FRATERNAL FRENZY

FRATERNAL FRENZY

One of the last motions President Barack Obama passed during his final few days in office was the removal of the wet foot, dry foot policy.

“By taking this step, we are treating Cuban migrants the same way we treat migrants from other countries,” Obama said.

The policy is a revision that was made in 1995 to the Cuban Adjustment Act of 1966 which states that anyone who fled Cuba and entered the United States would be allowed to pursue a residency a year later.

Prior to 1995, the United States government allowed all Cubans who reached the US territorial waters to remain in the US.

A Cuban caught with “wet feet,” meaning that they were found on the waters between Cuba and the US, would be sent back to Cuba or to another country that would take them in. Those who make it to shore, “dry feet,” get the opportunity to remain in the United States and would eventually qualify for legal permanent residency.

Although the policy was controversial, the chief of staff to many Cubans and Cuban Americans, many feel it is time to bring the policy to a close.

Sophomore journalism major Anais Colina is in accordance. “I feel like it was something that should have been done a long time ago. As much as I love Cuba, I just feel like it wasn’t fair to the other people who want to escape from their countries as well,” said Colina.

Dr. Guillermo Grenier, a professor of sociology and graduate program director in the Department of Global & Sociocultural Studies, explained that the wet foot, dry foot policy was originally intended to discourage immigration from Cuba.

“Most of the historic exiles who came to the U.S came for political reasons saw their claims as watered down by Cubans who were coming in claiming that they had it bad in Cuba, receiving benefits, and taking the next plane home and coming back and forth,” said Grenier.

“Cuba has benefited greatly from the hospitality of the U.S to exiles because every time there was a little bit of opposition, systematically, these people were sent abroad and it became a pressure valve,” said Grenier.

“In some measure, the Cuban government did not really want wet foot, dry foot to end because here’s another country that would take them in. Those who make it to shore, ‘dry feet’, get the opportunity to remain in the US,” said Grenier.

Due to the fact that Cuba’s population is aging it has become one of the older countries in the hemisphere.

“The big thing now in Cuba is to make the economic changes that are necessary to keep the young people there.” explained Grenier. “The fact that Cubans can’t emigrate as easily now puts more pressure on the Cuban government to change things because the young people aren’t going to be leaving.”

In some measure, the Cuban government did not really want wet foot, dry foot to end because here’s another 45,000 people we don’t have to subsidize. Let the Americans take care of them,” said Grenara.

SGA-BBC president appoints new vice-president

MELEA BURGESS
Assistant News Director

He is a student trying to balance academics, internships, family and a personal life, but also fulfill the role of being the new vice president of SGC for the Biscayne Bay Campus.

Leo Cosio, a junior majoring in broadcast journalism with a minor in political science, was appointed as SGC-BBC vice president by Allhan Mejia, the president of SGC-BBC at the beginning of the 2017 spring semester.

Mejia says he appointed Cosio because they have great chemistry and work efficiently together.

“We understand each other and it allows us to get past any disagreements we may have,” said Mejia. “Leo knows what to do and takes initiative when others don’t. This allows me to focus on more important projects.”

However, Cosio originally joined SGA at the MMC campus as deputy chief of staff in the fall semester of 2015 through spring 2016. Cosio then transitioned to the SGC-BBC campus as chief of staff in the fall semester of 2016.

“I started taking a majority of my classes at BBC because my major was there,” said Cosio. “I spent most of my time at BBC anyway so I tried to see if there were any positions I could take there.”

As vice president, he is responsible for fulfilling the president’s duties in times of absence and in charge of pushing forward special projects for the BBC campus.

One of the special projects, Cosio along with SGC-BBC are trying to push forward, is to improve the Golden Panther Express, the school’s shuttle service that transports students between the MMC and BBC campus.

“We are trying to find out how we might be able to better the Golden Panther Express system. A lot of students are not satisfied by the service that the shuttle

SEE BBC, PAGE 2

Policy removal brings controversy

STEPHANIE CASTRO
Assistant News Director

One of the last motions President Barack Obama passed during his final few days in office was the removal of the wet foot, dry foot policy.

