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GC pit undergoes renovations

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University students will now have to wait until next year to host their events at the Graham Center pit.

The Graham Center at the Modesto A. Maidique Campus has placed a barricade around the pit for renovations.

Renovations include audiovisual enhancements, acoustical treatment, lighting and a video wall of 150 inches, according to GC director of administrative services, Carlos Carrasco.

Carrasco said the pit will be ready sometime in January.

The size of the pit will not be increasing, but there will be an improvement in the quality of the space, he said. According to Carrasco, past presentations at the pit have been substandard.

"It's hard to hear, the lighting is poor and the audio is muffled sometimes," Carrasco said. "There's too much bouncing around the sound. So unless you're there at the

front [of the pit] or two rows at the front, you can't really hear what's going on," he said. "It makes it hard to enjoy the presentation."

The company in charge of the construction is the Turner Construction Company.

According to Carrasco, the total cost of the project is \$250,000, which includes the equipment, construction and acoustics.

Students who made reservations to use the pit were notified two or three weeks in advance. Plans to renovate the pit began in November 2014, Carrasco said.

Carrasco also said that the Center planned to start the renovations in November because of holidays and final exams.

"So, there's not a whole lot of events going on," Carrasco said.

He said students will now be hosting events mainly at the lawn on the north side of campus, the Green Library Breezeway and the Betty Chapman Plaza.

Students continue walk on water tradition in event

MELISSA BURGESS
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Every year, architecture professor Jaime Canaves tasks his students with an assignment: to walk on water.

The annual Walk on Water competition event began in 1989, with Canaves' leadership, but didn't stick until 1993.

This will be the 22nd year the competition has been held at the Green Lake, the 175-foot lake behind the Green Library.

Canaves' students, as part of his Materials & Methods Construction class, will compete to see who can cross Green Lake the fastest.

Students must create aquatic shoes that can float on water and sustain a person as they walk.

The idea came from a project assignment that Canaves worked on when he was an architecture student.

"We did a similar project of building boats out of cardboard," Canaves said.

"I had a lot of fun and, even though it's great to follow a tradition from other schools, I think that my students could be more creative. I thought they should do something a little bit different, so I came up with the idea of creating shoes to walk on water."

Getting an 'A' requires students to make it from one side of the lake to the other.

Students who successfully maneuver across the lake are also rewarded with the opportunity to drop an exam.

The University also gives scholarship awards to the winners. First place gets \$1,000, second place gets \$750 and third place gets \$500. If the student breaks the record for best time across the lake - currently set at one minute, three seconds, they get an additional \$1,000.

Canaves said that his students spend a lot of time in the studio preparing for this assignment.

SEE WATER, PAGE 4

Highlights from Board of Governors meeting



CAMILA FERNANDEZ/THE BEACON

The University hosted the Board of Governors and Trustees Summit Wednesday, Nov. 4 and Thursday, Nov. 5. Representatives of the 12 Florida public universities discussed the future of academics in the state.

PHILIPPE BUTEAU
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The State University System's Board of Governors updated the performance funding model and approved for the first time a system-wide Strategic Plan for Online Education during their two-day marathon of meetings.

The Board approved a tiebreaker for its performance funding model and agreed to change the model from a 25-point to a 50-point scale.

The Strategic Plan for Online Education charts a path for online education out to the year 2025 and continues the system's growth in online student enrollments, as well as strategies to reduce student and institutional costs.

The BoG focused on innovation and student success with their passing of the above measures, which were former Board Chairman Mori Hosseini's initiatives.

"The opportunities in front of us with online education are enormous," Hosseini said. "Our state can only gain the full benefit of that if we establish ambitious goals and a plan to meet them,"

he said.

For the second consecutive year, the University hosted the Board of Governors' Trustee Summit which took place simultaneously with the Board meeting. The event took place at the Graham Center Ballrooms Wednesday, Nov. 4 and Thursday, Nov. 5.

The University's Board of Trustees members and University President, Mark B. Rosenberg, welcomed speakers Benno Schmidt, chairman of the City University of New York and Ken Ford, founder and CEO of the Institute for Human Cognition and Albert Manero, the inventor of the bionic arm prototype.

Manero, the founder of Limbitless Solutions, announced during the meeting that his nonprofit is working on a "12 Arms for Christmas" initiative, which will deliver 12 prosthetic arms to children in 11 states around the country in time for the holidays. Limbitless has now added a team of students from the University of Florida as the first Limbitless branch site.

"This initiative provides an opportunity for us to give arms to more children while at the same time training dozens more engineers to use this

technology," said Manero, who's earning a Ph.D. in aerospace engineering. "It puts us one step closer to ensuring that families do not have to pay for their child to receive an arm."

Governor Rick Scott spoke to the Board of Governors and the

"The opportunities in front of us with online education are enormous."

Mori Hosseini
Former Board Chairman

university's boards of trustees Nov. 4 about the importance of being responsive to the state workforce and preparing students for successful careers.

The speech followed a letter to university stakeholders in which he asked for feedback on how universities can meet the demand of Florida's fastest-growing companies and increase communication with students about the salaries they can expect by degree.

Department of Economic Opportunity Director, Jesse Panuccio,

who was Scott's general counsel's office from January 2011 to 2013, updated Board members on the health of Florida's economy.

Jobs in Florida grew by 3.4 percent since Scott took office. It's the fastest of the nation's ten most populous states.

Panuccio also touted Think Florida: A Higher Degree for Business, the State University System's unified campaign to build connections with the business community.

The Board heard a presentation on the success of Florida's Targeted Educational Attainment Grant Program. The TEAm Grant Initiative, funded with \$15 million from the Governor and Legislature, debuted in early 2014 and is "helping to close workforce gaps in accounting and computer information and technology," according to an SUS press release.

Florida Student Association President and Board of Governors' Student Representative, Tonnelle Graham, updated the Board on campus food pantry initiatives. Graham said 10 universities have food pantries on their campuses and others are in the planning stages.

