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FSU sexual assault case highlights campus issues

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Erica Kinsman, the woman who accused Jameis Winston of sexual assault at Florida State, reached a settlement with the university and has agreed to drop a Title IX lawsuit against the university.

FSU will pay Kinsman \$250,000, according to a release from the university. The school will pay her attorney an additional \$700,000.

"Although we regret we will never be able to tell our full story in court, it is apparent that a trial many months from now would have left FSU fighting over the past rather than looking toward its very bright future," FSU President John Thrasher said in a statement.

"We have decided to instead move forward even though we have full faith that the ultimate outcome of a trial would have been consistent with the previous law enforcement investigations and retired Supreme Court Justice Major Harding's findings in the student conduct hearing."

Kinsman's attorneys stated the lump sum payment of \$950,000 is the largest in history to a single plaintiff to settle Title IX discrimination claims of this kind for a school's indifference to a plaintiff's sexual assault.

"I'll always be disappointed that I had to leave the school I dreamed of attending since I was little," Kinsman said in a statement.

"I am happy that FSU has committed to continue making changes in order to ensure a safer environment for all students. My hope is that the federal investigation of my complaint by the Office of Civil Rights will produce even more

positive change, not just at FSU, but across the country."

FIU's "It's On Us" is a campaign meant to raise awareness of issues such as the aforementioned case at FSU.

According to Cathy Akens, associate vice president for Student Affairs and dean of students, "the campaign has allowed greater opportunities for dialogue among students and others in our University community."

In a previously published story According to a study from the National Institute of Justice, less than five percent of completed or attempted rapes against college women reported and rape survivors being faced with a 50 percent chance of developing PTSD, according to the study conducted by David Lisak from the University of Massachusetts and Paul M. Miller of Brown University School of Medicine.

Currently, FIU's main goal is to educate every single student and faculty member on how to stop sexual assault, in efforts of continuing the "It's On Us" campaign at the University.

Kinsman, under the name "Jane Doe," filed a federal civil lawsuit against FSU in January, stating that the school violated her Title IX rights by not appropriately investigating an incident in December 2012 during which she said she was raped by Winston. The state attorney's office did not charge Winston, FSU's starting quarterback, with a crime and retired Florida Supreme Court justice Major B. Harding determined during a hearing in December 2014 there was not enough evidence to indicate Winston violated the FSU student code of conduct.

Kinsman participated in a documentary and granted interviews,

VIOLINIST AT WORK



ERICA SANTIAGO/THE BEACON

Renata Garcia, a second-year grad student studying violin performance, rehearses a piece in the School of Music.

publicly identifying herself as Winston's accuser.

Kinsman, a former student at FSU, stated in her complaint that coach Jimbo Fisher and associate athletics director Monk Bonasorte knew of the sexual assault allegation in 2013. Attorneys representing the school maintained the claim was "insufficient to establish actual knowledge on the part of FSU," asserting there was no way for Fisher and Bonasorte to know that the woman accusing Winston of rape was an FSU student and that neither Fisher or Bonasorte can be considered an "appropriate person" under Title IX.

Thrasher said FSU's primary reason for reaching a settlement with Kinsman was to avoid "millions of dollars in additional litigation

expense."

"We have an obligation to our students, their parents and Florida taxpayers to deal with this case, as we do all litigation, in a financially responsible manner," Thrasher said.

"With all the economic demands we face, at some point it doesn't make sense to continue even though we are convinced we would have prevailed."

Students at FIU are able to visit the Student Health Center in order to educate themselves on topics from health to domestic violence.

Wendy X. Ordonez, coordinator of outreach and educational media of FIU, explained how "We would love for it to be a requirement for every class to host one of our presentations so students can get the information from someone who has been trained

in the subject."

FSU has implemented several measures to enhance its response to sexual assaults since 2013, including the hiring of a full-time Title IX director. The university is being investigated by the Office for Civil Rights of the U.S. Department of Education. Kinsman's complaint to the department sparked the federal investigation in March 2014.

Kinsman is still engaged in a lawsuit against Winston, who recently completed his rookie season with the Tampa Bay Buccaneers. Kinsman is suing Winston for sexual battery, and Winston is countersuing Kinsman for defamation.

Additional Reporting by TNS Staff

Wesleyan University latest to ban concealed firearms

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Texas Wesleyan University's campus is the latest to address the topic of concealed weapons on college campuses.

That's what Wesleyan President Frederick G. Slabach has decided, after gathering feedback from students and faculty at the private school over the past few months, and the university board of trustees affirmed.

"Texas Wesleyan's current weapons policy will not change and our campus will remain gun free," Slabach said in a letter to students, faculty and staff.

Texas Wesleyan's decision comes as private colleges across the state are trying to answer the same question of whether to allow concealed handguns on their campus.

"Our university is about one thing and one thing only: education," said Jay Brown, a psychology professor at Texas Wesleyan. "It's about faculty teaching and students learning. Anything that interferes with that process shouldn't be there."

In terms of public universities addressing concealed weapons on campus, the effort to permit concealed guns on the campuses of Florida's public colleges and universities was stalled last week by Senate Judiciary Committee Chairman Miguel Diaz de la Portilla.

"I think what we're talking about here is campus safety, and the best way to address that issue, and whether the proposed cure is worse than the disease," he said.

Lyndsey Bessinger, a junior and resident assistant at Wesleyan University, said she had mixed feelings about campus carry legislation.

"I personally saw merit in campus carry," the Fort Worth junior said. "(But) it would have been scary to have guns on campus ... roommates could always get a hold of them."

"I would have supported a decision either way."

