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PANTHER PRESS

NEW CHAPTER IN TOWN

Right-wing organization Turning Point USA brings chapter to FIU

LIZANDRA PORTAL
Contributing Writer

Turning Point USA’s job is to change the extremely liberal narrative present in high schools and college campuses and their mission continues at FIU, according to Driena Sixto, FIU aluma and Miami Field director for the organization.

“Usually, students only get one side, one perspective, that’s why we have seen an increase in the romanticizing of fascist ideas and communism,” she said. “Whereas there’s very little faculty members, teachers or administrators promoting capitalism, free markets, individual liberties, individual rights and freedoms instead of a collective.”

The non-profit organization, with a presence in over 1,000 college campuses and high schools nationwide, is known for its controversial right-wing ideals including a professor watch list that warns students of professors who have left-leaning ideologies. The website has been accused of inciting fear and promoting censorship but Sixto disagrees.

“The Professor Watchlist is not a tool to censor anyone, you do not get yourself on the Professor Watchlist for having a leftist ideology,” she said. “If that were the case more than 80 percent of all higher-learning faculty and staff would be there. You get yourself [on the list] by being an abusive, unprofessional or simply unhinged professor who is guilty of censorship or discriminating against others.”

The website contains a collection of previously published news stories and accepts tips for new content, but says that they only publish the profiles for incidents that have been reported by a credible news outlet.

“Sometimes I go up to a table [on campus] to get them to sign up and find out they’re already members and they flash me their pins,” Sixto said. “We are changing the culture on campus. It was great to see what it has blossomed into, and the enthusiasm that you see from so many diverse members.”

The FIU chapter boasts about 2,000 members and is the largest club on campus, according to Sixto. Club President Anaise Hernandez, a junior studying international relations, liked the idea of bringing a more conservative, libertarian voice to campus and invites students who don’t agree with the organization’s views to sign up and see their side.

“IT MAKES THE WHOLE THING SEEM SO MUCH MORE REAL, NOT SOMETHING THAT’S HAPPENING IN A BOOK,” SAID WADe.

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“It gives them another perspective to either question what they believe or to affirm their beliefs,” Hernandez said. “You don’t keep yourself in your own echo chamber, where you’re hearing the same thing over and over again.”

Krisha McKay, a senior political science major who says he has vastly different views than the organization, regularly attends their events because he likes to “get an idea of how the opposition thinks.”

He says while they do raise some good points, such as taxes getting too high, he disagrees with their views on government involvement. McKay believes that more federal mandated business regulations would help the lower and middle working classes.

As for the club handles debate, McKay also adds they can be condescending but likes “how they are getting our generation involved in the political process.”

The organization has hosted a few events on campus in the spring semester. In February, the club held a debate watch party on campus to broadcast the healthcare debate between senators Bernie Sanders and Ted Cruz, which had a pretty big turnout, according to the club president.

On March 6, they held a movie night and showed “Atlas Shrugged,” based on the Ayn Rand novel of the same name.

Future events planned for the organization include “2A Event” with the Law Cabinet Republicans to promote their ideals on Second Amendment rights. They also hope to collaborate with Pink Pistols, an LGBTQ group who teaches people about gun safety and how to properly handle firearms but the date has not yet been set.

The club doesn’t hold weekly meetings however, interested students can sign up for their newsletter or contact them through their Facebook page at FIU Turning Point USA.

CHAPTER BREAK

Students to ‘promote integrity’ in committee

CEYUN ARIAS
Staff Writer

The Student Conduct Committee is currently in need of students who can become part of FIU’s hearing body to “promote integrity, ethics, and be able to make decisions that promote the education, accountability, and community well-being,” said Amanda Torres, assistant director at the Office of Student Conduct and Conflict Resolution.

The SCC is a group of students, faculty, and staff who have applied for and have been selected to join the committee as part of the formal student process of the University in charge of hearing and determining final resolution on behavioral misconduct cases.