NATION & WORLD BRIEFS

New Israeli chief of diplomacy once called Obama anti-Semitic

The appointment of a new public diplomacy chief by Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu kicked up a storm of controversy Thursday when it emerged that the nominee had suggested President Barack Obama was anti-Semitic and derided Secretary of State John Kerry in Facebook postings. The revelations about the appointee, Ran Baratz, who lives in a settlement in the occupied West Bank and is a founder of a right-wing website, came on the eve of Netanyahu's planned visit to Washington, where he is scheduled to meet with Obama next week in an effort to patch up strained relations.

Donald Trump's SNL appearance raises questions about media ethics

In June, NBC cut ties with Donald Trump as immigration advocates led furious protests over his allegations of Mexican immigrant "rapists." This weekend, the network is presenting him as the host of the storied "Saturday Night Live" as protests throb at its front door, complete with a petition signed by more than half a million people. The controversy erupted just one week after NBCUniversal took heat from the other side of the political spectrum – the Republican National Committee and Republican candidates, including Trump himself – over moderators' questions at a debate hosted by one of the company's cable affiliates, CNBC.

TRIBUNE NEWS SERVICE

Catholic Panthers to host abortion discussions

NICOLE MONTERO

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A total of 730,322 abortions were reported to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention in 2011, a five percent decrease from 2010.

According to Kristina Maldonado, the president of Catholic Panthers, the number is still high.

"Today, these topics are all hush-hush and avoided," Maldonado said. "Keeping the child is not going to wreck your life and [we are] raising awareness on the negative consequences on aborting your child and the emotional consequences, which aren't really talked about either."

Catholic Panthers, in collaboration with other organizations, will be hosting an open discussion to talk about the "right to be born" and the different options available for couples facing an unwanted pregnancy. The event will take place Nov. 12 at 7p.m. in AHC5 Room 212.

Maldonado hopes to get people to understand the pro-life mindset, a social and political movement in the United States that opposes abortion and believes that human life begins at conception, and stray away from pro-choice, a movement that advocates a woman's right to choose to have an abortion. The pro-life and pro-choice movements may have started with the

1973 Roe v. Wade Supreme Court decision, which decriminalized and legalized elective abortion in a number of states.

Maldonado wants students to come to discuss this at the event, all while bringing their own opinions and viewpoints for debate.

"Our event is non-religious and non-political," she said. "It's an educational event based on the fact that, at conception, even if people just say they're cells, there is a baby. Scientifically, there is a child there. If the cells were not disrupted, a human would form. A person like you and I would be born."

Some students are skeptical about attending the event.

"I just don't know why I would go," said Ernesto Menendez, a freshman biology major. "The truth is that it already seems like these people are going to try to convince me to be pro-life. Heck, just look at the title of the event: right to be born. I might just go over and fight them on this."

Claudia Hernandez, a sophomore women's studies major, is excited to attend.

"Of course I'll be there," she said. "Who else is going to tell them that pro-choice is not only significant to our laws but to women in general? Women have the right to choose what to do with their bodies. You mean

to tell me that if a woman gets sexually assaulted and ends up pregnant she has to keep that child? No one is going to do that."

Maldonado believes that there are more options, rather than aborting.

"The pro-life community is here to support those who are in crisis pregnancies, so it's not to look down upon them," she said. "We're not here pointing a finger at them. Let's raise awareness about other options, like adoption. There's people who would love to have a child and can't [conceive]."

The event is a collaboration between Catholic Campus Ministry, Respect Life Ministry Archdiocese of Miami, Franciscans of Life and the South Dade Pregnancy Help Center.

Analisse Herrera, a junior Italian language major, is glad that the University is hosting an event that can raise awareness on the potential consequences of abortion.

"You're killing a child, you know?" Herrera said. "Some people don't think it's formed yet but, within the month, they have fingernails. They're real human beings. Who are we to say when someone should or shouldn't be born? We are not God, so let's stop acting like we are."

Read the full story at fiusm.com

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The reality of being a trans woman and a minority

COLUMNIST



NICOLE STONE

Friday, Nov. 20 marks the day we mourn the transgender individuals who fell at the hands of discrimination, hatred and injustice. The murders of trans women, especially those of color, are seeing a devastating statistic that is steadily on the rise.

According to the “The Advocate,” an LGBT-interest magazine, 2015 has observed the murder of 21 transgender

women of color. This is nearly double the 13 souls lost in 2014.

It is already difficult to be a non-white member of society. However, to be a person of color with a gender identity that is in disagreement with the way society perceives your body is what Dan Capote, president of the Stonewall Pride Alliance, calls standing at the “intersection of oppressions.”

“In our human culture... there is greater respect for white people; and white people’s bodies and white people’s agencies. And there is lesser respect for people of darker skin colors,” said Capote.

To be a person of color while also identifying as transgender or non-binary means stepping outside the “script” of what is deemed as “normal.” We use scripts so we know what to expect and so that we can prepare a response. If the script isn’t followed because of this problematic dependence on the script, the response can be deadly.

According to Capote, a white trans woman may be assaulted, catcalled or just beaten severely, but she won’t be murdered. A black, hispanic or native trans woman would be murdered.

While racism plays a huge role in the marginalization of trans people, there is also an issue with how gender and gender identity is represented in the media.

Capote explained that social stigmas against feminine men have created this strong tendency towards their portrayal as villains in television, comics, literature and many other storytelling



According to the “The Advocate,” a LGBT-interest magazine, 2015 has observed the murder of 21 transgender women of color. This is nearly double the 13 souls lost in 2014.



mediums. Their femininity is used to emphasize the manliness of the hero.

Capote specifically brought up the “man in the dress” trope, in which a man must dress as a woman to deceive other men. The example he used was Bugs Bunny dressing as a woman to trick Elmer Fudd out of hunting him. When this trope arises, especially in children’s media, a seed is planted towards the idea that a trans woman is a “man in a dress;” a deceiver.

“This perception of trans people as deceivers, as harmful [and] as tricksters, is a big part of the violent murders.” Capote said.

With these murders of transgender individuals, the persisting issues of both homophobia and racism atop the harmful representations we still see in storytelling, we as a culture have a long way to go until we reach equality.