Starting in August, Texas becomes one of a handful of states allowing concealed weapons to be carried on some college campuses, along with Colorado, Idaho, Kansas, Mississippi, Oregon, Utah and Wisconsin, according to the National Conference of State Legislatures.

This has been an increasingly controversial issue in Texas since lawmakers passed a "campus carry" law, letting licensed Texans carry concealed handguns into buildings at public universities as of August and at community colleges in 2017.

Private colleges have the ability to opt

out; public universities may create gun-free zones on part, but not all, of the campus.

In Florida, Allowing concealed weapons on campuses has widespread opposition from college and university presidents, campus police chiefs, the League of Women Voters and most Democrats, as well as several student and faculty organizations.

In a coincidence of timing -- and before Diaz de la Portilla's decision was widely known -- U.S. Rep. Debbie Wasserman Schultz expressed her disapproval of pro-gun bills moving through the Florida Legislature.

"I'm here to sound the alarm to make sure that they wake up and understand that they should be listening to people," she said. As a mother of twins who are juniors in

SEE FIREARMS, PAGE 2

NATION & WORLD BRIEFS

Uber is piloting smartphone tech to track speeding drivers

Silicon Valley, where tech can ostensibly solve anything, can it solve the problem of speeding drivers?

That's a question Uber might soon be able to answer. The San Francisco on-demand transportation company announced Tuesday it has been piloting a program that uses the gyrometers and GPS technology in its drivers' smartphones to measure movements such as vehicle starts and stops, as well as overall speed. The plan is to use the data to verify passenger feedback and to eventually use it to proactively improve safety.

"If a rider complains that a driver

accelerated too fast and broke too hard, we can review that trip using data," Uber's chief security officer, Joe Sullivan, said in a blog post. The pilot program, currently taking place in Houston, is one of several safety initiatives Uber has launched since it created its safety advisory board in November.

In January, the company announced it would refer potential drivers whose felonies could be reduced to misdemeanors to community resources to help them reintegrate into the workforce.

Ted Cruz takes another step down the path to evangelicals

Ted Cruz, who has focused on attracting evangelicals, may have gotten the ultimate "get" of endorsements this week: Phil Robertson, aka Duck Commander, reality TV star and gun-totin' preacher.

In an ad that is sure to appeal to those voters, Robertson, dressed in camouflage, said, "My qualifications for president of the United States are rather narrow: Is he or she godly, does he or she love us, can he or she do the job and, finally, would they kill a duck and put him in a pot and make him a good duck gumbo?"

"Not many evangelicals come out of Cuba," Trump has said at several campaign stops.

In his book, "A Time for Truth," Cruz said, "Although my mom and dad had both been raised in nominally Christian homes, faith at that time was

not real to either one of them."

Both his mother, Eleanor Darragh, and his father, Rafael Cruz, married their first spouses in the Catholic Church. According to the Travis County, Texas, marriage certificate obtained by McClatchy, Cruz married Julia Garza on April 5, 1959, at St. Austin's Catholic Church.

Cruz, born in Calgary, Alberta, in 1970 after his parents' 1969 marriage, himself may have been baptized in the Catholic Church. Gillian Steward, a journalist who knew Cruz's parents in Calgary and socialized with them before he was born, told McClatchy, "I think I went to his christening.

Cruz said in "A Time for Truth" that both his parents became born-again Christians. "In 1979, I too asked Jesus to be my savior at Clay Road Baptist Church," he wrote.

Wesleyan University addresses firearms issue

FIREARMS, PAGE 2

high school, she said, "it's really troubling and disturbing to me to think they could be on a college campus where another student may decide to solve a problem with a gun."

A separate measure allowing licensed Texans to openly carry holstered handguns throughout the state as of earlier this month does not apply to college campuses.

Texans with concealed handgun licenses have been able to carry on college campuses, but not in buildings, since lawmakers approved the concealed handgun law 20 years ago, lawmakers say.

This new measure lets them carry them into dorms or classrooms, instead of requiring them to take their handguns back to their vehicles before entering the buildings.

The only people legally allowed to carry concealed handguns on campus are those who have a concealed handgun permit, meaning they are at least 21 and have met requirements including training and proficiency tests.

Officials at public colleges have said the plan could cost nearly \$50 million in coming years, because additional officers, training, storage facilities and security technology would be needed, and that expense that might be passed to students.

Wesleyan has held a series of open forums and reviewed feedback from students, staff and faculty, as well as discussing the issue with the Student Government Association, Alumni Association Board, the Student Life Committee and the Board of Trustees Academic Affairs.

Slabach's letter to the campus noted that "the overwhelming majority of feedback" was to not allow campus carry.

He said many security upgrades have been made at the campus in the past two years, including adding 38 security cameras, electronic gates and fences around dorms, enhanced lighting across campus, a full-time security dispatcher, five security officers providing round-the-clock security and additional off-duty Fort Worth police officers who monitor the campus and basketball and soccer games.

And he said six emergency call boxes will

be installed around campus by mid-March.

Omar Dominguez, a student life ambassador and junior at Wesleyan, said he believes security guards protect those on campus.

"I trust Wesleyan security," he said. "They can handle the job."

In Texas, more than 925,000 people, around 4 percent of the state's 27 million residents, have a license to carry, according to the most recent Texas Department of Public Safety statistics.

Whatever the numbers, Zahraa Saheb, a 19-year-old junior originally from Iraq, said she's very glad trustees made Texas Wesleyan off limits to guns.

"Originally from Iraq, I grew up with guns," said Saheb, vice president of the TWU Student Government Association. "I don't want to be in a room with guns that could harm me or my peers."