“It’s time to bring the policy to a close. Sophomore journalism major Anais Colina is in accordance. “I feel like it was something that should have been done a long time ago. As much as I love Cuba, I just feel like it wasn’t fair to the other people who want to escape from their countries as well,” said Colina.

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Vol. 1 Issue 3
**University BBC to host annual Student Leadership Summit**

**Ceylin Arias**  
Staff Writer

University highly encourages students to attend this year’s Student Leadership Summit where faculty, staff and advisors will be engaging in various workshops and presentations in order to facilitate students access to information about engaging in performance excellence through the practice of various learning outcomes concerning this year’s theme: Social Justice.

“People today don’t seem to fully understand the importance of taking initiative and being the best person you can be. By developing your strongest and valuable traits can dramatically influence the way you engage with others,” said Stephanie Hernandez, a junior and philosophy major.

The Student Leadership Summit is sponsored by the Center for Leadership and Service, Campus Life offices at MMC & BBC, Housing & Residential Life, Orientation & Parent Programs.

The Center for Leadership and Service makes note of key assumptions that exemplify the importance of leadership within a student’s community both in and out of school such as, “leadership is a process rather than a position, is collaborative, and concerned with effecting change on behalf of others and society,” according to the Student Leadership website.

Joselyn Menendez, a freshman criminal justice major with a minor in Spanish, agrees that leadership isn’t just a one-way street.

“It’s like when you’re in class and your professor puts you in a group, you don’t expect to just do all the work and have no one collaborate with you, you need all the guidance and collaboration you can get that will then help you learn and develop as a person,” said Menendez.

“It’s sort of similar to the saying, ‘it takes a village to raise a child,’ because technically college students need that structured foundation and the only way you can become a good leader is if you take into consideration other people’s ideas and thoughts,” Menendez said.

Damien Garcia, a senior biomedical engineering major, agrees that communication between peers and coworkers is crucial and respecting each other’s opinions and ideas equally crucial but claims, however, that the reason most students have a hard time faring well after graduating from college is because they never felt compelled to talk challenges and risk failing.

“A lot of students are afraid of failing and because of this fear most people think that taking cover within the shadows will cut it but then they complain about how no one gives them the recognition and respect they think they deserve. Being a true student leader is about taking risks no matter the consequences. You have to be able to risk it all and even if you do fail, that’s ok because then you know better for next time,” continued Garcia.

“I’d rather fail a million times, but at least I’m putting the effort and time and know that my most valuable trait with which most people will know me by is that I like to take initiative and own it,” Garcia said.

Damien Garcia  
Senior  
Biomedical Engineering

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**NATION & WORLD BRIEFS**

Mexican President rejects Trump’s border wall and says he won’t pay for it

Mexican President Enrique Pena Nieto said he rejects and condemns U.S. President Donald Trump’s plan to immediately begin construction of a wall along the U.S.-Mexico border.

In a televised address Wednesday night, Pena Nieto said Mexico “does not believe in walls.” His voice rising, Pena Nieto repeated his promise that Mexico “will not pay” for construction of a border barrier.

Pena Nieto is facing considerable pressure from other Mexican leaders to boycott a planned meeting with Trump in Washington next week.

On Wednesday, Trump directed the Department of Homeland Security to begin building a wall along stretches of the southern border where a barrier does not already exist.

Israel to grant asylum to 100 children orphaned in Syria’s civil war

While the United States was preparing plans to close its borders to Syrian refugees, Israel announced plans Thursday to accept 100 orphaned Syrian children from around the battered city of Aleppo.

Critics immediately dismissed the plans as window dressing designed to enhance Israel’s public image. Nevertheless, the proposal represented a change in Israel’s relationship with its northern neighbor.

While millions of refugees have flowed out of Syria into neighboring countries during the course of the six-year civil war, Israel has kept its doors closed around the battered city of Aleppo.

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Millennials are ambitious, not entitled

OPINION

CAROLINA SANCHEZ

We all have dreams and aspirations. Only thing is, we don’t always get the attention we feel we deserve.

Society believes success is for one person at a time, and what sucks the most about this is that they don’t always get the right person.

I, myself, dream of one day becoming someone amazing, channeling all of my God-given talents into something breathtaking and way bigger than just myself.

