FIYOU vs. AccessFIU
SGC-MMC holds Senator At-Large Debate

Candidates debated their platforms at the Senator At-Large Debate hosted at Everglades Hall.

Shown are: Sasha Santi (green shirt), Johnny Louis (gold tie), Tia Clay (grey shirt) and Stanley Evans (grey blazer).

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FIYOU and AccessFIU went head-to-head in the Senator At-Large debate Tuesday, March 22 to obtain three open chairs within the SGA senate office. The debate consisted of four candidates representing both FIYOU and AccessFIU parties.

Tia Clay of AccessFIU, wants to enact change within the athletics program. She herself being a Division 1 student athlete believes that having adequate representation for athletes in SGC-MMC will bring awareness to issues facing student athletes.

"Since I’ve been at FIU I’ve learned that there’s a huge disconnect between athletics and the student body," said Clay. "The lack of awareness and relationships with student athletes can both be addressed in that we can connect with the athletics department by having more representation."

Clay said, "Because I looked and I found that there is no representation within the student government association. So I wondered, if maybe we can have somebody from athletics that [can give] an inside input."

Stanley Evans, also from AccessFIU, wants to make SGC-MMC a more diversified system, and is looking to find more ways to get students involved with the decisions that impact them.

"I’m here to break down the barriers and rescope the system," he said. "That way students have a more impactful voice on campus, and to be more involved in student government decisions."

Evans, also president of Council of Student Services, said “being involved with such different organizations helps to understand that the students need different insights and different perspectives that are on campus. As a Senator At-Large, new traditions help the community get closer. I want to achieve this goal by listening to the insights and concerns of students.”

Johnny Louis, from the FIYOU party, is the candidate running to “improve the transitioning period from being an FIU student to a professional in your career of choice.”

Having students who are confused on what to do after they graduate is a problem that SGC-MMC needs to provide assistance with, according to Louis.

He said, “If you spent all this time in college, I want to make sure that you have a set path through internships, to make sure that once you graduate you know where FIU is going to take you.” He also mentioned that “being able to help students get jobs that are provided here on campus” can help launch their careers.

Sasha Santi of FIYOU, wants to enhance relations amongst SGC-MMC representatives and the student body.

"I want to work hard with students and I don’t want there to be a divide between me and what the student body is," Santi said.

During the debate she pointed out the improvements that can be made to enhance the relations the representatives have with students.

"Essentially our position is working with a larger student body, I want to make sure that your voice is heard, and I want to make sure that everyone feels like they are being included," she said.

Some topics of concern were about health and wellness on FIU campuses, and how SGC-MMC can make impactful actions to stimulate better change within the CAPS program. Clay suggested that “it’s a big issue on any college campus and we do well with our CAPS program and our student health services. However, I have talked to students and they have said that our CAPS services takes a little bit longer to get to.”

She also suggested that “if we were to get more bodies within the CAPS program, maybe we would be able to improve. That way students can have more support when they walk in the door. By talking with our psychology department maybe we can get volunteers or other people that can be trained to help students so that they are able to prosper."

Evans also echoed on the issue by suggesting that issue could also be resolved with a more diverse program. "[In] the CAPS system, psychologists are not diverse as it should be," he claims. "Students today are very diverse on our campus. Students are going in, not being able to communicate, not being able to relate to the psychologists today. I feel like more recognition towards that area can benefit the students more."

Transportation was another program of concern that the candidates said needed improvement. Stanley said that the shuttle taking students back and forth from MMC to BHC can possibly be free for students if necessary changes were able to take place.

"The transportation from BHC to MMC today takes a good 1 to 2 million dollars to actually run the buses."