Not everyone agrees.

During a campus carry forum last year, Alcira Katagiri, a 23-year-old junior from Arlington, said this is about public safety.

"I fear for my life ... when I go to class every day," he said. "Why not give us the possibility, the potential, to defend ourselves?"

And Breanna Lockwood said she understands that many people are afraid of

guns, but that fear isn't worth sacrificing anyone's life.

"Fear does not trump a God given right, a constitutional right," said the 20-year-old Arlington junior who plans to get a concealed handgun license as soon as she's 21. "We are not safe anywhere any more. That's just the harsh reality."

Even so, Dennis Hall, dean of students at Wesleyan, said the majority of people he spoke with about campus carry hoped the college would opt out.

"It's a scary proposition to think about ... guns on any college campus," he said. "I'm often speaking with students during very emotional, challenging times.

"Not having to have that worry (of anyone carrying a concealed handgun), ... not installing metal detectors, ... there's a certain amount of relief that comes with that."

Additional Reporting by TNS Staff

“It’s a scary proposition to think about...guns on any college campus.”
Dennis Hall
Dean of Students
Texas Wesleyan University

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Creativity holds value in this digital age

M TALK



MICHELLE
MARCHANTE

One of the great things about attending a university is that even if you're unsure of what you want to do with your life, you can take a variety of different courses to figure it out. By the same token, it's not uncommon to find people opting to major in something that will financially secure them instead of majoring in something they enjoy.

Everyone is different and everyone's reason for studying a major is theirs and theirs alone; but majoring in something that is deemed "safer" than a creative career, for example, should never be the reason one enters a major.

True, not everyone can paint like Leonardo Da Vinci, dance like Derek Hough, write like James Patterson or sing like Mariah Carey but while you can always improve your talent, it can't be taught. This doesn't just

extend to creativity, it extends to virtually everything. This is why society's way of telling us from an early age what careers we should have in order to be successful is so problematic.

Currently, if you look at the curriculum in any type of educational institution whether it be elementary, middle, high school, or even at the university level, you'll notice that there has been a strong push towards an education focusing on Science, Technology, Engineering and Math (S.T.E.M.) because it's thought that these skills will help a student achieve success.

Success comes differently for everyone, so why are people focusing on these subjects more than others like the arts, for example? While these subjects are important, schools push them as if they're the only subjects that matter and are completely disregarding the importance of helping students cultivate their creative skills.

This complete disregard for

creativity is ironic because, regardless of their medium, it's through the legacy of the creatives, through the artists' work, that our culture is preserved.

“This complete disregard for creativity is ironic because, regardless of their medium, it's the legacy of the creatives, through the artists' works, that our culture is preserved.”

In fact, according to an article in "Freshconsulting," studies have shown that "highly creative people are highly intelligent but highly intelligent people are not always creative," this therefore suggests that "creativity is simply a higher form of

intelligence." Yet people tend to think otherwise.

Everyone believes the societal stigma that in order to be successful you have to be a doctor, scientist, lawyer, engineer, etc. in some way; but the lack of initiative to try something else, like a creative outlet, doesn't help in breaking through this ideal especially with programs like S.T.E.M. around.

The digital era we live in may make it seem like we have more possibilities to express ourselves creatively than before but by not giving yourself the chance or the time to be creative, you're restricting yourself and therefore killing your creativity.

University professor, Martha Barantovitch, believes that creative works are absolutely essential for sustaining our culture.

"It gives us a sense of who we are. It helps us identify where we are in a particular place and time and it helps us see our growth and it also helps us know our past and it helps us kind

of look towards where we're going in the future," Barantovitch said. "Without creative works, especially in education-or creative works in society- we don't have an opportunity to kind of stop and identify who we are and where we are and what we want to do and where we want to go."

If we want the future of our world to be able to look back at its history, like we do presently, then we must strive to have creativity. Future generations must have access to everything, from our scientific discoveries, to our culture, to our laws and to our arts, after all there must be a reason why Albert Einstein said that, "imagination is more important than knowledge."

M Talk is a column that focuses on new and innovative events and ideas. For suggestions or comments please contact Michelle at michelle.marchante@fiusm.com

Immigrants are not a threat to American job security

POLITICOBUZZ



FABIENNE
FLEURANTIN

We are a nation of immigrants formed by the different cultures and customs of our ancestors. This is how our nation came together, and if this idea is challenged, it would forever redefine the history of America.

I am born from a family of immigrants who craved the pursuit of a better life. They had no idea what to expect, or what would happen to them during their journey. The only truth that was fixated in their minds was finding a place where they could forge a path for a potential future.

They were given the opportunity to make a new home. In that process, they changed the outlook of my circumstances, giving me the chance to live in America and I couldn't be more grateful for that. Overtime, they got their residency and became citizens of the United States of America.

According to the New York Times, the supreme court is in the process of reviewing the president's use of executive order and whether he was justified in attempting to create a "plan to protect millions

of illegal immigrants from deportation and allow them to work indefinitely in the country legally." It was "intended to allow as many as five million illegal immigrants who are the parents of citizens or of lawful permanent residents to apply for a program sparing them from deportation and providing them work permits. The program was called Deferred Action for Parents of Americans and Lawful Permanent Residents, or DAPA."

And while there are conflicted beliefs on whether Obama overstepped his boundaries as President, he approved this action with the right intentions.

The issue of immigration has been a heated topic of debate, often incurring negative reactions from many Americans. "A lot of people think immigrants mean less jobs for Americans; that they are taking our jobs, our lives, and our money, and that's not really the way it works," says Venezuelan student Ana Capdevielle.