Only I’ll have to work for mine harder than most because I’m not the people’s choice, the popular or the favorite, of society’s.

I’m not saying that those in power, those with roles of authority or privilege, have not worked.

I’m only saying that for some, it’s so much easier to accomplish this global feat because of whatever prior powers, authorities or privileges they have while others will risk it all to gain access into this world.

I am unlike this group of people. I believe in true talent: not classic physical beauties, artificial influences, manipulations, or glitters and golds.

I believe that through tirelessly sculpting my dreams the world will recognize me and others like myself for all the good and art that we’re trying to accomplish.

It isn’t fair that some public figures with questionable, or little-to-no talent and good-will have accessed what others can barely afford to dream of.

But that doesn’t mean that it’s impossible for those of us, like myself, who dream the most sincerest and unselfish dreams.

And the best thing about these dreams and dreams in general is that they’re so much better in action than in thought. We as artists are creators, thinkers and visionaries.

“We’ll have to create our own avenues with the gifts that we already have.” Mosopelouwa Ogundipe, a senior marketing major said. “At the end of the day, believe that people will always choose what is real and authentic.”

I agree. I believe that society goes along and follows whatever they have dubbed as “normal,” “trendy,” and “agreeable,” but a true artist is rarely ever any of these things, and is definitely never all of these things at once.

However, we are real. No one can deny our realness. At the end of the day, what exists solely and against all odds, is us, thus created individuals who most because I’m not moving away from this global existence, thus are deemed too technologically-codependent.

Coincidentally, millennials have also lived through pioneering events such as the legalization of gay marriage.

However, many of these attributes are often looked at negatively instead of positively.

We are not entitled; instead we are astronomically ambitious and determined to obtain what we feel we’re capable of.

It seems the norm for every generation is to critique or scrutinize the generation that follows it.

All of the parental-offspring discourse we’re known for is nothing more than a discussion where a parent is willing to give their child a chance to explain a situation or opinion without being completely bludgeoned.

Rather than moving too far away from the status-quo, millennials exist in a time period where the nation wants to make all beings as equal as possible by legalizing gay marriage.

The parents who raised millennials have undoubtedly sought different parenting strategies than their parents and thus created individuals who feel more at liberty to think and act on their own behalf.

Many parents have moved away from physical disciplinary action, which they themselves were once victims of, and have experimented with alternate methods of discipline.

Unlike many generations before us, millennials are, as a result, inclined to challenge everything, authority figures included.

Although many may look at this phenomena negatively, it’s much more possible that it has made the millennial generation more autonomous and catalytic.

Carolina Sanchez is a contributing writer for Panther Press. Her column, A is For Anti, provides oppositional commentary on the social and cultural influences in America.
FIU4FREEDOM WEEK
Initiative seeks to raise awareness on human trafficking

Posters were displayed around the Modesto Maidique Campus throughout the week of Jan. 23 on the Graham Center lawns with quotes from victims of human trafficking and a brother owner.

PATRICIA KATRI
Staff Writer

At 16, Melissa Schwartz, was abducted in her home state of Wisconsin and taken to Florida to be sold and prostituted on streets throughout the United States. On Jan. 26, Schwartz, now a survivor-leader, was a keynote speaker at the FIU4Freedom Panel, as part of a week-long initiative by the organization to raise awareness on human trafficking. FIU4Freedom was founded by Regan Kramer, a former staff member at the University with the Wesley Foundation, a faith-based organization actively involved with the initiative.

At 26, after being put in jail on prostitution charges, Schwartz was rescued and began the long process of rehabilitation. Schwartz lost 10 years of her life, she says, and rebuilding it has been a tough process, having to re-learn how to make friends, pay bills and manage money. “If you’re lucky enough to escape, you don’t want to talk about it,” Schwartz said. “You feel dirty, as if it is your fault.”

Traffickers use this guilt as an advantage to exact psychological coercion. “When I was being trafficked, I was told that society would never accept me, that no one would ever like me,” Schwartz said.

Adjunct professor and anti-trafficking leader, Sondra Skelaney, was also part of the panel. She created “Project Gold in Kristi House” in 2007, a private, non-profit organization to aid in gaining back control of their lives. Skelaney adds victims are often coerced into violent situations, often accompanied by forced drug use and from which there might be no escape, except death.

