

10-18-2013

The Beacon, October 18, 2013

Florida International University

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Recommended Citation

Florida International University, "The Beacon, October 18, 2013" (2013). *The Panther Press (formerly The Beacon)*. 638.
https://digitalcommons.fiu.edu/student_newspaper/638

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Panthers leave nest, but stay near home

ALYSSA ELSO
Staff Writer

College is a time for students to learn, create lasting memories, but most importantly learn to be independent.

When it comes to attending college, students either opt to leave their hometown or stay close to home for the comfort and ease that living at home often offers.

At the University, the latter seems to be the norm. According to a statistic recorded by College Board through data presented by the University, 97 percent of students are classified as in-state students and the other three percent are out of state students.

Jordan Vichot, a senior business major, grew up in Miami and chose to attend FIU after being accepted into the Honors College.

“The commute is often not ideal, it’s 40 miles

round trip, but staying in Miami is worth it,” said Vichot.

Vichot has also made a point of getting involved in campus life and is highly engaged with Toastmasters, a nonprofit organization that helps members develop communication skills and public speaking skills; ALPFA, an organization to enhance opportunities for Latino business leaders and Phoenician Investment Fund, a hands-on finance organization.

“Getting involved has opened up many opportunities – in participating in Toastmasters I have received recognition and awards for public speaking,” Vichot said.

When it comes to setting boundaries between his family and school life, Vichot states that he does not believe that he has created any. “I go home every night and my parents know of the

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SENSEI SAYS



COURTNEY McDEWITT/THE BEACON

The Budokon Club got some special training with black belt Sensei Donato this past Saturday. Budokon, meaning “warrior” in Japanese, is a mix of yoga and martial arts.

University takes internships to the next level

NICOLE AGUIAR
Staff Writer

It is a piece of advice given countless of times: get an internship to increase your chances of landing a job after graduation. Many students are aware of the pressure there is to obtain an internship, but don’t know how to go about getting one.

In response to this, the University’s Office of Engagement, with funding by the Student Government Association, created a website which launched a brand new internship portal for students in May.

According to the National Association of Colleges and Employers, 95 percent of employers are looking for experience in college graduates. Out of the students who actually land the internship, 60 percent will receive at least one job offer by the end of the internship.

“For students who felt it was very hard to find internships, we put enough information on the portal for students to cover the internship process in a more structured way,” said Vice President of Engagement Irma Becerra-Fernandez. “Funded by students for students, it is a door to all

the information a student needs to be successful.”

The portal is organized into three forms of information: learn, find and succeed.

Under the “Learn” section, students can find information on what they should know before seeking an internship. “Find” is where students are given access to different internship listings in the area. “Succeed” is the tab where students can read their peers’ personal internship stories and where they can share their own.

In the “Learn” section, students can find out about the different types

of internship opportunities and which suits them best. There are paid and unpaid, credited and uncredited, government-based, part-time and full-time internships.

Once students understand their options, the portal offers a checklist filled with a personal evaluation that can make clear to students their individual needs in regards to an internship. It also includes tips on transitioning from the university life to the professional life.

“It’s nice to know I have something I can reference next year when I begin to apply for internships so that I can be

better prepared and better my chances in being accepted,” said biology sophomore Jessica Salani.

The “Find” section is where the portal tailors to the specific needs of each student seeking an internship. Under the headline is a list of majors that explains the requirements for each specific field regarding internships. For some majors like education and nursing, experience is required in order to continue in the field. The portal provides a list of some accredited internships in the field and also

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SIPA hosts experts on national and global topics in summit

SIMONE GARVEY-EWAN
Staff Writer

The School of International and Public Affairs, launched in spring 2009, will be hosting its fifth annual Geopolitical Summit this month, America at the Crossroads: Power and Strategy in U.S. Foreign Relations.

Entailing two sessions, this summit will feature two of the world’s most prominent experts on international relations: Senior Associate in Carnegie’s International Economics Program Moises Naim and Dean of the Johns Hopkins University Paul H. Nitze School of Advanced International Studies Vali Nasr.

Naim and Nasr, along with eight University panelists, will discuss issues facing the nation and the world. Topics at hand include: shrinking the American role around the globe, America’s role in foreign policy and Nasr’s book entitled “The Dispensable Nation: American Foreign Policy in Retreat.”

Many students like graduate Anthony

Mercado, in the Industrial/Organization

Psychology program, commend SIPA in its efforts to obtain renowned speakers. “So here’s what I think about SIPA, everything that SIPA’s been able to do – I think that it’s a disservice of the students to not go to all the events,” Mercado said.

SIPA’s summits have featured some of the world’s most prominent experts on domestic and international affairs. For this summit John F. Stack, Jr., executive director of SIPA, will serve as the moderator, with Moises Naim in session one and Vali Nasr in session two.