He said “[By] talking to Parking and Transportation, it is actually [a possibility]..."
**NATION & WORLD BRIEFS**

**What went on during captives’ imprisonment in Iran?**

While in solitary confinement in an Iranian prison, Maziar Bahari, an Iranian-Canadian journalist who was imprisoned in Iran for 118 days, looked forward to his interrogation sessions. Even if he was being beaten, he explained, at least he wasn’t alone. “In the Quran they say the worst punishment for a person is to put that person in a grave,” said Bahari, filmmaker and author of “Then They Came for Me.” “Sometimes when you’re in solitary confinement, when you’re deprived of all of your senses, when you cannot see anything except for the walls around you, you think that you’re in a grave.”

**European critics of Trump worry what his candidacy says about US**

In the United States, Republican presidential candidate front-runner Donald Trump is a hero to some, a problem to others, but generally seen a force of nature and perhaps unstoppable. The rest of the world is having a hard time digesting that he could well be the Republican standard-bearer, if not the leader of the free world. He’s described as evil, a cyberbully, a rich narcissist, even a sort of anti-Christ. His populist campaign promises must be theater, the thinking goes, and can’t be taken seriously.

North Carolina’s newest state law doesn’t just extinguish the city of Charlotte’s attempt to ban unequal treatment of gay and transgender people, it also takes away the ability for any other city or county in the state to pass general anti-discrimination laws protecting a range of people.

North Carolina’s bathroom legislation makes state an outlier in nation

That makes North Carolina’s “bathroom” legislation special nationally: Only two other states, Arkansas and Tennessee, have gone so far as to block local officials from deciding it’s OK for transgender people to choose which bathroom to use. **NATION & WORLD BRIEFS**

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**EDITORIAL**

**Education – a tool against terrorism**

Valentina Del Pino

Bombings, kidnappings, killing, hate everywhere. Baghdad, Brussels, France, Iraq, Syria and the Ivory Coast are some of the countries that have been targeted by awful realities in these past months between the end of 2015 and the new year. It’s the time to stop? Will we ever be safe again?

Many of my peers wonder. FIU Department of English professor Kathy McCormack attempted to devise an answer to the question through a discussion with her students.

“Truly, it is way more complicated than anything we can come up with.” McCormack said.

After some heated discussion, the class came to an answer: Hate is the product of ignorance and fear.

We all have felt it. We all have hated something or someone in our lives, it’s human. We have hated due to the influence of our family, our ideologies or simply because something goes against our upbringing or our culture. It is truly normal to not like something.

Wachanga.com, a great amount of support Trump’s campaign has received is truly terrifying - not only for American history, but also for the world. To think people my age really agree with.

Trump says makes me anxious. Trump is perpetuating ideas that are exactly what is needed in order to respect and accept one another.

Michelle Marchante is the Assistant Opinion Director for FIUSM. She can be reached at Michelle@fiusm.com.

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**OPINION**

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Trump says makes me anxious. Trump is perpetuating ideas that are exactly what is needed in order to respect and accept one another.

Michelle Marchante is the Assistant Opinion Director for FIUSM. She can be reached at Michelle@fiusm.com.
Students start a slack lining group on campus

JAY VANPARIA
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The Modesto A. Madique campus has been the playground for a group of slack line enthusiasts since the beginning of spring break. It was initiated by two FIU students, Tico Ginart and Chris Bonilla. Ginart, a junior Hospitality major said, “It all started after I watched an inspiring documentary about the world’s best slack liner on the internet. Being into extreme sports, I wanted to try it straight away.”

Ginart and Bonilla purchased the equipment online and started to practice near the housing quad. “The equipment is affordable and just costs about $50 and will last for about five years. So it’s a pretty good investment,” said Ginart. “Mastering any sport requires practice and that is why we try to take out as much time as possible for [slack lining], so that we get better and better.” said Bonilla, a junior Communication Arts major.

The group of students calls itself “Slackers Only” and anybody who is interested can join them on Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays from noon to 3 p.m. at the GC lawns. Owing to the overwhelming positive response, the group has decided to take a step further and register themselves as a formal student club with the Council of Student Organizations next summer.