We have witnessed some overdue victories such as the legalization of gay marriage. Other overdue victories will be the day people can walk the streets without anxiety, and when “gay” stops being used as an insult, or used synonymously with the word “stupid.”

There are still so many parents, friends and families who fear for the very lives of their loved ones because hatred has placed a taboo on who they are.

Capote emphasized that a step towards a solution would be to “humanize the problem.”

“There are people and lives that are being affected by these laws and these perceptions and these societal constructions...” says Capote.

As the support system to an individual who identifies as transgender, as the daughter of a gay man, as a human being who becomes disheartened every time a news station needs to mention the word “murder,” I acknowledge this as a crisis.

People are dying for acceptance, or dying from the lack thereof. Humanity faces a time where the saying “be yourself” remains advice that is difficult to follow. My advice for humanity is to remember to be humane.

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Labor for inmates should not be a requirement

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We have known for years that the United States has had a huge issue when it comes to mass incarceration. Though our country contains only five percent of the world’s population, we house 25 percent of the world’s incarcerated population according to The Drug Policy Alliance, an advocacy group. The Huffington Post states that over 60 percent of people who are incarcerated in federal prisons are there for reasons that are nonviolent.

Undoubtedly, large companies are taking advantage of this system. They know that inmates are essentially powerless. They don’t get time off, breaks, vacations or even insurance since they are behind bars. This is a cheap way to get people to work for you without having

to take on full responsibility of their well being.

To make matters worse, disciplinary action is taken when inmates refuse to comply. Inmates can be placed under solitary confinement, have credit for good behavior revoked and can have family visits taken away.

The labor of inmates have been used in agriculture, mining,



According to the Business and Human Rights Resource Centre, popular companies such as JCPenney and Starbucks are just some of the big names that use penal labor to get ahead.



because those laborers are “criminals?” Inmates are still people and are entitled to basic human rights. Just because something is legal does not mean it is right or ethical.

My concern is that people may become apathetic towards those serving time in jail. We can agree that inmates deserve steep consequences for their unlawful actions, but exactly what type of consequences?

Companies are not hiring inmates as a way to “punish” them. They are hiring them for their selfish benefit to cut costs and avoid the complications or limitations of having actual employees.

This causes more problems in a criminal justice system plagued with institutional racism, corruption and bias. Evidence shown by the Innocence Project indicates that minorities and whites take part in nonviolent criminal activity in comparable rates, yet minorities are jailed more frequently and with harsher punishments.

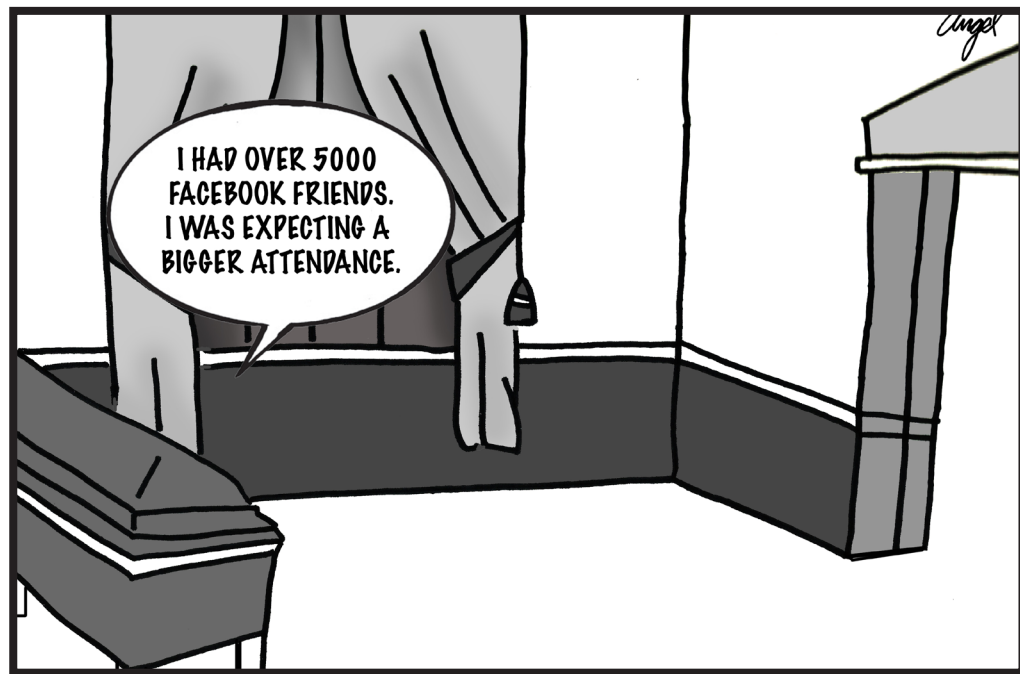
So what should we do about this problem? A good starting point would be to make labor voluntary, not mandatory, for inmates.

The fact that a lot of prison labor is somewhat forced on inmates is the primary issue. They should be given the choice to work for these companies. They shouldn’t be subjected to harsh punishment if they do not choose to work.

Removing them from interaction with their loved ones, or humans in general, could take a toll on them mentally and emotionally. In turn, this could hamper chance at rehabilitation. If the end game of incarceration is in fact to rehabilitate inmates, shouldn’t we remove barriers to rehabilitation instead of creating them?

We Americans may love our products and fancy clothes. However, they should not come at the expense of actual human beings; whether they are “criminals” or not.

THIS FUNERL IS DEAD



ANGEL BANEGAS/THE BEACON

manufacturing and more. According to the Business and Human Rights Resource Centre, popular companies such as JCPenney and Starbucks are just some of the big names that use penal labor to get ahead.

How much would you want to wear your favorite pair of jeans or drink your favorite macchiato if you knew what really happened behind the scenes? We know that sweatshops are wrong, but what about prison labor?