“Look at who has come on behalf of the University and who they’ve brought us. People talk about ‘oh where are the big speakers and the big lecturers?’ SIPA hosts them,” Mercado said.

Naim is not only a senior associate at the Carnegie Endowment for International Peace in the International Economics Program, he is also a chief international columnist for Spain’s and Italy’s largest dailies as well as one of the columnists in the Financial Time’s “The A-List.”

Nasr is also the author of “The Dispensable Nation” and a member of the

State Department’s Foreign Affairs Policy Advisory Board to advise the secretary of state on global issues.

“I think it’s a disservice of the students to not to go all the events.”

Anthony Mercado
Graduate student
Industrial/Organizational
Psychology

Director of University Relations Sandra Jimenez explained the selection of the guests.

“The theme is usually discussed by

FIU’s president, the dean, and the director of SIPA in order to talk about topics and issues that are current. Based off that, we search for expert speakers in this topic and that’s how these two speakers were chosen,” Jimenez said.

This Summit is funded by Ruth and Shepard Broad through the Shepard Broad Foundation, Inc.

Their foundation has given great support to universities worldwide. The children of Ruth and Shepard Broad, Morris Broad and Ann Bussel continued their parent’s legacy and became the first major donors towards SIPA’s building naming the auditorium after their parents.

The event will be held on Tuesday, Oct. 29, in the Graham Center Ballrooms starting at 9 a.m. Jimenez said there are over 250 confirmed attendees so far.

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WORLD NEWS

EU praises Iran nuke talks; more talks in three weeks

High-stakes nuclear talks between Iran and six world powers adjourned on an upbeat note Wednesday, with the parties agreeing to meet again in Geneva in three weeks. The European Union’s top diplomat called the talks “very important,” and Iran’s foreign minister spoke of a possible “new phase” after a decade of dead-lock over fears the Iranians wanted a nuclear bomb. Few details emerged from the two days of talks, but White House spokesman Jay Carney said Iran’s proposals contained a “level of seriousness and substance that we have not seen before.”

Russia: Court decides not to imprison navalny

A Russian court decided Wednesday not to send opposition leader Alexei Navalny to prison, a move that could have sparked major protests and made a martyr out of the charismatic 37-year-old. The Kremlin, however, lives in dread of Navalny becoming a real politician, for he proved his influence when he snagged almost a third of the votes in Moscow’s recent mayoral election. The court, therefore, suspended Navalny’s five-year prison sentence but upheld his conviction for theft, which prevents him from running in future elections.

49 believed dead in plane crash in Laos

A Lao Airlines flight crashed Wednesday in the Southeast Asian nation, apparently killing all 49 people aboard, including passengers from 11 countries, the Lao government said. The Ministry of Public Works and Transport, which operates the airline as a state enterprise, said 44 passengers and five crew members were aboard flight QV301 from the Lao capital, Vientiane, to Pakse in the country’s south. Earlier reports had said there were 39 passengers on board. “Upon preparing to land at Pakse Airport the aircraft ran into extreme bad weather conditions and was reportedly crashed into the Mekong River,” the ministry said in a statement.

For more world news, check out FIUSM.com.

Panthers decide to stay at home

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different things I am doing in school.”

Veronique Cortina, senior psychology major, like Vichot continues to live at home and attend FIU in order to be close to her family. “I wanted to go to school close to home because I enjoy my family and I am just not ready to move out of my house,” Cortina said.

“In the four years that I have studied at FIU, I have not found a need to get involved,” she said. “I go to school and go home, there is never really a boundary between my family life and my school life, they just go together.”

According to statistics presented by FIU, it is the number one ranking university that awards the most bachelor’s and master’s degrees to Hispanic students. The student body is also largely made up of Hispanics students at 61 percent.

In the Hispanic culture, families tend to be very close and children do not often leave home until their late 20s. This plays a large role in the number of students that have remained in-state to attend the University.

For Cortina this is the case. Growing

The commute is often not ideal, it’s 40 miles round trip, but staying in Miami is worth it.

Jordan Vichot
Senior
Business major

up with Cuban parents in a family that is very close, the thought of going away for college never crossed her mind.

“My parents and siblings are a major part of my everyday life and having to be alone at school in a new place without them would make me too homesick,” Cortina said.

Isaac Jang, a first-year hospitality graduate student, on the other hand has come to FIU all the way from Korea. With a language barrier that often affects his ability to socialize and understand professors, he is glad with his decision to study hospitality at FIU.

“I like being away from home so far, even though I have gotten homesick at times when my language barrier has made it hard for me to understand my classes,” said Jang.

Alejandro Ortiz, a freshman hospitality major, also lives on campus, however his home is only a 30 minute drive to Broward.