“Schwartz is an amazing testimony of hope,” Lara said. Despite her past ordeal, Schwartz has turned to rehabilitation and religion as sources of optimism and aids in gaining back control of her life.

“The line between prostitution and trafficking can be thin,” she said. Demand for the services traffickers provide and enable comes from individuals, usually male, who otherwise lead normal lives.

Panelists observed that such empowerment often came from male objectification, which ultimately they do not control and lies at the source of the illicit demand posed by sex trafficking. Despite her past ordeal, Schwartz has turned to rehabilitation and religion as sources of optimism and aids in gaining back control of her life.

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“Schwartz is an amazing testimony of hope,” Lara said.

Who would you say is the most overrated and underrated artist out there?
Overrated: Olive Garden. Underrated: Chocolate Milk

What’s a fun fact about you?
I’ve never seen any of the Lord of the Rings movies.

Top artists you listen to right now?
La La Land soundtrack, Johnny Greenwood, Cashmere Cat, Del Rey.

“Behind The Roar” is a series where we get to know the DJs at the radio station, The Roar.
CAPS to host diversity training

JOSHUA CEBALLOS
Contributing Writer

The Counseling and Psychological Services Department at the University wants to build bridges in the community and create a more cohesive environment that doesn’t feel like another responsibility or obligation, says Kominars. The day will begin with a keynote address entitled “What Stands Between Us”.

“Many people [have] the sense that though we’ve come a long way, we’re not nearly as far along in having a cohesive, coherent, respectful and quality community in the broader sense,” said Kominars. “We can’t do anything about that nationally or internationally per se, but one person at a time, one group at a time, we’re really wanting to create opportunities for people to have... more understanding of moving beyond our perspectives and understanding more about other people’s perspectives.”

Students can register online and attend the “Let’s Talk About Community” event on Feb. 8 to enjoy free refreshments and a safe space for dialogue and community building.

SGA Recap:
MCU from Alian Collazo

My name is Alian Collazo, your proud student government President at the MCU campus. On behalf of myself and the entire SGC team, we’d like to welcome you to the 2017 spring semester.

We hope that you enjoyed the holidays with friends and family. This semester it is bound to be one of action. SGC is planning to continue to engage with you on a monthly basis through our “Cafe cito with SGA” series.

We hope you will join us on Tuesday, Jan. 31 in GC from 12 p.m. to 2 p.m. I am happy to announce that for finals last semester we were able to provide free printing and hundreds of free bus rides between MMC-MBC in conjunction with the student government of MMC.

We continue to make progress in our advocacy efforts at the local, state, and federal levels. Locally, we continue to focus our efforts on the FIU expansion into the fairgroinds. SGC will plan and spearhead a student protest in the months of March, therefore, please stay tuned as we will need your participation.

At the state level we have been advocating and working to have Bright Futures extended for use in the summer. There are positive indications that legislation will be introduced into the state legislature to have that become a reality before the end of April.

Federally, we are stressing the importance of full year Pell Grants to our South Florida delegation. Once again, there is positive movement at the federal level by both parties to make this become a reality.

SGC has put together a calendar of events this semester that will continue to shine light on the needs, work, and priorities of YOU, our constituents. Please follow us on Instagram (@fsu gm) and Facebook to keep up with our events, and don’t forget to sign up to our newsletter.

Please know that myself and the entire SGC team are honored to be able to represent you during this academic year. Whenever there’s an issue, concern, or idea that you’d like to address please know that you’re always welcome at our office in GC 211.

Mic Check: ‘Opportunity to showcase talents’

DAMIAN GORDON
Staff Writer

After a day of listening to professors, students Wednesday night went up on stage for an open mic night as part of BBC’s Spirit Fest Week.

“It’s open mic, who doesn’t like to see people perform?” said one attendee, Taisha Cordein. Cordein attended the occasion with her best friend Faith Snow. Both sat near the front, able to see every small facial expression on the night’s entertainment.

“We just came to do something fun, we’re also doing spontaneous adventures and we saw there was an event, so we stopped by,” Snow said.

The Mic Check event was held in the WUC Theater in collaboration between Black Student Union and Panther Power.