Is this acceptable

SEND US YOUR LETTERS

Have something on your mind? Send your thoughts (400 words maximum) to opinion@fiusm.com or drop by our offices at either GC 210 or WUC 124. With your letter, be sure to include your name, major, year, and copy of your student ID. The Beacon will only run one letter a month from any individual.

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HUMANS OF FIU



Humans of FIU is a photography project that aims to expose the variety of personalities and stories of students, faculty and staff of the University.

Matt Bendet, BBC Library Staff and Alumni, Class of 2008, Major: Political Science, Journalism

"Actually, I've been asked a couple of crazy questions. One time it was, 'Where's the library?' And another it was, 'Where's the exit?' So I'm kind of like... 'over there' (points to door about 10 feet away from him). I think they were probably new students that had no idea what this building was. Maybe they thought it was the bookstore. Who knows."

Students showcase the beauty of Latin jazz

RICARDO CHAVEZ
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The University is well-renowned due to its eclectic vibe and multicultural student body.

It's no surprise then that, Tuesday, Nov. 3, the Florida International University Jazz ensemble enticed viewers not only with their renditions of well-known Latin classics, but with their original compositions. They attempted to purvey the Spanish ambiance that seemingly fills the university in the Wertheim Performing Arts Center.

Some of the

selections that were played during the show included "Pure Spirit," "Five for Elvin," "Iracuba" and "To Brenda with Love."

The musical spectacle was directed by Mike Orta, an associate professor and the Director of Jazz Performance, who has also traveled across the globe in an attempt to display the importance of musical knowledge to foreign individuals.

Many students and university staff alike came to witness the event. Some individuals stressed the importance of a culturally driven event.

"Musical showcases

like these display

the hard work and dedication put forth by the performers of the event, all of which are students," Natalie Lopez, one of our university students, said. "Their perseverance is not only an attempt to play good music, but to bring a culturally enriching atmosphere within an already diverse campus."

Another student, Jose Fuguet, also enjoys the eclectic side of Jazz.

"If there is one thing I like about Latin jazz, it's the pure and raw feeling that it carries. If you can't move to the sound of Latin jazz, you need to get yourself

checked out," Fuguet said.

Annia Balcazar, a music instructor, was truly impressed with the performance.

"All in all, the Latin music performance within FIU truly exceeded my expectations," Balcazar said. "The mere fact that the show was so easily accessible is mind-blowing."

Students to walk on water

WATER, PAGE 1

"Students use the design process, sketching, creating ideas, investigation, traction," he said. "I always advise them to test their prototypes ahead of time."

Kevin Kasmai, a sophomore majoring in architecture, has been preparing for this project

by doing research online and by looking at shoes used in previous years.

"I'm pretty confident in my design being able to survive the trip across the lake," said Kasmai.

He explained his technique by using solid Styrofoam coated in a thick layer of gorilla tape. He said the fins on the bottom are deep in the foam and are secured with caulk, a waterproof filler and sealant used typically in building work and repairs.

"I'm not too worried about my design coming apart in the lake," he said.

Canaves said that this project is important for students because it's very similar to the complexity of designing and constructing a building.

"In any exam, you are testing memory and knowledge, but it doesn't build anything at all," Canaves said. "Students are going to be responsible, in the future, for designing buildings and making sure they have strong foundations. This project is a similar process where the students have to design, build, look at the collections, see how it performs and how it works. It's similar to the cycle of the designing of a building."

But Kasmai is nervous.

"I would love to say I'm only excited for the competition, but an entire exam grade is riding

on the success of the shoes. I'm pretty nervous," he said. "At this point, I'm going to be happy by just making it across the lake."

Kasmai said he's making his sister walk across the lake due to her small size.

"I don't want to make a fool out of myself so having [her] do it alleviates me of some of my nervousness," he said.

Canaves said the youngest person to ever participate was a 9-year-old girl who competed in place of her mother and came in ninth place, while the oldest was a 67-year-old female student.

"It doesn't even matter who you are, what their size is, anyone can do it," Canaves said.

Walking on Water has been an FIU tradition for the past 26 years. Previously, the event has been covered by news stations, including Channel 10, Channel 7 and Channel 2.

This year, the event will take place Tuesday, Nov. 11 at 11:30 a.m. behind the Green Library.

The event is free and open to the public.

"There will be a documentary about this event that will cover the past 25 years, and it would be a dream for more students around the world to participate in Walk on Water, turning this annual tradition into an international affair," said Canaves.

INTERNATIONAL OPPORTUNITY



NICOLE MEZA/THE BEACON

Carlos Fernandez (front right), a freshman marketing major, signs up for information at the International Study Opportunities Fair held in the College of Business Complex Lobby Thursday, Nov. 5.

University presents TEDxFIU

CAMILA FERNANDEZ
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People with autism do not live in their own world, they live in ours, said Patricia Kayser.

Kayser, a senior liberal arts major, talked about her purpose in life to help people with autism through music at the fourth annual TEDxFIU on Thursday, Nov. 5.

TEDxFIU is a self-organized event branded TEDx, which is a nonprofit organization devoted to spreading ideas in the form of short, powerful talks.

Kayser and a group of six other women have served more than 250 families who cope with autism. Two years ago, she created a nonprofit organization called, "Autism and Music," to enhance the quality of life for people with autism through music interaction.

Kayser was inspired by her 15-year-old brother who was diagnosed with autism at the age of three. She realized that music helped him to socialize more when she played with him the guitar.

"It's like music unlocked something in him," said Kayser. "It's through him that I found my path in life."

One in 68 U.S. children has an autism spectrum disorder, a 30 percent increase from one in 88 two

years ago, according to a 2014 report by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

According to the American Music Therapy Association, music therapy brings into effect changes in behavior and it facilitates development of skills.

"Music lets people with autism feel free. It gives them the opportunity to release stress and to interact and socialize with others," Kayser said.

Todd Crawl, co-founder of the University's Sea Level Solutions Center, also spoke at the event.

With about seven and half billion people living on Earth, the percent of carbon dioxide in the atmosphere is higher than ever before, according to Crawl.

"And the really bad news is, it's increasing faster than we've ever thought possible. The science is clear," said Crawl.