“I just wanted to get out of my house, and I like that I can just walk to classes,” said Ortiz.

Living on campus gives him time to be alone, but also provides him the luxury of driving home at least once a week.

“Being able to separate myself from my family when I am at school has really been beneficial to my studies, but I still enjoy the time I get to spend with my mom who is so close by,” he said. “It also gives me the freedom to join clubs like the Gay/Straight Alliance and take classes at the gym.”

Whether it be living at home or living on campus, students find it important to stay connected to their families while dedicating time for school and getting involved in campus life.

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Internship portal launched by FIU

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provides the contact information for staff that can assist in seeking experience in a specific field.

“I really like how the internship information is divided by majors, but I wish it had a greater range of professions because I am a psychology major applying to the physician assistant program and there wasn’t really any information there for me,” said Olga Perez, senior psychology major.

However, the internship portal has yet to finish adding all the final details. Its launch was only the soft launch of the portal in order to receive feedback from students. Later this semester will be the official launch of the internship portal which will be advertised on-campus and through social media to raise awareness about this resource.

As of now, the portal already has access to a software system used to catalog internship opportunities called Simplicity.

Simplicity focuses on academic internships by each course of study. Employers themselves post internship opportunities on Simplicity for students. For students who don’t know where to go to find internships in their field, this site is updated every semester with opportunities in the community.

“Having had the chance to intern in a hospital gave me the experience I needed to really understand what nursing is all about, so I think its great that FIU is trying to help other students get that same experience,” said nursing junior Bianca Del Valle.

“Succeed” is where the portal becomes most interactive because students are sharing their personal stories of their experiences for others to read as a form of insight.

Currently, students can read about Ernesto Alfonso, public affairs alumnus, who is interning at a lobbying firm in Washington D.C.

or Neha Upadhyay, graduate student, who interned for the World Health Organization in Geneva, Switzerland. The stories of Panthers who have had successful internships serve as a source of inspiration and insights.

The portal includes a link to the University internship Tumblr, FIU interns, where students are blogging about their internship experiences and staying connected as one network. Students can even share their internship stories through Twitter by hash tagging “FIU internships.”

The link to the FIU internship Tumblr was added in hopes to inspire students to go out and expose themselves to their field of study because “inexperienced students hearing from other students gets students excited,” said Internship Coordinator Kaleena Salgueiro.

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The Beacon is published on Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays during the Fall and Spring semesters and once a week during Summer B. One copy per person. Additional copies are 25 cents. The Beacon is not responsible for the content of ads. Ad content is the sole responsibility of the company or vendor. The Beacon is an editorially independent newspaper partially funded by student and services fees that are appropriated by Student Government.

AILYS TOLEDO Staff Writer

Students have taken advantage of the Green Library’s Hub since the start of the semester, a new study area that features PC and Mac computers, high-powered multimedia editing rooms, wide-screen monitors to facilitate group project work and on-demand research and technology support in one convenient location.

“I like the open space and the relaxed atmosphere. It’s really inviting and it gives me a cool space where I can study or chill,” said Alejandra Lugo, first year graduate student in the Ryder Business School.

The \$1 million renovation project was divided into two phases over the summer.

Phase one included adding over 60 new computers, printers, electronic

check-out stations and two media rooms for audio and video editing. Phase two involved a restoring of

It’s really inviting and it gives me a cool space where I can study or chill.

Alejandra Lugo
Graduate student
Ryder Business School

two media rooms to be compatible with Apple and Dell devices, more computers and iPads and tablets.

“We recognize that technology has truly reengineered the discovery and research of scholarly community processes. What you see before you is what allows our students to do that- from the discovery stage all the way to the representation of the product of their work,” said Anne Prestamo, dean of libraries, at the Hub’s ribbon cutting on Oct. 16.

“This will allow people to come together in the best traditions of the academy, however, in a 21 century way,” said President Mark B. Rosenberg.

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The art of losing and its positive consequences

RAUL HERRERA
Staff Writer

Imagine watching your favorite sports game. Whichever team you're going for is victorious, but for some reason, the losing team gets a trophy, too.

Slapped on this trophy is a metal plaque that says "Participation Award."

In an Op-Ed piece for the New York Times, Ashley Merryman demeans the practice and claims that "losing is good for you." I would say that I agree.

Let's face it. Losing tells us something that winning generally doesn't: you did something wrong. Whether it was missing that goal or failing to score a touchdown, something in this competition caused you to not do as well as you should have.

Many see this as a negative thing, and while there is some downbeat to it, there is also a tremendous positive.

Losing teaches us that we need to improve our skills. It's no wonder that a common inspiring phrase to the losers of competitions is "we'll get them next time."

