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GUITART HEROES



SELENE BASILE/THE BEACON

School of Music guitar ensemble perform in the GC pit to spread the word about the upcoming Miami International GuitArt Festival.

Fort Lauderdale bridge scandal has ties to FIU campus, Miami-Dade

MICHAEL VASQUEZ
The Miami Herald
TNS Staff

An unusual bridge-repair contract in the city of Fort Lauderdale has sparked a criminal investigation, and those involved have ties to Miami-Dade County and Florida International University.

Miami-Dade's new deputy director of water and sewer, Hardeep Anand, was public works director in Fort Lauderdale when the strange bridge contract was awarded. Anand acknowledged to the Miami Herald on Thursday that he's hired a criminal defense attorney, but insisted he wasn't connected to the bridge contract, which was awarded to his wife's former business partner.

"I have no involvement in it," Anand said of the contract. "The procurement department handles it."

Also connected to the investigation is former FIU engineering dean Amir Mirmiran. It was a company run by Mirmiran's wife that landed the city contract - even though it had just been incorporated and had no track record.

"I categorically and unequivocally deny having done anything

wrong whatsoever," Mirmiran said in an e-mail to the Herald.

Mirmiran left his FIU job last year, and is now the provost and vice president for academic affairs at the University of Texas at Tyler.

In a segment aired earlier this week, Local 10 investigative reporter Bob Norman tracked down the former Fort Lauderdale employee at the center of the controversy, former Assistant City Engineer Pedram Zohrevand. Zohrevand denied steering a city contract to a company he had a relationship with.

"I didn't do that. I did all things the right way," he told the TV station.

Zohrevand, who left his \$106,433 city job in October, could not be reached by the Herald.

An internal city of Fort Lauderdale investigation memo states that Zohrevand worked behind the scenes to make sure that a certain company - Engin-Ovation LLC - was hired by the city for "bridge engineering consulting services." That was the company run by the FIU dean's wife. The dean of the engineering school, Mirmiran, earned \$242,168 at FIU, and had previously supervised

SEE BRIDGE, PAGE 2

Experts admit they know little about Zika virus

FRANCO ORDONEZ
McClatchy Washington Bureau
TNS Staff

Federal and international health officials confessed Tuesday to an encyclopedic list of unanswered questions about the fast-spreading Zika virus, which in a matter of months has become an international public health crisis.

In a bleak assessment of their ability to confront the disease, epidemiologists, public health experts, scientists and researchers one by one held a conference on Zika about their concerns that too little was known about diagnosing the disease and about how it might be spread.

Among the unknowns: what animals

other than humans can be infected with the Zika virus, how often it has been spread by sexual contact, and whether, for sure, it's the cause of devastating birth defects and other neurological disorders, as suspected.

Scientists don't know the role that climate change may have had in Zika's rapid spread through the Americas.

"We don't, at a very basic level, know whether the virus has mutated and that is a cause of the explosive epidemic potential," said Ronald Rosenberg, acting director for the Division of Vector-Borne Diseases at the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

At the request of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, the leading scientists and researchers met at the National Academy of Sciences in Washington to

identify research priorities and try to hammer out a strategy for a response should an outbreak occur in the United States.

Marcos Espinal, director of the Department of Communicable Disease and Health Analysis at the Pan American Health Organization, said it might be months before researchers had determined for certain one of the main public concerns whether Zika is linked to microcephaly, a birth defect that causes newborns to have small heads and other neurological disorders. But for now, he said, all indications are that there is a connection.

Victor Dzau, president of the National Academy of Medicine, called the Zika virus a "wake-up call" and pressed world leaders to stop thinking of the epidemic as strictly

a health issue.

The potential economic losses from a pandemic could amount to \$60 billion a year, he said. Those costs are consequences of policy and behavior changes associated with fears, rational and irrational, that can lead to travel bans, quarantines and blocks on trade.

More than 30 countries and territories across the Americas have reported local transmissions of the Zika virus since it was first discovered in Brazil last May. There have been 52 U.S. cases in 16 states and the District of Columbia, Puerto Rico and the U.S. Virgin Islands. At least 21 cases have been discovered in Florida, the most in any state, including seven in Miami-Dade and four in Broward County.

Mental Health Alliance comes to University

GUETHSHINA ALTENA
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Never before in the history of FIU has a club like the National Alliance on Mental Health Illness existed on campus.

The University welcomes its first NAMI club on campus to gather those interested in mental illnesses.