“Although we do not hold any firm qualifications, besides needing a 2.5 GPA in order to be accepted into the committee, we are looking for individuals that can promote a lot of good qualities such as integrity and open-mindedness,” said Torres. “On campus, it’s important for students to hold each other accountable as it tends to be more powerful when a peer holds a student accountable for a violation than when an administrator does the same thing.”

The code, Torres says, follows students wherever they go and should encourage students to “represent the University in a positive way.”

When a student is charged with a violation of behavioral misconduct, they are given three options: an informal hearing or two formal hearings — with the SCC serving as one of those formal hearings. In that time, the committee convenes two students and one faculty or staff member to hear the student’s case.

“The student will then have the opportunity to give their own side of the story. The committee will ask them questions, they will take into consideration all the

PAGE 2

DIABLO BAY

Award ceremony serves as capstone to reading series

MARTINA BRETOUS
News Director

The Lawrence Sanders Award was created to show where a life of literature can lead and this year, it will honor Pulitzer prize-winning author Jane Smiley.

“It’s the best way, as a Creative Writing Program, of making what we do in our classrooms more visible … So much of what you do [as a writer] happens alone,” said Julie Wade, assistant professor at the program.

“You’re writing by yourself and then you come to classes, workshop, talk about other writers’ work and use other writers’ work as models to emulate, but even that happens in this cordoned off space that everyone outside of the class doesn’t see.”

The award, which Wade says is the only one of its kind, honors writers of fiction who have achieved market success in both commercial markets and literary contexts. This year, the award will be given to author Jane Smiley.

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PAGE 2
CAYLA BUSH
Editor in Chief

Members of the House of Representatives have called upon the Department of Education and the Department of the Treasury to implement a plan to assist student loan borrowers.

On Tuesday, March 7, 40 members of the House, including Florida Congressman Carlos Curbelo, sent a letter to the two departments urging them to quickly put in place a plan, outlined in January, that would automatically certify the income of borrowers enrolled in income-driven repayment plans.

The bureaucracy, Curbelo said to Student Media, should always be looking for ways to modernize their systems and make it easier to navigate the programs and resources available to them.

“This new automatic income certification program does just that, and borrowers will be protected from unnecessary payment increases that make it even harder for young people to pay down their debt and manage their finances,” Curbelo said. “My colleagues and I are urging the Treasury and Education Departments to move forward as quickly as possible.”

Student loan borrowers who are enrolled in income-driven repayment plans must submit updated income information each year, however, according to a press release from Curbelo’s office, many borrowers do not update their income information by the annual deadline.

“The Departments’ Memorandum of Understanding outlining a multi-year consent system that uses tax data to automatically recertify student loan borrowers’ income information will help millions of borrowers access affordable payments and avoid unnecessary consequences and defaults,” the letter stated.

According to the letter, more than 8 million borrowers are in default with millions more behind on their payments.

“Failure to meet annual recertification deadlines can increase the risk of default and lead to long-term financial hardship for borrowers,” the letter said. “[Those in default or in default on payments]— roughly one quarter of student loan borrowers—face serious long-term consequences. Borrowers in default can lose access to federal student aid, see their Social Security benefits and tax refunds withheld, and have their wages garnished.”

Credit scores may also be affected by defaulting on student loans, which can prevent borrowers from receiving financing for a car, business or home.

The House is hoping the system proposed by the DOE and DOT could help avoid these outcomes, according to the letter.

In 2016, Curbelo’s campaign platform included wording toward finding a solution similar to the one described in the Memorandum. The process needs to be simplified, Curbelo said in a 2016 interview with Student Media and Young Invincibles, a national non-profit organization working to engage young adults in political issues.

“We have legislation in Congress, Republicans and Democrats working together, to create a dashboard, that someone who wants to apply to an institution of higher education can access and there would be key information and resources,” Curbelo said.

Curbelo’s legislation, introduced by Democratic Congresswoman Suzanne Bonamici of Oregon and Republican Congressman Ryan Costello of Philadelphia in 2016, would automatically connect borrowers with income-driven repayment plans before default.

Called the SIMPLE Act, which stands for Streamlining Income-driven Manageable Payments on Loans, the legislation would also automate the annual process of updating income information.