“We get people of all kinds who see us practicing and develop an interest into the sport. College students, professor, even some high school kids are regular visitors to our practice spot,” said Ginart.

One does not need to be extremely fit to participate because “Slackers Only” focus on the beginner level before trying to do tricks and moves on the slack line. The group usually practices by suspending the slack line between two sturdy trees anywhere on campus and keeping a low height. Ginart and Bonilla guide and advise students who want to advance in the sport. They provide them with an insight of the experience of starting slacklining with zero knowledge.

“Our motto to encourage the potential pro-slackliners is ‘Hug A Tree,’ so that they know that when they start to walk the line, they have to do it all the way and hug the opposite tree,” said Ginart.

Professional slack liners practice at dangerous locations like a valley or a river. These individuals use harnesses, but those who love thrills and adventure avoid that extra piece of equipment.

“The Life Of Pablo,” on aptly titled track, was released by Kanye West’s latest studio release, “The Life Of Pablo,” on February 14. Ocean appears on the album! It is July 271 and there’s still no new Frank Ocean album.

Well after a promised July 2015 release date Ocean has disappointed fans and critics alike with no album to listen to or critique. Ocean’s official website, FrankOcean.com, was refreshed, now with merchandise and a few new tabs (VID/AUDIO/GET). Though inaccessible, these tabs give fans hope of possibly purchasing new music in the near future.

In April 2015, Ocean took to Tumblr to announce the return of his sophomore effort after popular and critical acclaim for 2012’s “Channel Orange.” “I got two versions. I got twooo versions...” and #JULY15. Well, Frank... tomorrow is April 1 and we’re still waiting! How could JU-LIE to us??!

“Boys Don’t Cry,” the title track called, ‘Frank’s Track.’

“Still no new album from Frank Ocean

DARIUS DUPINS
Entertainment Director
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It is July 271 and there’s still no new Frank Ocean album.

Well after a promised July 2015 release date Ocean has disappointed fans and critics alike with no album to listen to or critique. Ocean’s official website, FrankOcean.com, was updated and redirected users to boysontheco.co. 24 hours later, Ocean’s site was refreshed, now with merchandise and a few new tabs (VID/AUDIO/GET). Though inaccessible, these tabs give fans hope of possibly purchasing new music in the near future.

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Mega producers Rodney Jenkins and Hit-Boy have been confirmed as two of the album’s co-creators. Legendary producer Rick Rubin was reportedly in the studio with Ocean but no details of whether he added any “Rick flare.”

With scarce information about Ocean’s new album and the occasional teasing from Ocean’s brother, Ryan Breaux, there’s no telling what we’re in store for or when the upcoming release date for Boys. By the end of this lifetime, hopefully, we’ll be able to bask in the glorious sounds of a new Frank Ocean album!

Ocean recently made a few headlines after coming out of hiding since the announcement of his album at Kanye West’s Yeezy Season 3 fashion show during New York Fashion Week in early February. Ocean appears on West’s latest studio release, “The Life Of Pablo,” on aptly titled track called, ‘Frank’s Track.’
Three key pieces to make your spring wardrobe sing

**NECK SCARVES**
Recently spotted: Hedi Slimane started showing scarves on the spring 2015 Saint Laurent runway. Models wore thin scarves tied around their necks in an effortless, rock ‘n roll manner. Now, they’re being worn as thicker bandannas and thin, silky versions tied in bows, often paired with chokers and reinforcing the neck and shoulder areas as the focal point of the body that’s in fashion at the moment. Lanvin, Gucci and Rodarte included a lot of neck scarves in their spring 2016 runway collections.

**How to best wear them:**
- “It’s more of an attitude to an outfit,” says Penny Lovell, Los Angeles-based fashion stylist to Anne Hathaway and Taylor Schilling. The neck scarf still has the ‘70s vibe that dominates in fashion now but can be subtle, depending on the style chosen.
- “How to best wear them: It’s more of an attitude than a trend,” says Chutney Hunter, head buyer of designer shoes and handbags at Pacific Palisades boutique Elyse Walker. “There are no rules: Layer or tie them on with T-shirts, day dresses or with your favorite slip gown.”