BSU typically holds these events at MMC campus once a year; however this year they’re giving BBC students the opportunity to express themselves in something more than passive aggressive Facebook posts about their ex. not just for the fun of it, but an opportunity for students to showcase their talents or sometimes get some things off their chest they want say or think about,” BSU vice-president, Samantha Carrie, said.

Mic Check hosted a range of performers, from spoken word artists to singers, comedians and poets.

For transfer student, Maria Rojas, this was her first event since recently enrolling from Maryland’s University of the District of Columbia.

“I like the fact that people are being very candid with their feelings, what their putting out there,” Rojas said. “I think that’s what’s so great about our society in present times,” Rojas said.

Rojas enjoys going to poetry lounges in her spare time, so her favorite aspect of the night came from hearing student poets speak.

Some students may feel their words fall on deaf ears, not aware Valerie St. Juste, an advisor to Panther Power, has here to the ground and Mic Check happening as a result.

“Through our intermission, students were able to interact with each other and they were able to kind of meet new people. I saw a lot of ‘hey nice to meet you, I’m so and so.’ So that’s awesome,” St. Juste said.

Spirit week is more than competitions or prizes contests, St. Juste says, it’s about putting yourself out there and I think that’s important in our society in present times.

My name is Alian Collazo, your proud student government President at the MCU campus. On behalf of myself and the entire SGC team, we’d like to welcome you to the 2017 spring semester.

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BFC from Rachel Rampersad

The New Year greeted The Biscayne Bay Campus’ Student Government Association with some adjustments in the cabinet. Former chief of staff, Leo Cosio, will now be assuming the position of Vice President.

This is one of several changes that the SGC-BBC cabinet has undergone. We congratulate the officers that have been appointed new positions this year and we wish them all the best for the spring semester.

SGC-BBC exercised their teamwork and communication skills at FIU’s Team Ropes Adventure Challenge. The course consisted of many team-oriented activities like kayaking, climbing and balancing. The course challenged each members’ trust in each other and emphasized the importance of proper communication within the group.

It also required a great deal of cooperation within the group in order to complete each task. Through the exercises, the council members learned a lot about themselves and their fellow teammates.

The course highlighted some ways in which SGC-BBC can improve their team dynamic to become more efficient and in turn, more productive as an organization.

The Women’s Center and SGC-BBC partnered up to host the Lunch and Learn In: Presidential Inauguration Discussion on Jan. 17. The discussion was both educational and interactive. It gave the students the opportunity to express their opinions about the recent election and our new president, Donald Trump.

The discussion covered topics such as Trump’s voter demographic, fake news, why Trump won, the needs of the government and Trump’s promises for the country. The students engaged in the discussion with tact and respect making the event a great success.

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COLLEGE ACCESS AND AFFORDABILITY

Get information on university metrics, college affordability, financial aid and scholarship options from President Mark B. Rosenberg, Director of Office of Scholarships Laura Castillo & Director of Financial Aid Francisco Valines. Moderated by Raquel Perez

WEDNESDAY, FEB. 8, 2017 | GC 140 (MMC) OR HL 319 (BBC) | 1 - 2:30 PM
STUDENT MEDIA AT FIU | @PANTHERNOW
Sports nutritionist recommends dumping ‘highly processed foods’ and going ‘fresh’

HEATHER O’DELL
Staff Writer

Being more active or losing weight are two common new year’s resolutions. But exercise alone won’t help you achieve these goals; making healthy food choices and reducing the amount of unhealthy foods you eat will push you to lead a healthier lifestyle in 2017.

“Your body is your temple,” said Dr. Valerie George, professor in dietetics and sports nutrition at FIU.

“People don’t need to cut out foods they enjoy to live, eat and feel healthier. I love pizza. It’s a fact. I just eat it in moderation. Too much of anything is never good.”

A diet solely depends on a person’s individuality; altering their wants and preferences will only put their bodies in shock.

“I travel to Norway often,” said the sports nutritionist. “For breakfast, it is normal and customary to eat fish in the morning with cream cheese and toast. Now, if all of a sudden I told them they can’t eat that for breakfast every day, they would freak. When retraining new eating habits, it is important to start by reducing, not excluding.”