Program honors author at BBC

AWARD, PAGE 1

in a vacuum but something’s immediate and has often a social justice component, representing different social justice positions in the world and literature,” she said. “It just makes it more meaningful for everyone, readers and writers alike.”

Torres adds that students who currently have minimal or no prior involvement with the University can gain to more involvement within the community. On the other hand, extracurricular activities will not hinder students from being accepted into the program.

Prospective students must be enrolled in a minimum of six credit hours for undergraduate students and three credit hours for graduate students. They must also be in good academic and conduct standing with the University, have a minimum cumulative GPA of 2.5, and be available to serve on at least two hearings — three hours each — a month to remain an active member.

Reference: Curbelo letter.

For more information, visit english.fiu.edu or their offices in Deuxieme Maison, room 453 at MMC and Academic Center I, room 335 at the BBC.

Committee invites students to join

SCC, PAGE 1

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James Baldwin's thoughts still 'shine light' on today's racial problems

"I AM NOT YOUR NEGRO"

James Baldwin's thoughts still 'shine light' on today's racial problems

RIGHT TURN

CHRISTIAN GONZALEZ

Today, we're always asking people to take sides. Is it Blue Lives Matter? All Lives Matter? Or BLm? Baldwin would have hated that.

Alfredo Garcia

Adjunct faculty

Sociology

OPINION

The opinions presented within this page do not represent the views of The Panther Press Editorial Board. These views are separate from those of the editor in chief, management, and the editors of each of the four sections. Panther Press welcomes any letters regarding in response to its editorials. Send them to opinion@fau.edu.

LIFEWINKS

ALECIA ALLEN

What time do students have to unwind and take care of themselves?

What time do students have to unwind and take care of themselves?

Students: Make sure you have time to sleep

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Have something on your mind? Send an email to opinion@fau.edu. Be sure to include your name, major and year and a photo of yourself. Letters must be less than 400 words and may be edited for clarity and length. Panther Press will only run two letters a semester from any individual.

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Monday, March 20, 2017

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Michelle Marchante

Opinion Director

Contact Us

OPINION

The staff there are
PASTELITOS AND PERFORMANCES
Vicky Cafe hosts weekly Open Mic Night on campus

University’s Mind and Melody Chapter looking to grow, recruit volunteers

Michele Silva
Contributing Writer

Mind and Melody at FIU is fine-tuning its pitch to attract new members.

The newly founded chapter of the non-profit organization is expanding its services which already includes music to aid those with neurological impairments.

Carolina Formoso, the chapter’s president, says Mind and Melody uses the music as interactive therapy, and the impairments serviced by the club vary in nature.

“Right now, we work with individuals that are older than experience Alzheimer’s, Parkinson’s, strokes [or] different forms of dementia,” Formoso said.

As the organization grows, the e-board envisions an expansion of its sessions and a broadening of its audience.

“We want to make it to the national level and we also want to incorporate different age groups...and different types of neurological impairments,” Formoso said.

Mind and Melody, INC. was created in 2014, said Formoso. The young non-profit relies exclusively on volunteers to keep the programs growing.

“Participating in Mind and Melody is actually a really rewarding opportunity [to] be among an older community,” said Elizabeth Medina, the organization’s public relations coordinator.

Formoso explains that senior citizens who attend music sessions by Mind and Melody find as much solace in their weekly reprieve from conventional therapy as student members find in their weekly reprieve from conventional therapy.“They would remember that I would come on a specific day to teach them music and it was very rewarding to hear that. They would say to their families ‘please don’t pick me up on this day because I’m going to learn a little bit about music,’” Formoso said.

While Mind and Melody’s public relations team is looking to add to the list of facilities they collaborate with, they are also looking to strengthen the organization’s membership numbers. Joining FIU’s chapter of Mind and Melody is a two-step process, Formoso says. The process includes a background check and interview that excludes questions about musical ability.

“We’re always looking for volunteers and we’re always looking for musicians,” said Formoso. “We welcome all types of students despite their music background.”