Americans may feel threatened by the mass influx of immigrants, creating this idea that there will be less jobs available for them, but that is not the case. Many immigrants come here, running from fear of persecution, with no means of income, searching for a healthier

environment for themselves, and their families.

In the grand scheme of things, there are multiple benefits of immigrants residing here. They are helping the economy, and in turn, helping America prosper, not only economically, but through the promotion of diversity, a familiar concept to students at FIU.

We live in the heart of a thriving city, crossing paths with multiple ethnicities every day. This is what makes FIU so attractive, being open to numerous nations who unify together as one. Just as Venezuelan student Ana Capdevielle says, immigration is "something positive. You're adding more stuff to society, and the way I think may be different from you, but if we combine them, then something better can come from both of us."

PoliticoBuzz is a commentary that raises awareness about political issues in the US and worldwide. Fabienne Fleurantin is a contributing writer for FIU Student Media. For more commentary, contact her at opinion@fiusm.com

AMERICA!



SAM PRITCHARD-TORRES/THE BEACON

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Volunteers invited to restore nature preserve

LESLIE OVALLE

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Friday, Feb. 5, FIU's office of university sustainability will be hosting one of many nature preserve volunteer days planned for the semester. The event run from 1 p.m. to 4 p.m. and volunteers are required to meet at the north entrance of the nature preserve, across the street of the Wellness and Recreation Center.

The volunteer day will begin with a 15-minute tour of the university's nature preserve, a 14-acre environmental education facility that represents the Florida Everglades. It is home to three different ecosystems that are a habitat to many animals and plants, some of the flora found is considered threatened or endangered.

"The whole area was at one point clear but we are working on restoring it to what it would be had it not been touched," said Aubrey Burgess, a sustainability assistant for FIU's Go Green initiative.

The pine rocklands, one of the ecosystems found in the nature preserve, is found on higher ground, for this reason most of Miami-Dade County was built on this type of ecosystem. Today, the South Florida Pine Rocklands are one of the most endangered habitats in the world. According to Burgess, it has been reduced to about three percent of what it originally was.

The tropical hardwood hammocks, also found in the nature preserve, are found on higher elevations. They are habitat to many green, vegetated shrub and canopy layers, creating a tropical rainforest setting.

The third ecosystem found is the freshwater wetland, which mimics the everglades' complex wetlands that include dwarf cypress swamps, pond apple forests and sawgrass prairies. Some of these are only flooded seasonally.

"Our focus this semester is to continue clearing this area from invasive plants, which hurt the balance of the ecosystems," said Burgess.

The hands-on activities volunteers will partake in will include the removal of the invasive exotic plants.

"[The volunteer days] will help students relate to why it is important to preserve these areas," said Burgess.

Volunteers are required to arrive prepared in appropriate attire such as closed shoes, long sleeved shirts and long pants. Sun-protective gear is and a reusable water bottle are recommended.

It is not mandatory for individuals to register; however, if it is a group of five or more people the Office of University Sustainability should be contacted at 305-348-3717 or gogreen@fiu.edu

SHOWING A GREEN THUMB



MEGAN TAIT / THE BEACON

Yordany Lopez, a freshman in communications (right), Daniel Chaparro a junior in biomedical engineering (middle) and Maria Iragorry a sophomore in criminal justice (left) help out at the Nature Preserve by planting more plants on the trail.

FIU sex carnival to bring awareness

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Sex carnival is not the typical name of events going on campus, that's one of the many aspects that gives it a unique representation.

The sex carnival's goal is not only about informing students about how to stay safe, learn about consent, but also to explore many of the campus' resources.

The carnival will make the FIU community aware of the dangers that are

still out there, like unprotected sexual intercourse. This event will teach participants about safe sex practices, the importance of good sexual health and how to achieve it.

A survey by the Society for Adolescent Medicine shows that among college students who live away from home, 56 percent had been sexually active while attending college, and 73 percent of that group reported having unprotected sex while in college.

Overall, the Center for Disease control (CDC) estimates that 19 million new sexually transmitted infections

occur each year, almost half among 15 to 24 year-olds. According to nursingschools.net, STD rates are higher among teens and young adults than they are with any other age group because college is a time when many young people choose to explore their newfound freedom and that may lead to potential unsafe sexual situations.

The sex carnival will be happening in the graham center on Feb. 3 from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. The Healthy Living Program who organizes this event welcome all interested students.

Hubert Library hosts a culmination of science and art 'In Deep With Diatoms'

LESLIE OVALLE

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The Glenn Hubert Library at Biscayne Bay Campus will be opening the month of February with a new art exhibition--"In Deep With Diatoms."

Diatoms are single-celled organisms that have been on Earth since the Jurassic Age. They have been coined "champions of photosynthesis" by planktonchronicles.com and the Joing Genome Institute.

The exhibition will be welcomed Feb. 1 with a panel discussion at 3 p.m. in Hubert Library Room 175 and a reception at 4 p.m. in the ASK! Center on the second floor.

These microscopic organisms have been a topic of study and research at FIU, according to Bryan Cooper, associate dean of FIU libraries.

The Tropical Botanic Artists, a group who pursues the beauty of tropical flora through art and the artists participating in this exhibit, have history of collaborating with FIU science programs and students research.

"The artists created the diatom series in 2015 and we were fortunate to arrange for the exhibit to travel to the Hubert Library, after its tours at the National Park Service and the Frost Museum," said Cooper.