Crawl is also the director of the Southeast Environmental Research Center, whose research focuses on aquatic ecology and urban stream ecology.

Crawl said that sea level would rise by five feet with an increase of .8 degree Celsius in global temperatures. This would significantly change the landscape of South Florida.

"We're not sure if that's 85 years or a 100 years or a 120 years, we're collecting those data now

and then in the next 10 or 20 years, we'll have much better refined judgement to actually say when this will

it was drained for urban development.

"We didn't know that the Florida Everglades

"We have to accept the signs and data in front of us. We can use that to our advantage. We have

his grandson's generation will not emit carbon dioxide and that it will use alternative fuel that has yet to be thought of.

"I want him to sit on the same beaches with his grandson like he and I do."

Other speakers at the event included Nelson Hincapie, a University 2006 alumnus, who works with children in foster care. He is currently mentoring adolescents who have aged out of foster care and are making a transition to independent living.

Carolyn Runowicz, Academic Affairs executive associate dean and a gynecologic oncologist at the University's Herbert Wertheim College of Medicine, talked about a breakthrough in removing cancer cells.

She and Sakhrat Khizroev, an electric and computer engineering professor, are using nanotechnology to selectively target cancer cells to possibly offer new and innovative treatment.

However, they have only been able to use the technology successfully on lab rats.

"We actually, in the real-time, can see, can monitor the process. We can see where the particles with the [nanotechnology] how they go inside the cancer cells," said Khizroev.

They hope to help impact ovarian cancer and eventually eradicate all cancer.



CAMILA FERNANDEZ/ THE BEACON

Master of Ceremonies, Alberto Padron, hosts the fourth annual TEDxFIU on Thursday, Nov. 5. Speakers like Todd Crawl, co-founder of the University's Sea Level Solutions Center and Rhett Williamson, a doctoral student in forensic chemistry, shared their stories.

happen and how fast it will happen," said Crawl.

He also said that the biggest problem now in South Florida is saltwater intrusion, which is the movement of saline water into freshwater aquifers. This can lead to contamination of drinking water sources.

According to Crawl, the Florida Everglades are responsible for maintaining freshwater; however, the Everglades is only half of its original size, before

were responsible for our freshwater, and we definitely didn't know that the seas were rising," Crawl said.

Crawl presented different solutions to sea level rise.

He said that people need to look for alternative use of energy instead of fossil fuels, which account for about five percent of global carbon dioxide emissions, according to the Climate Consent Foundation.

to accept the challenge," Crawl said.

Crawl also said that oil companies need to put in the same amount of resources and efforts that they used when they looked into deep sea oil exploration.

"They went far and fast. That's the kind of thing we need," he said. "We need oil companies to rename themselves energy companies."

Crawl said that he feels a huge amount of hope that

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NICOLE MEZA/THE BEACON

WOMEN'S VOLLEYBALL

Panthers to celebrate Senior Night in final home game

STEFANO RIVERA
Contributing Writer
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The Florida International University women's volleyball team will be hosting its final game at Lime Court this season on Sunday, Nov. 8, at 1 p.m.

The Panthers will be celebrating Senior Night, as four players will be taking the court at home for the final time. These include outside hitter, Lucia Castro, Middle blocker, Gloria Levorin and liberos, Adriana McLamb and Jovanna Santamaria.

The Panthers will face off against the University of North Texas (16-11 8-4 in Conference USA). The Mean Green are currently third in the conference standings and will look to improve their record in their final road game of the season.

FIU is sixth in the C-USA standings, but will need to gather up a few more wins in order to remain one of the top eight teams to make the conference championship. The Panthers are tied with Florida Atlantic University, who holds the seventh spot and only one game ahead of Marshall University, who's in eighth.

North Texas is currently fourth in the conference in hitting percentage (.237) and assists (1332 or 12.81 assists per set). The Mean Green struggle blocking the ball, as they rank 10th in blocks (1.97 blocks per set). The Panthers are first in that category with 2.55 blocks per set.

For North Texas, senior outside hitter, Carnae Dillard, leads the C-USA with 568 total kills 609.5 total points. Junior setter, Amy Henard, is seventh in C-USA in assists. Henard has totalled 893 throughout the season.

Last season, the Mean Green swept the Panthers in straight sets as they dominated

throughout the match. North Texas finished with 43 kills and a hitting percentage of .187. FIU finished with 23 kills and a .029 hitting percentage. Castro and Levorin combined for nine kills and McLamb had a match-high 15 digs.

On Friday, Nov. 6, the volleyball team got swept by nationally ranked, Western Kentucky University. The Lady Hilltoppers came into the matchup at No. 24 and showed why they were a force to be reckoned with. The Panthers will look to bounce back and hope to end a two-game losing streak at home.

FOOTBALL

FIU drops out of the picture, who could join?

PATRICK MAGEE
The Sun Herald
TNS

FIU's bowl hopes likely came to an end last week, making it unlikely that Conference USA fulfills its seven bowl tie-ins.

FIU (4-5, 2-3) is no longer in the bowl hunt thanks to its 31-17 loss at FAU Saturday. The Panthers should beat Charlotte this week, but there's no way they beat Marshall or Western Kentucky in the final two games.

Middle Tennessee (3-5, 2-2) will likely be 3-6 after facing Marshall Saturday, but it has three very winnable games after that -- at FAU, vs. North Texas and at UTSA.

Old Dominion (3-5, 1-3) and

UTEP (3-5, 1-3) both have a shot to reach six wins and bowl eligibility with a strong close. ODU appears to be the most capable of the two teams at the moment with UTSA, UTEP and FAU appearing to be winnable games. Both teams need to win this week and the Nov. 14 UTEP-ODU game in Norfolk, Va., could serve as an elimination contest.

Here's C-USA Bowl Projections for Week 10:

Gildan New Mexico Bowl -- Rice vs. Colorado State -- 1 p.m., Dec. 19 (ESPN)

Rice (4-4, 2-2) isn't quite as good as it's been in recent seasons, but the Owls have a good shot at winning three more with UTEP, UTSA and Charlotte still on the slate. They host

Southern Miss on Nov. 14, but that game is looking more like a loss for Rice. Colorado State is just 3-5, but it could be a favorite in its four remaining games -- Wyoming, UNLV, New Mexico and Fresno State.