Volunteering with the organization accounts for part of the operation, but part time paid opportunities exist within Mind and Melody as well, according to Medina.

“Right now, we’re looking for musicians,” said Formoso. “We welcome all volunteers fluent in any language.

Formoso says volunteer opportunities with Mind and Melody are available to all members of the FIU community. Volunteers help senior citizens play user-friendly instruments, like maracas and xylophones.

“The focus of volunteers is to help the [participants],” Formoso said, “to make sure that the individual is...getting all that they can get from the session,” said Formoso.

Mind and Melody also provides multi-lingual sessions. Catering to individuals, Medina and Formoso emphasize, is the key to helping the mind through melodies.

According to Formoso, facilities currently partnering with Mind and Melody are home to Spanish-speaking, Creole-speaking, and English-speaking individuals. As such, the organization makes sure to provide translations in all three languages. The organization welcomes new volunteers fluent in any language.

Students interested in joining the non-profit organization can find more information at mindandmelody.org.

FIU’s chapter meets every other Monday in GC 286.
Service group helps students travel abroad

KALI-RAE SKINNER
Staff Writer

Students interested in traveling the world while giving back to the communities they visit will be able to get more information through the Global Exchange Fair at MMC on March 22, from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. in GC 243.

The fair will be hosted by AIESEC, a non profit that focuses on providing students and recent graduates opportunities to improve their leadership skills through service work around the world.

At the fair, AIESEC will offer on-site interviews with representatives from the programs abroad who would be hosting the students. Students will be able to find which programs interest them while exploring the various tables for each program, interview, and find out on the spot if they are accepted.

The current AIESEC president, Tarek Abdel Raouf, is a senior triple majoring in psychology, philosophy and political science who hopes to start a non-profit.

Originally from Egypt, Raouf joined AIESEC after coming to Miami to pursue his education. He worked his way through the departments of AIESEC before deciding to do his own exchange.

“I am very passionate about making the world a better place,” said Raouf.

From May to June of 2016, Raouf volunteered in Colombia to teach children about sustainable development goals. While in Colombia, Raouf saw other international AIESEC members, traveled and learned Spanish.

“It was one of the best experiences in my life. I now have a Colombian family and they might even come to my graduation,” said Raouf.

FIU sent over fifty students on these programs last year.

SEE AIESEC, PAGE 6

BAYFEST RETURNS

JULIANE SUNSHINE
Staff Writer

Student Programming Council will celebrate their annual Bayfest music festival with performances from Mr. Vegas, Kiddo Marv, Gabel Pix and DJ Luke Nast, to name a few.

Bayfest was created for not just students, but faculty, family and anyone else who wants to enjoy a musical festival.

The event has had major headliners in the past such as Trick Daddy, Kes, Jbeatz, Alan Cave and Migos, drawing crowds of 800-1000 of people and there is to be an increase of at least 200 more this year.

“There will be a mixture of reggae, hip hop, Haitian and local artists this year,” said SPC President Fabiola Jean-Baptise.

The final lineup for the Bayfest has been revealed. It first started with Mr. Vegas, Kiddo Marv, Gabel Pix and DJ Luke Nasty. The last two artists for Bayfest, are A Boogie Wit Da Hoodie and Sweet Micky.

A Boogie Wit Da Hoodie, whose real name is Artist Dubose is a rising rapper from Bronx, New York. Dubose spent most of his teenage years between New York and Florida, before finally moving back to New York. Dubose is currently co-signed with Meek Mill and DJ Khaled and his two songs “Timeless” and “My Sh*t” have both had spots on the Billboard 100.

Sweet Micky, whose real name is Michel Martelly was the president of Haiti from the years 2011 to 2016. The Haitian performing and recording artist, is also a businessman, composer and musical sociopolitical activist. His recognition with type of music known as compas or Kompa is a dance style music with Creole lyrics. Sweet Micky’s “Kite Yo Pale” is one of the singer’s newer songs released in 2016.

Bayfest will be held on April 1 from 3 p.m. to 12 a.m. behind the swimming pool at the Biscayne Bay Campus.