Planning meals are always key to eating healthier, especially for athletes. While traveling for a game or tournament, athletes may choose unhealthy meals that are convenient like fast food. Because of this, George advocates packing lunch and snacks every morning.

“I always tell my athletes to eat fresh. That’s the best way to do it,” George said. “Dump highly processed foods and just go fresh. By doing this, you know where your food is from, what has been done to it and how good it really is.”

If people reduced their salt intake to only 5 grams per day, 1.7 million deaths could be prevented each year, according to WHO, World Health Organization.

“Your body is your temple,” said George. “Keep it in moderation. Too much of anything is never good.”

Knowing how to properly read food labels can make eating healthier an easier task. However, this can be tricky at times. The app found in the App Store and Android, Fooducate, can scan the barcodes of products and provides a breakdown of what the item contains.

“By reading labels, you can calculate how much energy you need in a day,” George said. “This is important for athletes to do so they never fall short on energy during a game or workout.”

The best way to stay fit and healthy in 2017 is to stick to organic products and fill your plate with plenty of fruits, vegetables and protein.

“After all, you are what you eat,” said George.

Sophomore guard’s game-winning shot replayed on Sportcenter’s Top 10 Plays

PETER HOLLAND, JR.
Staff Writer

Starting point guard Kristian Hudson emerged as a rising star following her break-out performance against University of Texas at El Paso on Jan.12 and University of Texas at San Antonio on Jan.14.

Despite FIU being in the bottom of the conference, Hudson has been a workhorse for the Panthers. Her coaches have asked for a lot out of the sophomore, in terms of stepping up not only a scorer but in a leadership role as well.

“I just think it’s what the coaches pour into me,” Hudson said. “I guess based on the scenes, they put effort toward me and that really helps, especially when I step onto the court. It kind of fills in the gaps, so the coaches play a big part in my leadership role on the team.”

In the last 20 games she started, Hudson has averaged 12.8 points per game. She also has little time to rest on the bench; the Alabama native has averaged 36.9 minutes per game, the third most in Conference USA.

Her coaches have asked for a lot of hard work and pressure, but in terms of helping the team succeed.

“Personally, I always think that for breakfast every day, they would freak. When retraining new eating habits, it is important to start by reducing, not excluding.”

Planning meals are always key to eating healthier, especially for athletes. While traveling for a game or tournament, athletes may choose unhealthy meals that are convenient like fast food. Because of this, George advocates packing lunch and snacks every morning.

“I always tell my athletes to eat fresh. That’s the best way to do it,” George said. “Dump highly processed foods and just go fresh. By doing this, you know where your food is from, what has been done to it and how good it really is.”

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Sophomore guard and Birmingham native Kristian Hudson attempting to make a two-pointer during a game against the University of Central Florida.
POWERFUL PANTHERS
Powerlifting team hosts competition in search of the ‘Strongest Panther’

Top: Students who participated in lifts and squats gather together for a group picture.
Bottom Left: Austin Deleon, a junior studying electrical engineering, braces himself to squat.
Bottom Right: Crystal Alfaro, a junior studying sports and fitness, remains focused while squatting almost 300 pounds.

JAYDA HALL
Sports Director

The powerlifting team collaborated with the Wellness and Recreational Center to host the “Strongest Panther Competition” where students displayed their strength in hopes of leaving victorious.

The competition, which was held on Jan. 26 in MMC’s weight room, and open to students and faculty, required participants to bench and squat with weights exceeding 100 pounds.

Austin Deleon, a junior studying electrical engineering, competed in the male student category and won.

“It’s pretty cool to win,” he said. “It’s my first time competing in an actual competition, so I didn’t really get a feel for how it was going to be. It’s a good experience.”

Deleon said he got in contact with the captain of the powerlifting team, Roman Fronzaglia, and that is how he found out about the competition. The junior finished strong despite only having a week to prepare.

Crystal Alfaro, a junior studying sports and fitness, also won the competition, participating as a female student.

“It felt amazing,” she said. “I had a great crowd, and I felt powerful, so it was fun.”

Alfaro said she had four weeks to prepare and get strong for the competition. The junior also added that she is looking to join the powerlifting team.

For more information about the powerlifting team, visit studentaffairs.fiu.edu.