The panel discussion will be moderated by Xavier Cortada, Artist-in-Residence at FIU and internationally established artist. Also participating the panel will be Pauline Goldsmith, co-founder and artists at The Tropical Botanical Artists; Jim Elser, professor at Arizona State University; Nick Oehm, education and outreach coordinator at the Everglades Long Term Ecological Research Program; and Evelyn Gaiser,

interim executive director of the School of Environment, Arts and Society.

"Notable panelists will focus on the nexus of art and science, as represented through the paintings and ceramics," said Cooper.

The exhibit is free and will be open through the spring semester and is open to students, faculty, staff and the larger community.

"We would hope that students gain more awareness about the importance of art, design and creativity in the sciences," said Cooper, "how each area together can make individuals better-rounded [sic] and hence more successful in their academic, professional and personal lives."

RSVPs are appreciated so that catering can be planned appropriately. For this, Copper can be contacted directly at lbcooper@fiu.edu

Organic vegan smoothies: sustainable for your health

FEMMEAPPETITE

LESLIE ANGELA
BLANCO

Cooking isn't solely a woman's job—men have learned to cook too throughout the ages as a means of survival. In fact, surprisingly there are more male chefs than there are female chefs in spite of women being the overwhelming majority who cook domestically.

Chefs and professional cooks—even mothers or fathers who cook pour their heart and soul into the meals they are creating.

Let's face it: if you're in a terrible mood you won't make the best meal or even the best smoothie for that matter. In this article I am going to be describing the process of me concocting an organic vegan smoothie.

This is important. I'm a woman but can't cook to save my life.

I was inspired mainly due to learning how to become more health conscious and how to live sustainably the last couple of years. Smoothies, oats, fruits and morning shakes are some of the most nutritious foods to eat for breakfast. They're also surprisingly easy to make. First, I purchased organic frozen mixed berries from Costco (sourced from Cascadian farms). They include: blackberries,



LESLIE BLANCO/THE BEACON

raspberries, strawberries and blueberries. All contain potent antioxidants, which help the body fight toxins and free radicals. Ingesting berries or any fruit for that matter can also help the skin look more vibrant, clear, and radiant.

I added those fruits to a blender and almond milk to go with it, which is fantastic because almond milk is an excellent source of your daily intake of calcium, vitamin D, and not to mention it is vegan. Almond milk actually has a higher concentration of calcium and vitamin D than regular cow's milk. After this, I added water into

the mix to make the consistency of the smoothie smoother and easier to drink. After everything is mixed in together and blended I also like to add some fruits to put on top of the smoothie such as cut up banana pieces or blackberries to make it look more appetizing.

What I've recently discovered is that chia seeds, hemp and flax are also great additions to smoothies, yogurt, parfaits and oatmeal—all excellent sources of fiber and omega-3's. Lignans (plant based antioxidant) and alpha-linolenic acid are also included in these seeds. Both are

anti-inflammatory and can help lower cholesterol levels.

The benefits are substantial with these super foods. I particularly enjoy having this organic vegan smoothie in the morning as a healthy and strong start to my day. Also, if you want to sweeten the smoothie I would strongly suggest using organic raw honey as opposed to agave. Agave harbors more calories than sugar, and agave sweetener sold today is processed and refined. Many people may not know this, but honey contains powerful antioxidants comparable to fruit! Researchers say honey contains varying concentrations of polyphenols, which are antioxidants that are thought to reduce the risk of heart disease and cancer. Adding raw organic honey is just a plus to an already delicious and nutritious drink. I hope everyone can create this at home instead of buying them elsewhere; you'll find it is just as good—maybe even better. Enjoy a healthy and delicious addition to your meal while saving money and living sustainably.

Leslie is a staff writer for FIUSM, her column femmeappetite covers food, feminism and health. For questions or comments email leslie.blanco@fiusm.com

Serial season two returns: Bowe Bergdahl is now the new focus of the public

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The podcast that captivated a nation in 2014 has returned for a second season. Sarah Koenig and her staff at This American Life created a unique investigative thriller used to explore the 17-year-old murder of Hae Min Lee. Sarah and her staff explored the case using past interviews, and an ongoing conversation with Adnan Syed who was found guilty for the murder of Hae. The first season revealed the many inconsistencies of Hae's case and gained enough momentum to

grant Adnan a retrial using new evidence that was discovered during the podcast.

This season Sarah and her team are back with a new story. Season two is about Bowe Bergdahl, a United States Army soldier who abandoned his post in June 2009. Bergdahl left his platoon and basecamp, while stationed in Afghanistan at OP Mest. The Taliban held Bergdahl captive as a prisoner of war for five years. He is the nation's most recent prisoner of war. What makes Bowe Bergdahl's story interesting is that he voluntarily left his camp en route to a nearby camp called Sharana. Bowe's story is curious because of the

information he holds having been held captive for five years by the Taliban.

Serial explores Bowe's story much like they did Hae's murder, using phone calls from various parties involved like members in Bowe's, on one occasion even going as far as to speak with the Taliban herself with the help of a translator. However, there's one main difference between season one and season two. In season one where Sarah has an ongoing conversation with Adnan, the ongoing conversation is now between Bowe and filmmaker Mark Boal. Boal is interested in Bowe's story in hopes of making a new war film. In this season

Sarah is a listener, similarly how the audience listens to Serial and Sarah's perspective on the story, she's listening to a conversation between Bergdahl and Boal.

Serial season one was able to uncover new evidence in Adnan's case, but unlike season one Bowe's story is constantly evolving. Bowe Bergdahl was recently released on May 31, 2014; therefore his case and punishment have not yet been determined. As of Dec. 14, 2015 it was announced that the military would seek court-martial charges of desertion and misbehavior before the enemy. Bergdahl has been labeled a hero by some and a traitor by others. Serial hopes to

help the audience determine their own definition for Bowe. Bowe's story is interesting because of the information he holds having been held captive for five years by the Taliban.