**SHOES**
Be the update of the Stan Smith sneaker. Along with Adidas, brands including Asics, Puma, Saint Laurent, Adidas, Puma, Saint Laurent, have increased their white sneaker offerings.

**How to best wear them:**
- “It’s a classic, and after its popularity several years ago, we are now at a point where literally any outfit can be modernized by a simple white sneaker,” said Godfrey, vice president of the fashion and lifestyle for Seattle-based retailer Nordstrom. “It is a classic, and after its fashion fandom moves on, we’ve still got a great lineup of sneakers for weekend walks and workouts.”
- “How to best wear them: “Men, sportswear and more classic pieces is very new,” Lovell says. That means sneakers are getting paired with athleisure looks, as well as jeans, skirts and long dresses.

**MUSICIAN Seinabo Sey is off to a fast start**

**GREG KOT Chicago Tribune TNS Staff**

**When Seinabo Sey was 21 years old, she felt like she was running out of time. Would this music thing ever work out? How was she going to pay her bills? Out of personal crisis came inspiration for her song “Younger.”**

“She might as well take it while you can, babe!” was written in 2013 in collaboration with Swedish producer Magnus Lidellah, “Younger” became Sey’s breakthrough song in 2014 and anchored her acclaimed 2015 album, “Pretend.” It’s a pep talk and self-critique, a way of reinforcing the neck and shoulders while you can, because you might as well get it while you can, because you might as well do it while you can. I hope when people hear my music, they feel like they were all right. I’m going to be all right, I’m going to be all right.”

“I knew I always wanted to be a musician, but I didn’t believe it could happen. We were poor, so I thought the only way for me to make a living was to do something ‘proper.’”

Seinabo Sey, Musician

The family moved between Sweden and Africa, until Sey left home in her mid-teens and took the plunge from her Stockholm music school and studied soul music. The performance-heavy curriculum got her over her stage fright, and she immersed herself in the vocabulary of neo-soul singers such as Erykah Badu, Lauryn Hill and Jill Scott. More doors opened when she was invited to tour with a Swedish rapper as Britney Spears and Kylie Minogue, and suggested Sey reach out to him. “I thought he’s not going to care - he just made a Britney Spears song,” she says. “But he cared. I’d never been in a studio with a real producer before, but he asked me a lot of questions about what kind of music I like, what I wanted to sound like. He was working with people like Katy Perry and other artists all the time, so it took a year to focus on my project. That was a good year because it taught me a lot - I had to do the songs on my own, working with his beats. It was the first time I understood what it took to make a structured, well-written song.”

She wrote a batch of material in the wake of “Younger” that paired her emotive vocals with introspective and socially conscious lyrics. A 2014 EP included “Younger” and “Hard Time,” about a relationship with a friend that had soured.

“I want to write songs like [John Lennon’s] ‘Imagine’ or ‘Crazy’ with Gnarlars Barkley, the ‘Formation’ song from Beyonce ... songs that have a message and also have a catchy hook. I want both. Being a hitmaker like Max Martin, you can’t take away what he does, it’s an absolute art. But making a hit, it’s not rocket science. I want something more.”

The final song on “Pretend” is “Burial,” which became something of a tribute to her father, who died in 2013. “I started on that song before he died, it was like I was imagining my own funeral, and it was pretty spooky,” she says. “When he died, I tried to write a song about it, but I was sad and tired, and couldn’t come up with anything. I wanted to put those minutes of silence on the CD. But then I found ‘Burial,’ tweaked a couple of words, and then gave it to a friend who changed a couple of the chords to make it sound more hopeful, the idea that my dad is in a better place. So when I sing it now, that part of it is therapeutic for me because it’s beautiful.”