“There will be food trucks, games and different activities. I look forward for students to attend the event,” said Jean-Baptise.

Early bird tickets are on sale right now. FIU students can buy tickets for five dollars. Otherwise, tickets are 15 dollars. Tickets are currently being sold online through Eventbrite.

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Fleet Foxes return in ‘triumphant’ fashion

This past week gave us the triumphant and long-awaited return to form indie folk artists Fleet Foxes, an all-star R&B connection helmed by 2 Chainz and a bubbly new single from Little Dragon. Here are the new releases waiting to be included on your playlists.

Fleet Foxes: “Third of May/ Ogdongora”

The Seattle-based indie folk outfit were among the most critically acclaimed bands to emerge from the late 00s, releasing two albums before fading into a hiatus due to tensions within the group.

Six years later, frontman Robin Pecknold and a slightly-changed lineup released their new single, a sprawling eight-minute ride that begins with the familiar intertwined voices, acoustic guitars and stomping beat reminiscent of their 2011 album Helplessness Blues.

Things descend into a sea of reverb following the third verse before arriving at the outro, a melodic arrangement of tinckling guitars, harps and electronic beeps.

The end result is a song meant to unravel for the listener over time, revealing new surprises and nuances both in structure and lyrical content.

According to annotations written by Pecknold on the lyric site Genius, the song traces the history of the band from their creative peak to their ultimate undoing at the end of the last tour.

It focuses particularly on the friendship between Pecknold and band member Skye Skeljset, whose birthday inspired the song title. The band’s third album Crack Up is set for release in June.

Little Dragon: “Sweet”

Little Dragon is a band that excels at finding intersections of seemingly disparate influences and marrying their common elements.

On their previous single “High”, the group sounded like neo-soul reinterpreted via chillwave and on their most recent “Sweet”, they go for something else entirely.

It opens with a beat reminiscent of early 90s Eurodance act Snap! or even house revivalists Ararat III except with slightly slower tempo.

Then, incessantly bubbly electronic effects are added on in a manner that recall contemporary electro acts such as Hot Chip or Art Angels Grimes.

Most impressive is the playful call-and-response interaction between frontwoman Yukimi Nagano and a backing chorus who respond with “Sweet” following each line.

The end result is a “sugar rush” of a dance pop song that bounces along with an undeniable carefree energy.

Do Make Say Think: “Bound”

Despite forming in the mid-90s, the experimental Toronto group Do Make Say Think are more associated with the mid-00s reinterpretation and creative peak of the endlessly debatable sub-genre known as post-rock.

At the time, the movement led by bands such as Explosions in the Sky, Mogwai and Caspian, were primarily defined by their instrumental and crescendo-laden dramatic pieces featuring numerous electric guitars and pummeling drums.

Then just as quickly, the scene disintegrated as the bands restlessly experimented with other sounds such as ambient electronics and even (gasp) including vocal.

On their succinct new release, their first since 2009, the band return to the distinctive mid-00s-post rock sound, utilizing graceful guitars that complement each other with alternating melodies and moving seamlessly through transitions that rise before falling back into a driving rhythm that reveals surprisingly strong focus.

Is this the beginning of the second (or third? Or fourth?) post-rock revival?

Make an Asian want hibachi/Make an Italian want Versace” over an otherwise decent flow.

2 Chainz (ft. Ty Dolla $ign, Trey Songz and Jhene Aiko): “It’s A Vibe”

2 Chainz released two songs to be featured on his upcoming Pretty Girls Like Trap Music, and while the rapper’s charm seems to have worn off in recent years, the most noteworthy of the two serves as a pose cut among contemporary radio R&B stars.

Despite being a 2 Chainz project, he still seems like a guest, tossing out cheesy lines “Make an Asian want hibachi/Make an Italian want Versace” over an otherwise decent flow.

This one belonged to the featured players, all comfortable in their element and playfully riding the slick Munda-produced beat.