The episode count for season two hasn't yet been determined because of the nature of the story Sarah just announced that season two is being extended past their initial 12 episode season. Serial is currently gathering new information to help further develop the story. New episodes are released biweekly every Thursday at 6:30 a.m. Serial is currently gathering new information to help further develop the story.

FRIDAY
JAN. 29

Art of crafting cocktails
7 p.m. @ the Regent Cocktail Club

Viernes Culturales
7 p.m. @ Calle Ocho

The Duke of Bachata
8 p.m. @ Miami Dade College Koubek Center

SATURDAY
JAN. 30

Butterfly conservatory
9:30 a.m. @ Fairchild Tropical Botanic Garden

SketchMIA: An urban sketch tour
10 a.m. to 12 p.m. @ AIA Miami Center for Architecture and Design

YOGA - South Pointe Saturdays!
5 p.m. @ South Pointe Park

Miami Beer Festival
6 p.m. @ Marlins Park

DINA SHENHAV: D.O.A
7 p.m. @ ArtCenter/South Florida's Litte River Edition

SUNDAY
JAN. 31

Voyage to Vietnam: Celebrating the Tet Festival

All day @ Miami Children's Museum

It's Only a Play
All day @ Gable Stage at Biltmore

Mariachi "Las Estrellas"
9 p.m. @ Mango's Tropical Cafe

Reggae Sundays
10 p.m. @ Jazod

Chocolate Sundays
10 p.m. @ Purdy Lounge

SOFTBALL

Standout earns preseason award

SANTIAGO ARCHEIRI
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Stephanie Texiera was named to the 2016 C-USA Softball Preseason Team last week. With the team preparing to go into the season with some momentum, this could be just another kickstarter and an extra boost as the season is around the corner.

Texiera, the junior first baseman, was chosen by a pool of league coaches in Conference USA. The coaches also have Florida International University ranked sixth out of twelve teams in the Conference USA preseason standings. Two of the top 5 teams ranked are in FIU's division, with Florida Atlantic University in first place, and Marshall in second.

After a record breaking season, Texiera looks to add more to her resume this upcoming season. Last year, she shattered the school record after averaging a .444 batting average, and finished with the second highest RBI in school history with 51. Her on-base percentage was the highest in Conference USA with .833, while ranking third in RBI. She also reached the FIU softball record books by getting on base in 33 straight games.

The hardware and spotlight is no stranger to Texiera, who is entering her third season with the Panthers. Texiera has earned preseason recognition in the past two years after last week's announcement of her latest award. Texiera was also awarded Conference USA freshman of the year in 2014, while she earned two hitter of the week awards in

PUMPING IRON



BLANCA MARTINEZ/THE BEACON

Anthony Gorrin, a mechanical engineering junior, focuses on the completion of his upper body workout at the Modesto Maidique Campus state-of-the-art gym, Thursday, Jan. 25.

her hot freshman start. When it comes to post-season awards, she has been in the Conference USA Second Team twice already.

The first at bat for Texiera was a home run against Houston last year, and it looked to be a sign of how the season would shape up for her. Texiera was nearly impossible to face for opposing pitchers, and that became clear when she was walked 25 times in March of last season. In an

11 game span during this stretch, Texiera was walked multiple times in 9 of those games, including 4 walks in a game against UMASS Lowell, a career high. 5 of her 25 walks in March were intentional.

Another preseason award hopefully means another stellar season for Texiera. The Golden Panthers look to have a bounce back season after finishing a measly 10-14 in conference, placing them fifth out of six teams in

Conference USA-East, and 9th overall in Conference USA. Florida International University hosted the 2015 Conference USA Softball tournament, but was not a part of it, and going 4-7 in the 11 last regular season games was crucial for their tournament hopes.

Head Coach Gator Rebhan and the Florida International University softball team has 17 members returning to their squad, three of them being the best

hitters in their rotation last season. The top pitcher and a dominant staff are also a part of the players returning, and the season looks to be filled with a newfound hunger. The softball team begins their campaign with the FIU Invitational, with the first game against in-state rival school Florida State University being scheduled for Feb. 12 at 7 p.m.

FOOTBALL

Panthers add defensive line coach Paul Volero

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It has been announced on Jan. 22nd that Head Coach Ron Turner has added Paul Volero to his coaching staff for next season. He will replace Tem Lukabu, who will be the linebackers coach at Western Michigan University, as defensive line coach. Here's what Turner said about the hiring during his press conference: "Paul

guys and get familiar with them. I'm excited. He's a Miami guy and has a lot of connections here. So he'll do an outstanding job recruiting. He's a big addition to our program."

Volero is looking forward to work under Turner in the 2016 season and enjoys living in Miami. "I'm excited and delighted to be part of the Panther family in a great city like the city of Miami, where there is no better football in the world," Volero said.

Volero's résumé and football experience qualifies in the reason why Turner hired him in the first place. He bounced around to different schools around the country after he finished college and his is football career. He played college ball at both Arizona Western College and Glenville State College. He earned his bachelor's degree from Nova Southeastern University in 2004. Two years later he earned his master's from West Virginia University.

As a player at Glenville State College in West Virginia, he helped lead his team to the NAIA national championship despite becoming a runner-up in 1993. He started

“

Paul [Volero] brings a lot of energy, enthusiasm and knowledge to our staff. He was around our program last year and got a chance to see our guys and get familiar with them. I'm excited.