It was Thomas Edison who once said "I didn't fail. I just found two thousand ways how not to make a light bulb; I only needed to find one way to make it work."

When you lose, you don't simply fail. You just find a way to not win. Ergo, the key to winning to the fabled "next time" is refining oneself and looking inwardly.

We see why we didn't get the trophy this time around and understand what we can do to improve our skills.

Such a focus on refining oneself, and oneself's skills, is all part of personal growth. You can't get better at something without knowing where you must improve.

To give people an award for losing discourages this practice and thus discourages an incentive to do better.

If we tell children from early on that they'll always get an award regardless of their performance, how should we expect them to compete in the job market in the future?

How do we expect them to compete for seats in a

university where thousands apply, and only a distilled amount get accepted?

How should we expect them to do well on tests if getting an 'F' means nothing?

Of course, we must not go to the extreme of being greedy and envious: desiring only accolades and winning to the point that if someone else gets it, we will abhor the victor like we hate getting a burn. Such a practice is destructive to oneself.

Winning should be seen as the reward for hard work, not the reward for greed and selfishness.

Now, I'm not a child psychologist.

Perhaps participation awards are important to the psyche of a small child.

I know I received them in baseball games and karate competitions back when I was young, and I turned out...well, that's beside the point.

But as far as I know, getting an accolade because we deserve it, not because we "participated," is much more rewarding and satisfying.

Hard work finds its



GIOVANNI GARCIA/THE BEACON

merit. And those who look inwardly and analyze what they did wrong will find themselves improving their skills.

We shouldn't take the extremes of "everyone's

a winner" or "pursue the award, kill all in your path, or you will be rejected from this family for a thousand years."

We should look to a different approach—one that

rewards those who deserve it, and helps us realize that losing is actually good for us and helps us become better at what we do.

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Journalism: 'The reports of my death have been greatly exaggerated'

MADARI PENDAS
Staff Writer

Journalism is not dead. Journalism is not dying. Journalism is not terminally ill.

The changes and reinventions of traditional journalism have prompted many people to prematurely announce the death of journalism.

To be more precise, journalism is molting; it is shedding off archaic definitions, restrictions and notions of elitism. Journalism is burgeoning into an egalitarian vehicle of social and political critique.

The digital revolution of the last two decades has improved upon the model of journalism. Citizen journalism, which has flourished through websites like Twitter and Wordpress, has granted everyone the duty of "watchdog."

Through a surreptitious cell-phone photo or an anonymous document submission to Wikileaks, the

actions of government officials are more transparent. Every citizen is equipped with the means to expose and reveal situations that go unreported, or under-reported, by mainstream media. Through Wikileaks, American citizens were able to learn of illegal actions occurring in Guantanamo Bay by United States soldiers--information essential, yet inaccessible through mainstream news outlets.

Journalism is imperative to a democratic society. Journalism allows citizens to be aware of domestic and world affairs, to make better informed voting and personal decisions, and provide a forum for protest and debate.

For instance, about a month ago The Beacon published several articles chronicling the clandestine events that occurred in the Pi Kappa Alpha fraternity. This article enlightened students about furtive actions occurring on the FIU campus, and therefore enabled students to be more informed

members of the FIU society.

There are several virtues of digital media that need to be exalted. For instance, independent online news sources, blogs, online forums and communities do not have to kowtow to advertisers' interest (at least not to the extent of traditional media). Independent news sources are not satellites of conglomerate companies or members of media monopolies, like News Corp or Time Warner. When the majority of information is controlled by a minority of the population a lack of diversity emerges, and the egalitarian principles of democracy are undermined.

Democracy is based on the "rule of the people," not corporations. And the Internet is the most democratic medium at the moment. The Net is decentralized, no one person or group controls the Net. The Net allows all opinions to be expressed, even the unpopular and marginalized ones, which in a democracy are protected

to avoid a "tyrannical majority." The Net is not exclusive or selective in its users, it is not a tool exclusively reserved for the elite and powerful. Digital news can report events faster than traditional media (although sometimes at a cost to fact checking). Digital news can be more digestible and accessible. For instance, digital information may be more succinct and delivered in a straightforward manner.

And non-profit Net news sites, like Wikileaks and factcheck.org, have the liberty to report covert and confidential information without fear of losing sponsorship or being stymied by a parent company, and thus making the government and public officials more transparent and accountable.

The Net is a powerful foreground for debate and social protest. The Net has been a powerful and galvanizing tool in accelerating revolutions, making organization and collaboration easier and giving like-

minded individuals more access to one another.

The protest in Moldova in 2009 against the Communist regime, for instance, was called the "Twitter Revolution." Facebook was also used to organize protests and mobilize individuals during the Arab Spring.