R+L Carriers New Orleans Bowl -- Southern Miss vs. Arkansas State -- 8 p.m., Dec. 19 (ESPN)

This match-up seems fairly likely unless USM (6-3, 4-1) wins the Conference USA West and the New Orleans Bowl decides AGAIN that it wants Louisiana-Lafayette. Arkansas State (5-3) has a big game when it travels to Sun Belt co-leader Appalachian State (7-1) Thursday.

Miami Beach Bowl -- Western Kentucky vs. Houston -- 1:30 p.m., Dec. 21 (ESPN)

It's becoming more apparent that WKU (7-2, 4-0) can be beaten and Marshall appears to be the team capable of doing it in C-USA play. However, the Hilltoppers and Thundering Herd will play at Bowling Green, giving WKU the edge.

Popeyes Bahamas Bowl -- Middle Tennessee vs. Ohio -- 11 a.m., Dec. 24 (ESPN)

With FIU apparently out of the running for a bowl game, this is likely the place that MTSU (3-5, 2-2) will land if it reaches the six-win mark. Ohio (5-3) is looking like a seven-win team in a tough MAC.

St. Petersburg Bowl -- Marshall vs. Cincinnati -- 10 a.m., Dec. 26th (ESPN)

Marshall (8-1, 5-0) will probably be a 10-win team when

it goes to Western Kentucky in the regular season finale. Head coach Doc Holliday has done a great job of keeping the program rolling despite the graduation of star quarterback Rakeem Cato. I see Temple landing in Hawaii and Houston going to Miami so this spot opens up for Tommy Tuberville's Cincinnati squad (5-3).

Zaxby's Heart of Dallas Bowl -- Louisiana Tech vs. Washington -- 1:20 p.m., Dec. 26 (ESPN)

The Pac-12 has seven bowl tie-ins, but could have as many as 10 bowl-eligible teams this season. Washington will likely reach 6-6 and need a bowl home. Dallas seems a good fit.

FOOTBALL

Divisional races could go down to the wire

DOUG SMOCK
The Charleston Gazette
TNS

It would be good theater for Conference USA if Thanksgiving weekend turns into the league championship semifinals.

How about Marshall at Western Kentucky for the East Division title on Friday the 27th, followed by Southern Mississippi at Louisiana Tech on the next day for the West?

That's three weeks away and there's a little football to be played, but the chances are better each week.

The East picture is crystal-clear. WKU (7-2 overall) and Marshall (8-1) are both 5-0, with third-place Middle Tennessee (3-5, 2-2) already two losses out.

What does that mean? The Hilltoppers and Thundering Herd can absorb a loss in their two remaining pre-Thanksgiving games and still play for the East title on Black Friday. WKU plays

Florida Atlantic (2-6, 2-3) this Saturday, gets a week off and travels to Florida International (4-5, 2-3); MU travels to MTSU this weekend and hosts FIU.

In the West, Louisiana Tech (6-3 overall) and Southern Miss (6-3) are tied at 4-1, with the Bulldogs playing North Texas on Saturday and the Golden Eagles off. The only team that can mess the "semifinal" up is Rice (4-4, 2-2), which hosts Southern Miss on Nov. 14.

Tech booted the Owls out of the upper echelon with a dominating 42-17 win last Friday in Houston. The Bulldogs jumped to a 35-7 lead after the first possession of the second half, outgaining the Owls 455-281 for the game.

Jeff Driskel threw for four touchdowns and Kenneth Dixon ran for two, neatly accounting for the Bulldogs' six touchdowns. But the defense may be the bigger story, with safety Kentrell Brice (seven tackles, all solo)

called the unit's MVP.

"We only gave up two big plays for 60 yards and no touchdowns," said Tech coach Skip Holtz. "They have been scoring over 30 points a game and we held them to 10 points before the final drive when our 'twos' went in. Their quarterback scrambled so much because our secondary did such a good job that there was nowhere to throw the ball.

Growing pains at Rice
Speaking of Rice, the Owls have another Friday nighter, this time against Texas-El Paso. If the Miners (3-5, 1-3) win, the schedule favors them to become bowl-eligible. If they win, the Owls will be in very good shape.

It would be a boost for a team that has played 29 freshmen this year, tying Big 12 contender Texas Christian for the national high.

Nineteen of the Owls' 29 freshmen are redshirts, but 10 are in their first year on campus.

How well will they recover from being roughed up last week?

"One thing you learn at Rice University, nothing's impossible," said ninth-year coach David Bailiff. "You just have to keep working with them."

FIU's bowl follies
Conference USA's chances of filling all seven guaranteed bowl spots took a hit last week when Florida International fell to Florida Atlantic 31-17. FIU (4-5, 2-3) now has to beat Charlotte on Saturday, than split a Marshall/WKU final stretch.

The Panthers were held to 262 total yards, partly a product of seven sacks by the Owls (2-6, 2-3) for 57 yards. Two turnovers, including the "pick-six" thrown by Alex McGough, didn't help.

"We didn't pass-protect well enough, and that's not just on the offensive line," said FIU coach Ron Turner. "It's everyone involved, and we have to get rid of the ball."

How C-USA bowl chances

stack up:

In: WKU, Marshall, Louisiana Tech and Southern Miss.

Schedule favors it: Rice, MTSU (even if it loses to Marshall and falls to 3-6).

On shaky ground: FIU, UTEP. On very shaky ground: Old Dominion (3-5, 1-3).

Gasping: FAU.

Gone: North Texas (1-7, 1-4), Texas-San Antonio (1-7, 1-3).

Around the league

n Anthony Wales has settled in as WKU's featured back after the loss of Leon Allen. He ran for 186 yards and four touchdowns last week against Old Dominion, his third 100-yard game in a row. He was named C-USA's offensive player of the week.

n WKU and Louisiana Tech are the envy of line coaches across the nation, let alone in C-USA. Both teams have come close to starting the same line in all their games.