Jhene Aiko in particular, not a stranger to scene-stealing features, sounds like a breath of fresh air as she comes through with her relaxed semi-improvised performance, not really even saying much aside from the repeated affirmation “It’s a vibe.”

It makes one realize it would’ve been most effective if Aiko had the lead. The end result is a song that perhaps won’t stand the test of time, but nonetheless effectively delivered a consistently smooth vibe.

Fresh Bake is a weekly column that reviews new music releases in various genres. Christopher Rodriguez; also hosts a weekly radio show on The Roar, where he plays latest releases.

Student leaders promote world ‘development’

AIESEC, PAGE 5

alone. AIESEC offers volunteer and internship opportunities. Internships can either be paid (3-8 months) or unpaid (2-3 months).

Volunteering can range from 6-8 weeks, and all programs are based off of the seventeen sustainable development goals from the Youth for Global Goals Initiative that AIESEC is working hard to complete by 2030. These sustainable development goals include such topics as climate action, quality education, and gender equality.

Danielle Lyn, a senior communication arts major with a global media minor, recently chose to get involved with AIESEC.

She says she was browsing through the AIESEC website one day with no intention of applying, and came across a program that was a perfect fit: a global entrepreneurship as a digital media producer in Egypt.

She applied and heard back soon after.

“Digital media and cultural exploration are two of my passions. I really feel like without AIESEC I wouldn’t have found a way to put the two together. It’s such a no-hassle process and there are so many opportunities to choose from that are all financially affordable. I’m so glad I found them. I graduate this semester so I almost missed out,” said Lyn.

AIESEC is doing onsite interviews in an effort to make the process easier and they hope it will keep people focused on what it is they really care about and on the programs that will match those passions.

If you are unable to afford the programs, AIESEC will provide the tools to help fundraise.

Having a resume ready to email is required for internship applications. AIESEC can be reached at their instagram: @aiesecinmiami and vpogt-miami@aiesecus.org.

Those interested around the year can book a meeting at: http://ogx.youcanbook.me. Students do not need to book a meeting to participate in the Global Exchange Fair.
The Triathlon Club partnered up with TriDi Multisport Training to hold its first triathlon practice of the season at Biscayne Bay Campus on Saturday, March 4.

Athletes of all levels were welcomed to come out and participate and go at their own pace.

The practice began with a group stretching session, followed by a 30-minute swim in BBC’s Aquatic Center and a bike ride through the campus. It concluded with a mile-time-trial. At the end of the practice, members enjoyed a nutritious brunch.

Christina Reddick, assistant director at the Wellness and Recreation center at BBC, is an advisor for the Triathlon Club, and said no one is left behind.

“We do everything as a group,” Reddick said. “Our practices really give our students the triathlon experience.”

Almost 90 participants showed up for the first practice of the semester, which was led by three TriDi coaches and two FIU coaches.

Vivek Somani, a hospitality junior, returned to practice with the club.

“I love the fact that they provide coaches that are willing to teach and push you,” Somani said. “It’s challenging, and I like that.”

Diego Zambrano, an information technology senior, is a common face at the practices held by the club.

“Almost 90 participants showed up for the first practice of the semester, which was led by three TriDi coaches and two FIU coaches. Zambrano said the practices have become something he looks forward to every week. ‘It’s a chance to prove to yourself that you can do something you thought you could never do,’ he said. ‘The club’s purpose of holding practices is to also assist athletes who wish to participate in FIU’s triathlon, held later in 2017. Students can participate in these practices for free, while non-FIU students pay a fee of $80 per semester. Practices are held at BBC every Saturday at 8 a.m. For more information on the Triathlon Club, visit FIU’s student affairs website.

Senior guard looks forward to ‘entering real world’

Janka Hegedus played their final home game of the season against University of Alabama-Birmingham. And for Todorovic, she said she’s going to miss every minute as a student athlete.

“Just being a part of a competitive sport like after college, I can still play on my own and not feel that I am not officially part of a competitive team,” she said. “You know, just competing every day, practicing every day is something I’m going to miss. Even though I’m still going to continue to work out. But it still won’t be the same when you’re not in a competitive environment.”