Regarding the utility of the Net, Sascha Meinrath, director of the New America Foundation's Open Technology Initiative said, "Social media have become the pamphlets of the 21st century, a way that people who are frustrated with the status quo can organize themselves and coordinate protests, and in the case of Egypt, revolutions."

Journalism is not dead. It has evolved and adapted into a digital plane where it can be shared equally, where the disenfranchised are given a voice, and where social change can begin.

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Brett Eldredge sings to Miami country fans

STEPHAN USECHE
Staff Writer

The cowboy boots slamming against the wood floor of Round Up Country Western Club in Davie, Fla., to the beat of a two-step melody kept the country music lovers occupied as they awaited the up-and-coming country singer Brett Eldredge’s performance.

Camouflage hats and phones ready to snap a picture filled the horizon towards the stage of the nightclub and received WKIS Country radio station host Darlene Evans.

Evans kicked off the performance by introducing the opening act of The Railers, a country band signed by Warner Music Nashville and who prepped the audience with their upbeat contemporary country songs. With one of the members playing the violin and the other jamming to the songs to the beat of a tambourine, The Railers finished their performance with songs like “I Don’t Love You,” “Put Your Lovin’ in These Hands” and “The Irish Song.”

Not long after that, Brett ran into the stage and wasted no time in starting the show with his song “Mean to me.”

With a Luke Bryan meets John Mayer appearance and music style, Brett introduced the songs of his new album “Bring You Back,” which has his first number one hit single “Don’t Ya,” and has taken him to make appearances on “Late Night with Jimmy Fallon,” “Live with Kelly and Michael” and “Today.”

Songs like John Mayer’s “Wonderland,” Brooks and Dunn’s “Red Dirt



VERONICA PERON/THE BEACON

Brett Eldredge performed at Round Up Country Western Club in Davie, Fla., last Thursday.

Road” and the Police’s “Roxanne” kept the audience pumped and jamming. Brett sang the long-awaited song, “Don’t Ya” as his closing act where he went into the crowd autographing CD covers, posters and cowboy boots. The crowd surrounded him as they sang along to the catchy song, eventually giving him room to make it back to the stage and conclude the performance.

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Action film seeks human connection



KRISTIN DOS SANTOS/CREATIVE COMMONS

Tom Hanks plays Captain Richard Phillips in the new action film “Captain Phillips.”

COLUMNIST

IN HIS WORDS

MARTELL HARDING

In 2009, the Maersk Alabama, a cargo ship, was taken hostage by Somali pirates. A soon to be kidnapped captain, by the name of Richard Phillips was abducted and held hostage by fisherman gone rogue in this captivating action thriller that fishes for a bit of humanity.

Gone are the pirates of myth and Disney movies, these once fisherman don’t exactly share the same charm as Johnny Depp. They are threatening, sweaty and yellow teeth desperate hijackers – all portraying strong personalities – who have one goal: money.

“Captain Phillips” proves that action films need new heroes, someone who has a sense of humanity.

Tom Hanks plays the everyday common American man who faces challenging odds against those who are as desperate to survive as he is.

Hanks uses a somewhat overbearing Boston accent that detracts from his otherwise convincing portrayal.

Twists and turns are abundant throughout the film; however I was able to predict every one of them and at times I was concerned that not too much thought went into the script.

To my ignorance, I remembered that true stories are meant to be honest, not unpredictable.

Minor complaints aside, the film is highly successful in its suspense attempt but by no means is it without its faults.

The supporting actors left me in disbelief more than once. Since Hanks is the only star of the show, the other actors are easily drowned out by Hanks’ performance and some viewers may feel distracted by director Paul Greengrass’ shaky visual style which can take some adjusting although it is probably perfect for the nervous, strained context.

Nonetheless, Greengrass cleverly combines action and heart-felt storytelling. He also manages to waste no time staging the transition for Hanks’ character from normal conversations about the dangers of the world with his wife played by Catherine Keener to storming the rough waters at 18 knots (approximately 21 mph),

which successfully helps deliver the intensity once the heist begins.

What I liked most about the movie was the humanity the film serves.

Unlike the James Bond series where greed and blood lust need no explanation, this movie would not be complete without the antagonist’s shared desire for survival. Newcomer Barkhad Abdi plays opposite Hanks with surprising accuracy.

His desperation magnetically repels Hanks heroism, never letting the tension break.

Allowing Captain Phillips to take you away at sea and embark on this terrifying journey alongside Richard Phillips is what this film is all about.

Something is left to be desired when it pertains to pacing and flow but is easily forgiven considering why we all go to the cinema in the first place...to watch the story unfold.

Captain Phillips is rated PG-13 for sustained intense sequences of menace, some violence with bloody images, and for substance use.