FOOTBALL

Panthers' defense get pounded

DAVID J. NEAL
The Miami Herald
TNS

Remember when FIU's 2012 defense, with 11 starters back and two future NFL players, imitated the mortgage market collapse that made Goldman Sachs a lot of money? Now, in a sequel, FIU's 2015 defense is starting to resemble the Greece economy.

Instead of a run on the banks, it's a run on the Panthers -- over five Conference USA games, FIU has allowed an average of 225.4 yards per game, 5.3 yards per carry. Only North Texas, winless this season before Saturday, allows more per game and per carry.

Florida Atlantic pounded FIU for 229 yards on 49 carries in Saturday's 31-17 upset of the Panthers. Two weeks earlier, Middle Tennessee ripped big holes for freshman Desmond Anderson, who racked up most of Middle's 200 yards rushing in a 42-34 Panthers loss. To the naked eye, it looked awfully similar.

"A few missed hits here and there," FIU senior middle linebacker Jephete Matilus said Saturday after the loss to FAU. "Our guys played hard defensively. Those guys found the creases and outleveraged us a bit."

Before the FAU game, sophomore outside linebacker Anthony Wint said, "They have a lot of two-back runs, which we struggled with against Old Dominion."

Though FIU routed Old Dominion 41-12, after three quarters with the game still in doubt, the Monarchs had 255 yards on 24 carries. Granted, 132 yards came on 57 and 75-yard runs that stood as Old Dominion's only two scores. Removing those still leaves 123 yards on 22 carries, a fat 5.6 a pop.

225.2 Rushing yards per game allowed by FIU in five C-USA games

5.3 Yards per carry allowed in conference games

Football Logic 101: if you can't stop the run, your pass rush must pay attention to play action fakes. Guess which team, with preseason all-conference defensive ends Michael Wakefield and Denzell Perine, is 12th out of 13 C-USA teams in sacks in conference games at (1.2)?

That, in turn, hurts the Panthers defensive rushing numbers. In college-affiliated football, quarterback sacks get subtracted from team and individual rushing totals, unlike the NFL's method of taking the yardage from team passing yards.

Why this collapse since the opening against Central Florida, when FIU owned the line of scrimmage (and before UCF's total disintegration)?

Though Wint tries to take personal responsibility for some of the run defense's problems, run defense usually starts in the middle. That first game, senior Darrian Dyson's Godzilla performance at defensive tackle set up junior middle linebacker Treyvon Williams for a team

high 11 tackles.

Williams hasn't played since suffering a knee injury against Louisiana Tech. That game, Dyson had as many unsportsmanlike conduct penalties as total tackles (one). He disappeared soon after. Literally, when coach Ron Turner didn't dress him the next two games. Figuratively, against Middle, Old Dominion and FAU to the point where one football source told The Herald that NFL scouts have stopped asking about him.

It's not all on Dyson, the most talented of FIU's defensive tackles. Defensive tackles Lars Koht, Leonard Washington and Imarjaye Albury (who missed Saturday's loss) have gotten pushed aside, also.

Excepting goal line plays, reading off the run play tacklers in the Middle Tennessee game sounds like roll call in an FIU defensive backs meeting. FAU completed only 16 passes, yet FIU's leading solo tacklers were freshman safety Tyree Johnson and senior cornerback Jeremiah McKinnon. Johnson and McKinnon were second and fourth in total tackles with sophomore safety Niko Gonzalez fifth.

Video: The emotion of FIU tailback Alex Gardner

FIU sophomore running back Alex Gardner, who ran for 105 yards on 20 carries against Florida Atlantic, was a bit upset after the Panthers lost 31-17. The loss hurts FIU's bowl eligibility chances. Video by David J. Neal

ATTENDANCE GOAL CLOSE

The official numbers say FIU will manage to stave off NCAA attendance probation.

FBS schools are required to average 15,000 per home game in actual or paid attendance. FIU's total official paid attendance after three of five home games is 48,327, an average of 16,109 per game.

With 26,673 over the last two home games, 13,337 per game, FIU will meet its attendance requirement. Saturday's noon game against Charlotte and the Nov. 21 2:30 p.m. regular season finale against Western Kentucky remain. For the latter, FIU might have to outscore one of the NCAA's most prolific offenses for bowl eligibility.

With two of five home games being attendance-crippling noon starts and no Power Five conference opponents visiting,

There was concern at FIU that the school would fall short of the requirement for a second consecutive season. Two consecutive seasons would put FIU one misstep from receiving a conference championship game ban and a bowl game ban.

This Saturday, FIU's attempting to boost the in-house attendance with a Salute to Hometown Heroes Day. Active or retired military personnel and first responders (fire, police, emergency medical folks) and their groups will receive free admission.

FOOTBALL

Panthers try to rebound from tough loss

DAVID J. NEAL
The Miami Herald
TNS

Perhaps instead of hip-hop or an incongruous Bob Dylan interlude, FIU football could've played Pick Up the Pieces for this week's practices stretching portion. They're trying to put their season back together while trying to piece together an increasingly banged-up lineup.

They said the right keep-a-go-in' words Wednesday. FIU coach Ron Turner said Tuesday's practice was so good, he had to scold players to gear down the physicality. But no scabs had grown over the scrapes left by Saturday's 31-17 loss to Florida Atlantic.

"We talked about it. We didn't play as well," senior defensive end Michael Wakefield said. "No excuses. We're going to, from now on, pick it up and not let it happen again."

"We've still got our goals set high. We're going to take it one game at a time and make it to this bowl game."

Sophomore quarterback Alex McGough picked it

as his worst game of the season, "If I could have that game back, I'd change a lot of things. Controlling what I could control, trying to lead the guys, push them harder, stuff like that."

McGough didn't mention the continual offensive line shuffling prompted by injuries, the latest to redshirt freshman Kai Absheer. Conference USA's best pass rush stamped FIU on Saturday for seven sacks. Nor did McGough mention the absence of FIU's most dependable receiver over the last three seasons, junior tight end Jonnu Smith.