It also cuts to the heart of why Sey sings, and why she embraced music as her life. “To me, ‘soul’ means to tell the truth,” she says. “The artists I love, like Jill Scott and Common, they are great storytellers who help people with their songs. I want to make music that makes me feel the way I felt when I was a lonely kid and listened to Destiny’s Child. I felt empowered, even when I lived in a town where nobody looked like me. I hope when people hear my music, they feel less alone.”

Three key pieces to make your spring wardrobe sing

**MELOSSA MAGSAYSAY Chicago Tribune TNS Staff**

**BOMBER JACKETS**
Recently spotted: On the runways at Gucci and Saint Laurent, off-duty models swapping outerwear. Now, silky, more feminine versions like those from Gucci are being worn as the updated take on toughness.

**How to best wear them:**
- “Designer Phoebe Philo and hers is a classic, and after its fashion fandom moves on, we’ve still got a great lineup of sneakers for weekend walks and workouts.”
- “How to best wear them: “Men, sportswear and more classic pieces is very new,” Lovell says. That means sneakers are getting paired with athleisure looks, as well as jeans, skirts and long dresses.

**WHITE SNEAKERS**
Recently spotted: Designer Pheobe Philo and
SPORTS

UTEP sweeps Panthers over weekend series

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After a 16-7 win over Western Kentucky in the previous series all momentum was broken apart for the FIU softball team as UTEP came into Felsberg Field and took all three games.

The series got underway on Friday, March 25, with a doubleheader. A lightning delay pushed both games, but the Miners and Panthers took the field after a two and a half hour delay.

The game was locked at six a piece in the fourth inning and the go ahead run for the Miners in the fifth proved to be the difference in a 7-6 victory. Three different pitchers took the mound for FIU, but it was Rachel Dwyer who was marked with the loss (2-3). She pitched 3.2 innings, allowing seven hits but retiring 12 batters that she faced.

Dwyer only allowed two runs for the game, while Corinne Jenkins allowed four runs in just one inning, also allowing five hits.

Stephanie Texeira led the Panther batting yet again with two RBI in three at-bats. Jackie Schoff also had a notable game, going 3-4 with two runs of her own. It seems like a broken record for the Panthers this season, leaving 8 runners on base for the second game of that series vs UTEP 6-4.

The loss went to Megan Kugelmans (6-3). Kugelmans pitched a complete game with five strikeouts, but two earned runs. Texeira had a quiet game, going 1-3, and Schoff went 2-4 with an RBI. The Panthers left seven on base and had seven hits for the game and leaving a majority of their players on base was costly yet again.

The night might have ended, but the nightmarish was just beginning for FIU. Saturday, March 26, UTEP completed the sweep over FIU with a 6-4 win.

For the third straight game, FIU had the lead but failed to hold on. The Panthers were up 3-0 in the second inning, but UTEP scored the next six runs of the game in the fourth and fifth inning. The Panthers scored a lone run of their own in the fifth, but that would be the end of their offense for the game and ultimately the series.

The bats were alive early for the Panthers, as six singles recorded their three runs in the second inning. Kaitlyn Musa had the fourth straight single for FIU to start the inning, bringing in the first run.

In the fifth inning, Texeira hit her eighth home run of the season to cut the deficit down to 6-4. It was the last run of the game.

The weekend sweep marks FIU’s fifth straight home loss of the season. After a strong 3.0 strong in Conference USA play, the Panthers are now 4-5 and 18-17 overall for the season.

UTEP improved to 15-20 overall for the season and 5-3 in Conference USA.

Next up for FIU will be another conference matchup, as the Panthers head to Denton, Texas to play North Texas this coming weekend. North Texas is right behind FIU in the Conference USA standings, sitting at 3-6 so far for the season.