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Coley ready for senior season in C-USA

Senior point guard Jerica Coley accepts two preseason awards, but stays focused

STEVEN ROWELL
Contributing Writer

As senior point guard Jerica Coley enters her final season at FIU, she is not the only one expecting to finish her FIU career strong.

Recently the St. Petersburg, Fla. native was put on the watch list for the Wade Trophy, which is named after Lily Margaret Wade. The award has been regarded as “The Heisman of Women’s Basketball”.

“It’s an honor and was shocking; I didn’t even know what it was until recently, but it’s a huge thing to be recognized for,” Coley said.

After being the FIU’s first player to earn back to back Sun Belt Conference Player of the Year Honors, Coley is now expected to do it again, but now in a new conference. With the Panthers competing in Conference USA, Coley was recently selected as C-USA Preseason Player of the Year.

“It’s shocking especially since I haven’t even played a game there [in C-USA], but it’s just a preseason thing so I guess it’s kind of what they expect, and we will see what happens,” Coley said.

Coley sees herself having an advantage playing against new opponents for the first time in C-USA.

“I think it will be a big advantage, because the teams we played before for a couple of years already knew what to expect, now in playing new teams when we come out we can be more free with what we are doing,” Coley said.

Adding those two awards to the numerous honors and recognition the senior has already achieved, Coley still refuses to let it affect her performance on the court.

“I thank my teammates, coaches and my parents for keeping me grounded, and I never really think about it all too much,” Coley said.

Coley doesn’t feel any pres-

sure from the preseason expectations that the Wade watch list and Preseason C-USA Player of the Year has placed on her for this season.

“I just try not to think about just playing for that, I will probably forget about it when the season starts, and there are so many other important things to worry about so I try not to add any pressure to myself,” Coley said.

Coley lead the team last season in points, assists, blocks, steals and was second in rebounding behind fellow senior Marita Davydova. Coley hopes and is confident that she won’t have to be the statistical leader in those categories for the team to be successful.

“We are going to have lot players who haven’t played that much before, so in the beginning I do expect that as a leader to lead the team, but I don’t think I will have to lead in every category like that,” Coley said. “But when you play you don’t really think



BEACON FILE PHOTO

Senior guard Jerica Coley looks to add on to her collegiate career after receiving two preseason award nominations, the Wade Trophy and C-USA Preseason Player of the Year.

about it and whether it happens or not; just as long as everybody plays their best basketball and they do what they do best.”

Anyone could see the numbers Coley puts up on the offensive side, but she also has made her mark on the defensive side leading the team in blocks as a point guard, and also in steals.

“I like defense a lot actually,” Coley said. “and to be a

good offensive player for me it helps knowing good defensive techniques and just having a really good defensive mind.”

Leading the team in every category is certainly not a goal for Coley this season; the senior wants to be more efficient this season.

“I just want to get better at shooting percentage, court awareness, and leading the team, basically just want to be

better overall,” Coley said.

With all the preseason hype being surrounding Coley, the senior just wants to take the court already.

“I think every day I just want the season to hurry up and get here, I think we all are ready to play,” Coley said.

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Senior Panther selected as C-USA player to watch

Senior forward Tymell Murphy joins list of 16 players selected to Conference USA watch list

PATRICK CHALVIRE
Staff Writer

The votes are in and senior forward Tymell Murphy was selected as the Conference USA Preseason Player to watch.

The league’s basketball coaches selected the players and the senior forward was one of the 16 picked.

When first reported, Murphy was unaware he was selected to the preseason list.

Not having a cell phone at the time, he was made aware of the feat courtesy of several friends and fans.

“I was surprised,” Murphy said. “With it being a new conference for us, I’m happy but pretty surprised they gave me the nod. I’m happy coaches have heard about my ability on the court. I’m just excited about the season getting here.”

Last season, Murphy was named First-Team NABC (National Association of Basketball Coaches) All-Region selection, as well as a First-Team All-Sun Belt Conference selection.

He led the conference and ranked No. 18 nationally in field goal percentage.

At first being a player to watch was new for Murphy, but having spoken to several different people, he’s ready for what’s ahead.

As many athletes and non-athletes do, Murphy looks up to a certain individual, someone who knows what he goes through.

Many young athletes look up to mainly professional stars, but Murphy also looks up to fellow Panther and last years leading scorer in the nation, Jerica Coley.

“With it being a new conference for us, I’m happy but pretty surprised they gave me the nod.”

Tymell Murphy
Forward
FIU Men’s Basketball

“At first it was pressure,” Murphy said. “I didn’t know how to take it but I spoke to different people at home and campus and around me and ask for advice. I’m learning how to take whatever comes and be humble about it.”

Humble can be the best to describe Murphy. He is not your prototypical “Big man on campus” and rarely shies away from a friend or fan.

Murphy knows what is needed from him but never forgets what has gotten him to this point so far.

