this team has the ability to go as far as the Final Four. The Wildcats have a rotation of four big men that all move well on both the offensive and defensive end, which proved to be useful just last weekend winning the Southeastern Conference tournament.

But the most intriguing prospect is Shooting Guard Jammal Murray. This athletic Canadian Freshman can absolutely fill it up on the offensive end of the floor. Expect them to cause some trouble in the NCAA’s.

University of Virginia

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I watched them play live versus University of Miami in a game they about a month ago, but I was thoroughly impressed. They are a battle tested team with leadership all over the place, so I don’t expect them to go quietly into the night.

University of Miami

The home team Hurricanes have had an outstanding year with their veteran transfers combined with underclassman talent.

Although we finished second in the league and third in the conference journey, Head Coach Jim Larranaga seems to always prepare well for a deep tournament runs.

Head Coach Jim Larranaga seems to always combine with underclassman talent.

G-Madness is a weekly college basketball column on the NCAA basketball tournament. For commentary and suggestions email Garrett Epperson at sports@fiusm.com.
Wellness and Recreation Center offers trips with Adventure Recreations Program

There is no doubt that students are proud of calling themselves FIU Panthers with the amount of achievements FIU has under its name.

Being one of the 10 largest public universities in Florida, ranking 17th among the top universities in the country by Washington Monthly and being the operators of The Aquarius Reef Base, the only underwater ocean laboratory in the world, are just a few of these accolades.

The fact that our university is located in Miami, one of the busiest cities in the country means that even though school is back in session you can still have some serious R&R. We have an almost 24/7 “Sun ’n’ Fun” climate, a luxury that students who attend other universities might not have.

Now that the warm rays are returning, FIU is taking advantage of Miami’s natural attractions and is offering its students a chance to get out, get active and have fun under the sun through its Adventure Recreation Trips Program.

According to FIU’s Student Affairs website, the Adventure Recreation Trips program is “designed to get you and maybe even friends, outdoors to experience recreation opportunities available in parts of Florida and the Southeastern U.S.”

The program is open to FIU students, Wellness & Recreation Center members and non-FIU affiliated non-WRC members.

WRC has coordinated a variety of different trips for the spring semester. If you weren’t able to attend the University’s annual February Ski and Snowboarding trip to Gatlinburg, Tennessee you still have an opportunity to attend its next two trips.

Saturday, March 26, WRC will be taking students on a full day excursion to snorkel off the coast of Key Largo for just $35. This trip will give students a chance to see one of the most delicate and important ecosystems in the world: the coral reefs.

Transportation will be included in the registration price and if you would like to bring someone who isn’t an FIU student with you, they can attend for $40. Interested participants can register at the WRC Membership Desk and cash, credit card and the FIU One Card will be accepted as payment.

Registration will be open until Wednesday, March 23 but space is limited as a maximum of only 20 participants will be able to attend the trip. If snorkeling under the sea with Ariel and her friends isn’t your cup of tea, the program is also sponsoring a bike trip to Shark Valley, located in Everglades National Park.

The trip to Shark Valley is scheduled for Saturday, April 16 and registration will be open until Wednesday, April 13. Tickets and transportation will be included for the price of $35 for FIU students and $40 for non-FIU students. This is a great chance for students who have never visited the Everglades to get up close and personal with this diverse fauna and flora ecosystem especially since Shark Valley is considered to be in the heart of the “True Everglades” as labeled by the National Park Service website.

While these are local trips, they’re still a fun and unique activity to participate in, even for Panthers who have lived in Miami all their lives.

These trips not only give you a chance to explore two of the most endangered and important ecosystems in the world but it’s a different way to be active.

So, start working on your summer tan and gain an extra little something to post on Instagram.

Show your friends why attending FIU and living in Miami is one of the best decisions you’ve made yet, with the caption #WishYouWereHere.

Michelle Marchante is the Assistant Opinion Director for FIU Student Media. Her column, M Talk, focuses on new and innovative events and ideas. For suggestions or comments, please email Michelle at michelle.marchante@fiusm.com