Panthers win final home match on senior day

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The No. 49-ranked women’s tennis team said goodbye to two seniors with a come-from-behind win over Kent State in the previous series all momentum was broken apart on Sunday, March 28, at the FIU Tennis Courts.

The Panthers (14-2) honored seniors Kathleen Brosovich and Carlotta Orlando before Sunday’s, March 28, match versus Brown University. The match was the final home game for the two Panthers.

“Throughout my four years here, I’ve had a great experience with this team,” said Orlando. “I’m excited for what’s coming. Tennis will always be a part of my life.”

Heading into the match, the Panthers remained undefeated when winning the doubles point. The team also jumped from No. 57 to No. 49 on the ITA/Oracle rank- ings. If the season were to end now, the Panthers would be the No. 1 seed in the

C-USA tournament.

For the Panthers to clinch the No. 1 seed, they need to win out the rest of the season.

The Bears took the doubles point, claiming the first two matches. Sophomore Nerma Caluk and Brosovich lost to Maddie Stearns and Ammu Mandaplap, 6-2. Orlando and redshirt freshman Andrea Lazaro fell to Hannah Camhi and Katie Ts, 6-4, to give Brown the point.

“We were nervous in doubles,” said head coach Katarina Petrovic. “After doubles I reminded them of their game plan. It was a very important match for both us and the seniors. I didn’t want the match to get away from us.”

The Panthers would come back and take four-straight singles matches to clinch the match.

Lazaro clinched the Panthers first point, quickly defeating Camhi, 6-2, 6-0, tying the match. Lazaro remains undefeated in dual matches. The redshirt freshman has won all 14 of her dual matches this season.

Junior Nina Nagode put the Panthers ahead, 2-1, with a 6-0, 6-3 win over No. 94 Alyza Benotto. The win was Nagode’s 20th of the season.

Caluk finished her match minutes after Nagode. The sophomore won in straight sets, defeating Ts, 6-2, 6-1, extending the Panther lead to 3-1. Caluk’s victory improved the sophomore to 25-5 on the season and 13-2 in dual action.

Freshman Maryna Veksilver clinched the match for the Panthers, defeating Dayna Lord, 6-4, 6-2. Veksilver’s win improved her singles record to 25-7 on the season and 10-3 in dual matches.

However, the two seniors remained playing.

Brosovich fell in her final match to Mariska Chamadani, 7-6 (4), 6-0.

Orlando finished off the match with a comeback win in the final set over Stearns.

The senior came back from a one-set deficit and won in a tiebreaker, 4-6, 6-2, 7-6 (3), giving the Panthers a 5-2 win over the Bears.

After the match, Brosovich was given a Gatorade ice bath, their bodies shook and did not get hit by the freezing liquid.

“It didn’t hit me until now that it was my final home game,” said Brosovich, still dripping from the ice bath. “I wanted to win my final match so badly. I kept pushing and stayed positive, but it didn’t work out.”

The season wraps up this coming weekend as the Panthers face the University of Central Florida Knights and the University of Alabama at Birmingham Blazers in Orlando. The Panthers will face the Knights on Friday, April 1, and play the Blazers on Saturday, April 2, to close out the season.

First serve against the Knights is set for 2 p.m.
The Panthers lost another series over the weekend. After losing through their last four games, dropping two out of the three games to Marshall University at home gave them their fourth series loss of the season and their second against a conference opponent.

The series began Thursday, March 24, night with the Panthers jumping ahead early, when with two outs, a double to the opposite field off of the bat of Zack Soria scored two runs.

The Thundering Herd had their first run come across via a walk with the bases loaded, Andres Nuñez’s (2-1) third of the inning, but he’d eventually get out intentionally walking, a pitch with a couple of timely RBI-singles.

Chris Moultrie (3-2) had hit the winning hit Friday night, with seven strikeouts, his highest total this season, but after giving up four runs in the fifth inning, he’d be allowed to come out for the sixth inning and even made it through the sixth without much else happening, he was pulled from the game.