“I’ve taken that approach to it,” Murphy said. “I’m blessed that I’m that player to watch out for but I know I’ve had to work hard, slow my mind down and try not to focus too much.”

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Volleyball mid-season review

OSCAR BALDIZON
Staff Writer

Some would argue that the volleyball team is going thru a mid-season funk of sorts. But one would never guess that if you caught a team practice or spoke to anyone on the team. Morale on the team is just as good as it was opening day, if not better, and the squad seems to be a more cohesive unit then when they started this season.

While the team has dropped five of their last six matches, they have survived a gauntlet of a mid-season schedule and faced the toughest Conference USA competition can throw at them.

In those five losses, they have faced four top-six teams in the conference, including powerhouse Tulsa who also dismissed the University of Miami in three sets.

An opening conference schedule like that would test and challenge the best of teams, let alone a team that dealt with so much change this off season.

“No one likes to lose, but we still come out here every day and work our hardest and hold our heads high. We know we were an awesome team, and we have more to grow before we head to Conferences,” Senior outside hitter Jessica Mendoza said.

It’s obvious this team is still coming into its own and trying to figure out how they are going to be best positioned to succeed at the end of the year. The teams’ remaining schedule includes much of the team s in the lower half of the Conference which should give FIU a chance to regroup and be primed to challenge Tulane, the third ranked team in the conference.

“After facing the toughest competition I think we’re really moving along. We’re finding our identity and that’s definitely a blocking team, one of the best in the Conference. Our offense is improving and we have finally found a system

that the players really love and accentuate their positives. We don’t have one of those big bangers that were going to feed the ball to a bunch; we have a bunch of machine guns instead of a big bazooka,” Head Coach Rita Buck-Crockett said.

After falling to FGCU last night, the Panthers are looking to rebound this Friday versus Florida Atlantic University. Much has been made of this matchup coming into the season with the Satoric sister’s lining up against each other for the first time in collegiate volleyball.

This team will have to continue to look inward to try and figure out how they are going to achieve the goals they set for themselves at the start of the season.

“Sometimes you can get a little complacent mid-way thru the season, and while I don’t think that’s the case with us, we had fallen into a bit of routine and forgotten that sense of urgency. We have really sped up our style of play and it’s very exciting, it’s like we are playing a different game and we are having a lot of fun.” Kim Smith said.

Every now and then a coach comes along and really changes the culture of a team and truly instills the best of what that coach can offer. That has definitely been the case this year with FIU. Rita Buck Crockett has come in and really changed a lot of people’s mindset toward the volleyball team as a team to look out for very soon.

“One thing I never have to complain about is the work ethic of this team. They work harder than anyone and it’s going to pay off soon. It’s a process to create a top 25 program, which is what we’re doing here, and this is part of the process. You can’t coach every team the same and that’s why we’re taking our time to really figure out what’s best for this team,” Buck Crockett said.

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Primer Impacto co-anchor grants SJMC scholarship

AILYS TOLEDO
Staff Writer

The School of Journalism and Mass Communication recently hosted a ceremony to acknowledge the induction of a new education initiative founded by Pamela Silva Conde, a graduate and co-anchor of Univision's Primer Impacto, a Spanish-language news program on Univision.

On Oct. 16, Conde made her return to campus to speak about the Pamela Silva Conde Scholarship that she created. Conde, who graduated with a bachelors in journalism, was recognized as alumni of the year by the school and remains an active figure within SJMC.

"It's almost going to be 14 years since my freshman year. I was probably one of the few freshmen that had declared my major. I always knew what I wanted to do, even before the first day of class," said Conde.

Her driven nature and charisma made her stand out among the rest of the students. Allan Richards, SJMC associate dean and one of the many professors who attended the event in support, recalled fondly of Conde, who was a student in his writing strate-

gies course.

"I remember her as a student and there was never a doubt in my mind that this was a person who was on a mission," Richards said. "I had a sense that she would succeed. It's wonderful that she is humble and gracious enough to give back to the school that helped her."

Alina Mayo Azze, news presenter for Noticias 23, said the University gave Conde the tools she needed to be successful at Univision.

"It is where the root of this wonderful talent for Univision and as a human being got her start," Azze said.

According to Conde, creating the scholarship was important to her because of her own experiences as a college student. "I've been thinking about wanting to do this for about four years now, so we made an initial five-year commitment. We tailored it to the needs of those I thought would impact the most: first generation college graduates," said Conde.

Conde was no stranger to the economic hardships that come along with being a college student. After immigrating to the United States at age 10 from Peru, Conde and her mother dealt with the

stresses of balancing academic and financial responsibilities. She said this initiative gives that extra aid for students who need to purchase books or pay for that extra class.