Todorovic believes that she has left a legacy at FIU on and off the court. In her career, she recorded .331 from the three-point line, averaged 2.0 points a game and 1.5 rebounds a game. As a two-year starter and role player coming off the bench, she averages 16.9 minutes per game. In the classroom, she is working on business projects for different companies, all while maintaining a high GPA.

“After speaking to my coaches, they told me that my legacy here is simply my leadership,” she said. The way I approached to leading my team, and the way I took over the captain role this last year was before I was a leader will be my legacy. Just using my voice out there, the way I communicate and the way I lead the team. As for the classroom, containing a high GPA despite all the basketball obligation.”

Senior guard Todorovic was one of the six players in Conference USA named 2017 In-Touch Credit Union Conference USA Women’s Basketball All-Academic Team. The selection was voted by the conference’s media relations coordinators. Not only has the senior out of Bosnia and Herzegovina started all 28 games this season, but she also kept herself busy in the classroom, working on her post-graduate degree in marketing right after double majoring in political science and international relations.

“I’m actually excited to spend my time entering to the real world and to dedicate myself to something that I am passionate about,” she said. “Just how I apply myself to basketball, I will apply myself looking for a job.”
Freshman pitchers showcase talents as starters on field

BRETT SHWEKY
Staff Writer

Freshman pitcher Nick MacDonald earned Conference USA Pitcher of the Week honors, following his dominating performance in the 5-1 victory against the Manhattan College Jaspers on Sunday, March 5.

The right-hander retired the first 11 of 12 opposing batters he faced before Manhattan secured its first hit in the top of the fourth. MacDonald pitched a career-high 7 2/3 innings pitched. MacDonald also retired the first 11 of 12 opposing batters he faced with a staggering 1.42 ERA, MacDonald has been able to limit opposing batters to a .143 batting average. MacDonald in 12.2 innings pitched this season has only given up two-earned runs and has accumulated 71 strikeouts.

Currently leading the Panthers’ pitching staff with a staggering 1.42 ERA, MacDonald has been able to limit opposing batters to a .143 batting average. MacDonald in 12.2 innings pitched this season has only given up two-earned runs and has collected 16 strikeouts.

Prior to attending FIU, the freshman played for West Broward High School and Charles W. Flanagan High School. During his tenure at Flanagan, MacDonald earned team MVP honors in his senior season and was also named Pitcher of the Year in 2015 and 2016. The right-hander was highly sought after by Alabama State, Tennessee, Kentucky and the crosstown rival Miami Hurricanes.

When asked about his decision to attend FIU, MacDonald said that head coach Mervyl Melendez was the deciding factor in him becoming a Panther. “To be honest with you, Mervyl Melendez was really my deciding factor in my decision to attend FIU.”

Shannon Saile

“FIU presented themselves at the correct time, when I went on my unofficial visit I instantly fell in love with the university.”

Shannon Saile said it immediately.

With the game being tied going into the eighth inning against the University of Notre Dame Saturday, March 4. The freshman hurler struck out an additional two Notre Dame batters in the inning, to bring her strikeout total to 12 on the day. Saturday’s game against the Fighting Irish, was the fourth time this season that Saile recorded 10-or-more strikeouts in a game. Having played in nine games so far, the freshman has been able to accumulate 71 strikeouts in just 53 innings pitched.

Having played in nine collegiate games, the freshman hurler says the faster pace of the game was one of the differences that stood out going from high school to college. “The faster pace, the bigger hitters, relying on my team as much as I can are some differences I’ve noticed so far,” said Saile. “In high school, you don’t really have the outstanding outfielder that you would in college, my fielders have really been backing me up and that always makes a difference throughout any game.”

Prior to attending FIU, Saile went to Land O’Lakes High School where she was a four-year softball player and a three-year volleyball standout. As a senior for the Gators, she finished with 18 wins, a remarkable 0.78 ERA and 269 strikeouts. In 2016, she was named All-Tampa Player of the year and was a finalist for the 6A FACA Player of the year.