Ron Turner
Head Coach
Football

”

coaching defensive line in 1996 for GSC.

He came to Miami to serve as a defensive coordinator in high school teams such as Miami Senior High School, North Miami Senior High School and Booker T. High School from 1997-2002. He would then spent a season as an assistant strength and conditioning coach and defensive line coach at University of South Florida in Tampa.

A year later he served as a special team quality control coach and academic graduate assistant at West

Virginia University. He contributed by breaking down special teams and scheme implementation. He also monitored the Mountaineers' production on special teams. Spending two years at WVU, he was part of the staff that led the Mountaineers to Big East Conference championships in both 2004 and 2005 seasons. With the two consecutive conference titles, he also helped with two bowl victories (Sugar Bowl and Gator Bowl). He then joined Central Michigan University as special teams' coordinator and defensive line coach

for three seasons.

In 2010-2011, he moved to Key West, Fla. to serve as defensive coordinator at Key West High School. He would then take a position at Washington St University as an outside linebackers coach for two years (2012-2014) under Mike Leach until finally found his way to FIU as a defensive quality control coach.

With his past experience, he will help lead this Panther's defensive Line unit that has to replace their two sack leaders Michael Wakefield and Denzel Perine.



(Volero) brings a lot of energy, enthusiasm and knowledge to our staff. He was around our program last year and got a chance to see our

SAND VOLLEYBALL

PANTHER PROFILE

Florida native fights for top 10 spot

STEFANO RIVERA

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The countdown to the 2016 Florida International University women's beach volleyball season is intensifying as each day passes. The Panthers will aim to take the sand on Friday, Mar. 4, in the FIU Fort Lauderdale Beach Invitational. This event, which extends through Saturday, Mar. 5, will give the team a test early in the season.

One of the many players who will be fighting for a top-10 spot on the roster is sophomore, Kari Peterson. Peterson, a Boca Raton native, joins graduate student, Tina Toghiyani, a Gainesville native, as the only players on the team from Florida.

Peterson attended Spanish River Community High School in her hometown and had much success playing indoor volleyball. In 2012, she was awarded the Sharks' Impact Player, and in 2013, Offensive Player of the Year. To finish off her high school career, she was Spanish River's Most Valuable Award in 2014.

Peterson was also involved in club volleyball throughout her years in high school. She joined Gold Coast Volleyball Club and participated in both indoor and beach volleyball.

Peterson used her successful high school career to make herself known and gain recognition. She received offers aside from FIU including the University of Hawaii, one of the best programs in the nation, and Tulane University.

Currently majoring in psychology, Peterson is focused on her studies and plans to attend law school after her career at FIU is finished.

Volleyball runs through Peterson's family; her cousin, Brittany Tiegs was a two-time All-American in sand volleyball. Tiegs won the awards when she was at Florida State University in 2012, and Hawaii in 2014.



Peterson was recruited by FIU to play both indoor and beach volleyball. However, after only playing one season of indoor in 2014, she decided to fully dedicate her game to the sand.

"I just love beach game," Peterson said, "indoor was a great experience, but I'm meant to be outside in the sand."

Last season, she appeared in two matches, winning both in exhibition play. Teamed up with current junior, Anabela Sataric, the duo defeated the University of South Carolina in the Palmetto Invitational, and Florida Atlantic University in the Doctor's Hospital Surf and Turf Invitational.

A large part as to why Peterson

saw little playing time a year ago was because of the plethora of seniors on the roster. With six seniors occupying most of the top-10 spots, it was difficult for her to fight her way to the top. However, she is ready for the challenge and wants similar results as last season.

"They left behind a great legacy," Peterson said, "we all still talk about them and we want to be as good as them and just keep our program strong."

Just how good has the Panther's beach volleyball program become in its brief four-year span? More than half of FIU's graduated players have gone on to play professionally and Peterson would like to be part of that group as well.

Peterson's goal for this season is simple.

"Win as many games as we can, fight hard, and get that ring." Peterson stated.



Preseason refresher: 2015 FIU Sand Volleyball Statistics

PAIR RECORDS

PAIR	OVERALL
Maryna Samoday/Anja Licka	20-6
Kristine Monforte/Summer Nash	22-6
Savannah Davis/Kristine Monforte	0-2
Martyna Gluchowicz/Anna Budinska	16-2
Anna Budinska/Darija Sataric	3-1
Aren Cupp/Darija Sataric	5-1
Savannah Davis/Darija Sataric	2-1
Martyna Gluchowicz/Savannah Davis	1-0
Marina Boulanger/Tina Toghiyani	9-1
Aren Cupp/Savannah Davis	3-0
Marina Boulanger/Alex Johnson	1-0
Marina Boulanger/Natalia Giron	0-1
Giovanna Pasos/Natalia Giron	3-0
Martyna Gluchowicz/Anja Licka	2-0
Tina Toghiyani/Aren Cupp	13-1
Marina Boulanger/Savannah Davis	2-0
Maryna Samoday/Anna Budinska	1-1
Marina Boulanger/Anna Budinska	1-3
Marina Boulanger/Darija Sataric	6-4
Alex Johnson/Tina Toghiyani	1-1
Martyna Gluchowicz/Darija Sataric	1-1
Anabela Sataric/Natalia Giron	1-1

INDIVIDUAL RECORDS

PLAYER	OVERALL
Maryna Samoday	21-7
Anja Licka	22-6
Kristine Monforte	22-6
Summer Nash	22-8
Anna Budinska	21-6
Martyna Gluchowicz	20-3
Darija Sataric	17-8
Aren Cupp	19-2
Marina Boulanger	19-8
Tina Toghiyani	23-3
Savannah Davis	8-3
Natalia Giron	4-2
Alex Johnson	2-1
Giovanna Pasos	3-0
Anabela Sataric	1-1

FOOTBALL

Hilton makes second Pro Bowl appearance

ALEJANDRO AGUIRRE

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The blue and gold is making their mark again in professional sports and this time it is in the NFL.