"In life there are always obstacles, and to get a superior education is also an obstacle, but money should never be one of those obstacles. Pamela is helping make those students who have a dream a little easier to achieve them," said Maria Elena Salinas, news anchor for Noticias 23.

For the SJMC, the Pamela Silva Conde Scholarship brings more recognition to the continued growth of the school.

"Thanks to Pamela [and] thanks to her generosity, we are going to help young people who do not have the means to get the college education they so richly deserve and importantly need," said University President Rosenberg.

Along with the approval of the first Hispanic research scholarship, the SJMC has made significant achievements this year.

"Our students are singularly impressive. Any way we can get more financial resources to bring in equally determined and forward-

SAMBA TIME



FRANCESCA ANCHELIA/THE BEACON

During Hispanic Heritage kickoff, Samba dancers shook their stuff in their bright pink and purple feathers and costumes.

thinking students will do that," said Rosenberg.

"The most amazing thing about this scholarship is the fact that she wants to support those students who need the support. This is really important for us because a lot of students are struggling to go to school and juggling one or two jobs," said Raul Reis, dean of the SJMC.

Plans for the future of the scholarship include increasing the amount of money given and the number of outstanding students who will receive the award. According to Conde, this will be a good way to continue to give back and help those students whose situa-

tions mirror her own.

"By giving back, Pamela is a shining example of what it means to do well and to do good," said Rosenberg.

The Pamela Silva Conde Scholarship will begin accepting applications on November 1.

Students who attended the event were excited to be part of the SJMC and learn more about the new opportunity.

"It encourages me to work harder and get more involved. It's like an inspiration," said Maria Vargas Pardo, a freshman majoring in digital media.

For Laura Sofia Orozco, a freshman majoring in broad-

cast journalism, Conde's scholarship means more than just a way to relieve financial burdens.

"I came as an immigrant and being a female Hispanic minority is a big thing for any scholarship, so being able to receive this scholarship would be a huge thing," Orozco said.

"So many students want what Pamela has. She's a terrific role model of someone who is smart, persistent and who did not come from privilege, but is willing to help other students become the next Pamela," said Richards.

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Study: Temperatures go off the charts around 2047

DESTINEY BURT
Contributing Writer

Dual enrollment professor James Jiler swiftly dugged a hole in the backyard grounds of Miami Northwestern Senior High on Monday afternoon, planting fruits in preparation for the unveiling of the school's aquaponics unit.

Aquaponics is the study of aquaculture, which is the process of growing fish and using its waste to fertilize plants.

Miami Northwestern Senior High is the first school in Miami-Dade County to have an aquaponics lab. Oct. 17 was the ribbon cutting ceremony for the formal unveiling of the aquaponics lab.

According to Maria Lovett, assistant Professor in the college of education, the lab allows students to get involved with hands-on experience and learning in many areas including science, business and culinary arts. Through the aquaponics lab, "students are also able to gain entre-

preneurial and leadership skills."

The University, JP Morgan Chase and Miami-Dade County Public schools support the aquaponics lab. The school received a three-year, \$1-million-dollar grant from the JP Morgan Chase Foundation. With that grant, the partners have collaborated to establish The Education Effect, which is a partnership to support education in Liberty City.

"Plan it Forward" is an extension of The Education Effect that will build on the aquaponics program and introduce students to careers in the hospitality industry, as well as help develop entrepreneurial skills.

This educational partnership is a great way for FIU's hospitality, earth and environment and business students get involved with reaching out to the community by engaging with Miami Northwestern students.

"Even if college is not for you, it's that every single child should have the

option," Lovett said. "This program allows students to have that decision and if they don't go to college, it's because they want to pursue something else."

This program offers students an opportunity to earn both high school and college credits through dual enrollment with University. Professors teach the courses free of charge to the students.

The aquaponics lab also growing edible food plant such as lettuce, papaya, moringa and more.

"They don't want just an ordinary school garden, where people play in the dirt, plant a few vegetables and then they die," Jiler said.

They are developing something more "that is long lasting, like a food forest," said Jiler. According to Jiler, it will be a garden that will not only have an impact on the school but an impact on the community as well.

Once the garden takes off and the plants have fully grown, the class will

be using them in the classrooms for the students to cook in culinary arts.

The program not only offers classes to their students to be involved with the aquaponics unit, but also an after school program called Agroecology, which students can get involved anytime during the school year.

Hospitality and Management students assist in teaching Miami Northwestern students in the agroecology program how to cook, and explain the science of the food they are growing.

This improves students learning and college readiness. According to Lovett, the program has cause an improvement in graduation rate increasing from 64 to 80 percent. "Aquaponics is a great class, I've learned new things," said Jeffery Green, a senior at Miami Northwestern, who said the program has also had an impact on his degree decision.

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