FIU would tie the game back up on an interference mix-up with the Marshall’s base-third baseman Austin Rodriguez across in the bottom of the seventh and tied the game back up at fourth and then an error at second base scored another and the Panthers took a 5-4 lead.

Another couple walks with the bases loaded boasted the lead to 7-4.

Marshall’s Sam Finfer sent a rocket home run off the light post in right field in the top of the eighth, but two more would come across for FIU in the bottom of the eighth, and this game would belong to the Panthers with a 10-5 win.

Friday, March 25, night Marshall would be ready to get revenge on FIU, but they’d have to wait until the weather delay was over, with nearby storms threatening the game. The game would eventually start, at around 7:20 pm and the Thundering Herd jumped out to an early 2-0 lead of their own in the first inning.

A home run off the bat of Austin Rodriguez would bring FIU closer, but it would take waiting until the fourth inning to see the tying run tied back up at two with an RBI single by Eddie Silva.

The Panthers took the lead just minutes later when a wild pitch allowed Silva to score from third.

With the game 3-2 in the home team’s favor, it was Marshall’s turn to play their hand and they did by scoring two runs in the next inning with a couple of timely RBI-singles.

Jack Schaff hit a sacrifice fly to center field bringing the game to five with lead for FIU still ahead early, when with a double, a sacrifice fly to center field, scoring two runs in the fifth, and seventh inning taking the lead 5-4.

Marshall would score in the sixth inning with a double down the left-field line, scoring right fielder Kenny Meimierstorf, and bringing the game to five runs per team.

For the second time that weekend, Marshall would score the last run of the game in the top of the eighth inning off an RBI single of the bat of DJ Gee and with that take the third game of the series, and the series itself.

Over the weekend, Head Coach Tartle Thomas said, “Marshall is a very good team, they’ve been hot lately...the last few games, they’ve been on absolute fire.”

This is a fire that his team is going to have to hope rubbed off on them, because 2-4 against CUSA teams is not going to cut it.

If they’re relying on a late-season surge like they did last season, I’m not sure they’ll get it.

On the offensive end, they’re batting almost 30 points higher than they did last year, but from everything I’ve seen, hitting isn’t the problem.

This year’s pitching staff pales in comparison to last year’s. As of right now, FIU is on pace to give up almost 100 more hits to opposing batters by the end of this season.

The Panthers had a short break from CUSA play on their short trip Tuesday, March 29, up to “The World’s Most Famous Beach” in Daytona, to play an invitational at Bethune Cookman University.

Soon after they’ll be headed to San Antonio Texas on Friday, April 1 to take on the University of Texas at San Antonio and have another back at a Conference USA opponent.

Lou’s Hacks is a weekly column about the baseball team in FIU. To contact Louisiana email him at louis.augmode@fiu.edu.
Rebecca Quesnel and Naomi Ruele represent FIU at NCAA championships

ALEXANDER TOLEDO
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Naomi Ruele and Rebecca Quesnel finished up what will go down as two of the most historically successful seasons for each of them and for each of FIU’s Swimming and Diving programs.

After both Ruele and Quesnel successfully qualified for the NCAA Championships the week before, the two talented student-athletes showed up to the challenge that were the NCAA Swimming and Diving Championships last week from Wednesday, March 16, through Saturday, March 19, at the Georgia Tech Aquatic Center in Atlanta, Georgia.

Ruele scored 22.68 seconds in the 50 Free Prelims, which placed her 41st in the competition. By competing in this, Quesnel became the first FIU swimmer to have earned a spot at the NCAA Championships.

Making her first ever appearance, Ruele competed in Day Two of the NCAA Championships, Thursday, March 17th, in what’s known as the “50 Free Prelims,” short for the 50-Yard Freestyle Preliminaries. She proceeded to obtain her fourth-best collegiate career time, at 22.68 seconds, which was not high enough to qualify her for the 50 Free Finals.