FIU's star receiver from 2008-2011, T.Y. Hilton, has been stamping his mark in the NFL with the Indianapolis Colts since joining the league in 2012.

Since then he has been improving every year and has had success in his short career so far. For his standout performance this past season, he was named to his second consecutive Pro Bowl.

Hilton is coming off a 2015

season for the Indianapolis Colts where he caught 69 passes for 1,124 yards and five touchdowns.

He was able to put up those impressive numbers without the Colts' starting quarterback Andrew Luck. Hilton, who is making his second straight Pro Bowl appearance, recorded his third straight 1,000-yard season when he had 69 receptions for 1,124 yards and five touchdowns this season, despite playing with five different quarterbacks.

This isn't Hilton's first taste at a Pro Bowl game, he made his first Pro Bowl in 2014 when had 82 receptions for 1,345 yards and seven touchdowns. Hilton will be participating in this year's

Pro Bowl as a replacement for Arizona Cardinals receiver Larry Fitzgerald, who was pulled out of the game due to injury, late Sunday night.



Prior to his NFL success, Hilton was a standout

player in his college days playing for the Panthers. His name in the record books on the top of almost every single offensive category.

He holds the FIU career receiving records for receptions with 229 and has 3,351 receiving yards and 24 touchdowns which are both in the top five in FIU football history.

He was also a key player in the school's first ever bowl game and only bowl win. In the 2010 Little Caesars Pizza Bowl, Hilton returned a kickoff for a touchdown in the second half of the game against Toledo.

He was also instrumental in a late play, helping FIU get the first down and keeping them

alive to eventually set up the winning field goal.

He was named the Little Caesars Pizza Bowl MVP for his efforts in helping his team beat Toledo, 34-32. To wrap up his historic season, Hilton was honored as Sun Belt Player of the Year, as well as being named to the All-Sun Belt Conference First Team at the wide receiver and return specialist positions. He finished his junior season with 2,089 all-purpose yards, 848 of them on receptions over 59 catches and 282 rushing yards over 30 carries, a personal best.

SYNCHRONIZED STUDYING



LAURA GONZALEZ/THE BEACON

From left to right, Daniela Hernandez, a political science and journalism major, Stephanie Seara, a broadcast journalism major, Gabriel Pessoa, a journalism major and Ginna Bocanegra, a journalism major, study together at the Wolfe Center.

Swimming and diving team's four losses 'irrelevant'

LOUIS' STROKES



LOUIS AGUDELO

The Panthers notched their fourth loss of the 2015-2016 collegiate season this past weekend when they traveled to Fort Myers, Florida, to face the Florida Gulf Coast University Eagles.

The Panthers posted their lowest score of the season against the Eagles, with a final score of 141-64. Head Coach Randy Horner said he "knew they'd be a challenge," so this final came as no real surprise to the veteran coach as he chases back-to-back Conference USA championships.

Only managing to accumulate two first place finishes all day, it was obvious that Florida

International was outmatched in the pool in a way that they aren't used to. It turns out though, that this was entirely by design.

After going undefeated last season, the team "created a schedule specifically to not go undefeated," said Horner. When a team is as talented as FIU, it can be very easy to become complacent. Without very many real challenges, you might see a swimmer take a few turns with less intensity than what you'd be used to, or a diver go with a simple, low-risk attempt, and not really challenge themselves. This is why Horner wanted his team to face more "real challenges" this season.

All in all, "dual-meet records are irrelevant" to Horner, although it would be interesting to hear

the team's take on that matter. As always, the Panthers are just gearing up for Conference Championships at the end of February, and while all systems seem to be go, coach has reminded everyone who will listen "We definitely have a lot to get done."

That's just the coach trying to keep his athletes on the right path; never getting too high, never getting too low.

As much as wins and losses don't seem to matter to this squad, especially not until Conference Championships, any normal human being can't be happy with losing, right? Four losses, including a couple that could have just as easily been wins for the Panthers, almost certainly have to get under the team's skin. Horner won't budge on this, no matter

how many times he's asked, and that's the mark of a coach with a goal. "We just gotta stay focused," Horner says, when it would be no less than human to say, well, just about anything else.

Kyna Pereira is having an amazing sophomore season, aside from all this, as it seems that every time FIU competes, whether they win or lose, she's posted a personal best, pool-record or taken first place in whichever event she's a part of. In fact, she was the swimmer responsible for both of those aforementioned first place finishes at FGCU, and is on a five-race winning streak in the 1000 meter. The distance swimmer from Umkomaas, South Africa, will look to carry all that momentum forward, at least into the Panthers' senior day, at home against the

University of Miami Hurricanes.

Saturday, Jan. 30 at noon will be the second time the two Division-1 schools from Miami will be facing off, with FIU hosting both and already taking the first decision. The Hurricanes will attempt to split the season series with their neighbors, and avoid being swept by the mid-major, they won't get any help from the Panthers and their coach on senior day.

"Nothing will change, it'll just be a normal meet. The seniors will be recognized before the meet begins, and then nothing else will change," Horner said.

Louis' Strokes is a column covering swimming and diving at the University. For suggestions or commentary, reach him at louis.agudelo@fiusm.com.

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