No football team hits the home stretch with bodies feeling September good. Then there's having both your Mackey Award Watch List security blanket tight ends out, perhaps for the season. Senior tight end Ya'Keem Griner and his injured foot were last seen in the dreaded walking boot. On Wednesday, Smith wore no pads but a left knee brace after missing Saturday's game. Turner said he did some work and is "day-to-day."

"The football smarts they

both have we really miss out there," McGough said. "It's tough. They make a lot of great plays, plays you don't see they make. It's tough to fill that void. Akil (Dan-Fodio) is stepping in. He's doing nicely. And [freshman] Mac [Carey]. You hate to see two of your best players go down, but you keep fighting."

The absence of freshman Anthony Jones (hamstring) and fifth-year senior Anthon Samuel (ankle) meant other the sophomore Alex, running back Gardner, played every play Saturday.

Turner said he definitely couldn't do that again. He gave practice work to sophomore Alfonso Randolph and senior Lamarq Caldwell, though he expected Jones at least to be back this week against Charlotte.

"I don't know if I've ever been in a situation where I had this many guys out," FIU coach Ron Turner said. "The number is going to be well over 100 games missed by starters or guys who play a significant amount of time. That's tough to overcome."

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Objectification vs. empowerment discussion at BBC

FRANCOIS CARDIER
Contributing Writer
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Students met up last Wednesday at the Biscayne Bay Campus at the “Lunch, Learn and Lean in” event organized by the Women’s Center of FIU. The event was set as an open forum for the discussion of the subject “empowerment versus objectification” and it raised the question “who has the power?”

The event started with a presentation that encouraged people to voice their opinions and preferences. The presentation was conducted by Rogihanee Avin, an assistant of the Women’s Center.

“Now, what is objectification for you?” said Avin. Attendees pondered for a while. One by one, people casted their opinion.

During a discussion about Miley Cyrus’ appearance at the “MTV Video Music Awards” in 2013, the participants were asked whether her performance was empowering or objectifying.

“Objectification depends on



SUDYEN NAVARRETE/THE BEACON

Rogihanee Avih, a senior english major presents “Lunch, Listen and Lean,” where students are able to discuss certain topics about society, such as the empowerment of women and equality Wednesday, Nov. 4 in WUC Room 157.

a personal line and everybody personal line,” said Michael business major.

knows when to draw their Talalaevisky, a sophomore Questions led to opinionated

answers that divided the luncheon attendees on the different topics discussed during the presentation.

Meredith Morgan, coordinator of the Women’s Center, voiced her opinion during the event and maintained the topics moving so that everyone had an opportunity to speak.

“As the [society] structure is set, the way society is, women are more objectified than men,” said Morgan, during a discussion about the objectification between men and women

During this discussion, the example of Caitlyn Jenner and her public gender change this past year came up.

“Take, for example, Caitlyn Jenner. When she was Bruce Jenner, people talked about his athletic achievements and stuff like that, but when he became Caitlyn all she was, was her gender and her body,” said Morgan, illustrating her previous point.

Chicken wings, chips and salsa provided fuel for the debate of ideas that lasted until 2 p.m.

Coral reefs in danger: can they be saved?

DAVID HELVARG
Los Angeles Times
TNS

Two Steps is a perfect snorkeling spot on the Big Island of Hawaii. Black lava rocks step down twice into the clear waters of a small bay where, on a good day, you’re guaranteed to see brightly colored fish and green sea turtles shoaling through myriad forms of coral in shades of brown, green, yellow, pink and purple.

But if you happened to visit last month, you would have found about 30 percent of the corals bleached wedding-cake white.

It’s a sure sign that the ocean is heating up.

Overly warm water causes living coral polyps to expel the photosynthetic algae, called zooxanthellae, that give them their varied colors and about 70 percent of their nutrients.

If the bleaching lasts too long, the corals starve to death.

All of Hawaii’s coral reefs are

bleaching this year, a “really serious problem,” says Sheila McKenna, a marine ecologist at Hawaii Volcanoes National Park. And a problem that seems to be accelerating.

With the return of a strong El Nino in the Pacific Ocean and the continued effects of global warming, the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration has just declared the third global coral bleaching event in history (the first two took place in 1998 during an earlier El Nino and in 2010).

Ninety-five percent of U.S. corals, which are mostly concentrated off the coasts of Hawaii and Florida, are likely to be exposed to conditions that can cause bleaching.

Tropical coral reefs cover less than 1 percent of the ocean, but they are home and nursery to 25 percent of all marine species.

Billions of fish, mollusks and other creatures rely on reefs for their food and shelter. Their beauty generates tourism

dollars, and they act as barriers providing storm protection for millions of coastal residents.

Unfortunately, they are especially fragile in the face of pollution, ocean acidification, overfishing and climate change. Most are not expected to survive this century.

There is some hope. Emerging science suggests coral reefs that are fully protected from pollution and overfishing are more resilient to the impact of climate change.

That’s one reason a coalition of Hawaii-based groups is calling for an emergency moratorium on the collection of aquarium-trade fish off their reefs.

At the same time, those who care about coral are looking at triage — not every reef will survive.

Wayne Levin, whose underwater photographs can be found in the Museum of Modern Art in New York, recently sent me a distressed email from the Big Island:

“I just returned from a one-month trip to the mainland. ... When I dove at Keauhou (Bay) I was utterly shocked. ... There was an enormous amount of bleached coral. At Honaunau (Two Steps), it was even worse. Almost all the beautiful plate coral along the drop-offs was bleached. Yesterday I dove Ho’okena (Beach) and all the cauliflower and antler coral was bleached. I was completely blown away. ... When I left in mid-September all seemed fine. When I returned in mid-October complete devastation.”

Come December and the U.N. climate summit in Paris, our choices for the future will become as starkly black and white as Levin’s photographs of Hawaii’s bleached corals.

We can stay on our present path of multiplying disasters or adopt that most basic of survival axioms: If you find yourself in a hole, stop digging.

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