Ruele’s score of 22.68 was the fifth time in her career that she scored under 23 seconds in a 50 Free. In the Conference USA Championships Preliminaries, she scored 22.33, which became her best time ever, until, of course, she broke that personal record in the round that came right after, the Finals, where she would score 22.23 seconds.

Competing at the top of her game and coming out on top was no new thing for Ruele, as she came in either first or second place in the 50 Free an incredible twelve times in the season.

Ruele put up a flawless performance at the Conference USA Championships earlier this season, winning gold in all seven events that took place, three individual competitions and four relay competitions. She was named C-USA Swimmer of the Meet there after breaking two school records at the 100 Free and the 200 Free Relay.

Three days after her performance at the NCAA Championships on Sunday, March 20, Ruele also happened to qualify for the 2016 Olympic Games that will take place in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil.

This came as a result of her officially FINA-approved trial time score of 26.07 seconds at the 50 Free, which took place inside of the same Georgia Tech Aquatic Center in Atlanta, Georgia.

Ruele will be representing her native country, Botswana, as well as Florida International in Brazil for the Olympics. The Games will span from August through August 21.

As for Quesnel, she had a special season of her own, as well. She became the first FIU diver to ever participate in the NCAA championships last week at the Georgia Tech Aquatic Center, scoring 199.20 in the Platform Prelims, thereby placing her at 38th.

Quesnel was awarded Conference USA Diver of the Week five times during this exceptional 2015-2016 season.

Earlier this season at the Conference USA Championships, Quesnel was awarded the gold medal for her performance in the 1-Meter competition as well as the Platform program in which she set the FIU record score.

She also placed second in the 3-Meter competition. She broke personal records of hers at the 1-Meter and 3-Meter this season.

Bike drive aids incoming refugees

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The FIU community is helping Church World Services Miami collect bicycles for newly arriving refugees who will soon call South Florida their new home.

“The Bike Drive for Refugee Families” is organized by Eric Feldman, the Coordinator of the Offices of Global Learning Initiatives and the FIU Recreational Center Bike Shop for the duration of the spring semester.
The goal is to collect 20 new or gently used bicycles and raise $2,000 in order to purchase bikes for the refugees to CWS Miami by the end of April.

So far, the Bike Drive has been successful - it has received $60 in cash donations and three bicycle donations that will be given to the refugee families.

“In a recent board meeting that I had on the phone with CWS, they had mentioned that some refugees had been asking for bikes, not only just for kids but also for the adults since they just moved here and they don’t have cars,” said Feldman. “So, I decided to start a bike drive for refugee families here at FIU and see if people would donate a bike or donate money towards buying a bike for the refugees.”

Eric Feldman, Coordinator of the Offices of Global Learning Initiatives

“Those are people in our own community who are going through an unimaginable transition.”

Feldman works with CWS to recruit volunteers and internships where students can go and learn about global issues. He was invited by the CWS to be a part of their community advisory board to represent FIU and that’s where he started the bike drive.

Church World Services is one of five organizations that have been working with the state department to resettle refugees. When the U.S. offers refuge to different countries, they get routed to agencies where these organizations provide job training, language education and basic needs such as food, water and community infrastructure.

“There’s a distinction between an immigrant and a refugee,” said Feldman. “A refugee is specifically someone who is applying to the United States to be able to come and escape something, that if they stay at home country they can be imprisoned or jailed. It’s more than just immigrating to the United States because they want better opportunities or they want a good job. So this bike drive and organization works specifically with refugees from around the world.”

Ashante Stroman, a Mentor for the Global Living Learning Community and a player on the FIU Women’s Rugby team got involved with the Bike Drive by promoting the Bike Drive to the University.

“Eric Feldman did a presentation with the FIU Go Global Department and he spoke about the mission of the bike drive and distributed the expected outcome. I was sold personally because I love bikes and I know how it feels to be limited due to the love bikes and I know how

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