According to the NAMI official website, NAMI clubs are student-led, student-run mental health organizations on college campuses.

the fall semester of 2015 when Suzette Ferretti, a senior psychology major, made the necessary efforts and put in the request for the club to be created.

Once the club was approved by the main organization and the Counsel for Student Organizations, Ferretti became the first president of the club, along with two other e-board members.

The club seeks to unite students from all majors and backgrounds who are interested in the kind of societal issues related to mental illness.

“

Some people have been affected by domestic abuse or dealt with suicidal thoughts, so I think that mental illnesses are relevant to everybody

Katherine Perez
Junior
Biology

”

Their goal is to raise mental health awareness with fairs, walks and candlelight vigils. NAMI also educates the campus community with presentations, guest speakers and student panels. They advocate for improved mental health services and policies on campus as well as support peers with signature NAMI programs and training from NAMI State Organizations and Affiliates.

The NAMI club at FIU was initiated at the start of

"I have always been passionate about mental illnesses. It is something that has grown up with me because I grew up in a household where you had a problem like that but people did not really talk about it," Ferretti says.

Ferretti was looking on the internet for organizations that she can get involved with when she came across NAMI and saw that they had a program that is incorporated into college

SEE NAMI, PAGE 2

NATION & WORLD BRIEFS

Apple-FBI fight intensifies over San Bernardino gunman's iPhone

The court dispute between Apple and the Justice Department over unlocking the San Bernardino, Calif., gunman's iPhone became a public relations war on Monday with the FBI and Apple exchanging words on the Internet. Additionally, Congress has prepared to intervene.

For now, the FBI appears to be winning the battle according to new polling information from the Pew

Research Center.

Apple called on the government Monday to drop the court case in favor of a congressional "commission or other panel of experts on intelligence, technology, and civil liberties to discuss the implications for law enforcement, national security, privacy, and personal freedoms."

Plan to close Guantanamo would keep 30 to 60 detainees in custody

President Barack Obama on Tuesday sent Congress his proposal for shuttering the U.S. military prison for alleged terrorists at Guantanamo Bay Cuba, and aides expressed confidence that Republican lawmakers will be willing to negotiate with the administration.

The 21-page plan, which was required to be submitted by Tuesday by previous congressional legislation, would transfer 30 to 60 detainees currently at Guantanamo to an unidentified high-security prison

in the United States at an estimated cost of \$290 million to \$475 million.

"With this plan, we have the opportunity finally to eliminate a terrorist propaganda tool, to strengthen relationships with allies and partners, enhance our national security, and most importantly uphold the values that bind us as Americans," Obama said in a short address minutes after the plan was released.

Jury: No hate crime convictions in San Jose State bullying trial

A jury Monday found three white men guilty of misdemeanor battery on a black suitemate in 2013 at San Jose State University, but did not reach guilty verdicts on more serious hate crime charges.

After deliberating for more than two days, jurors agreed that Colin Warren, Logan Beaschler and Joseph "Brett" Bomgardner "offensively touched" their fellow freshman suitemate, Donald Williams Jr., either

by clamping a U-shaped bike lock around his neck and/or by attempting to do so a second time.

But the jury of six men and six women - which had no African-American members - found Bomgardner, now 21, not guilty of misdemeanor hate crime and deadlocked on hate crime charges against Warren and Beaschler, both 20.

Students welcome new NAMI club

NAMI, PAGE 2

campuses. Surprisingly to her, there was not a NAMI club at FIU before, so she decided to start one herself.

For the future, Ferretti said, "I look forward to the expansion of the club by having more members to share their experiences while spreading awareness."

"My ultimate goal was always to get involve in my community and be part of something bigger than myself. This is an issue that really spoke to me and I wanted to be a voice for people who feel like they didn't have a voice," She says, "So that I could set an example for others and that they would not be afraid to talk about their problems."

The advisor for the club, Wendy Ordonez also works as the Director of the victim empowerment program and Peer educator. In a way, NAMI club works closely with the CAPS services on campus.

Katherine Perez is a junior, Biology major who took on the responsibility

of the CSO representative for the club.

"We are looking to start a NAMI walk at FIU. It is an event that the national organization has and we encourage everyone to participate; it is a great way to raise awareness," she said.

She believes NAMI will bring awareness and acceptance to mental illnesses. In her opinion, it is crucial for people to understand the implications of issues of mental health.

"At such a stressful time in our lives, we are all experiencing different feelings of anxiety; we might be lost. Some people have been affected by domestic abuse or dealt with suicidal thoughts, so I think that mental illnesses are relevant to everybody," Perez said.

The coordinator for the club is Jessica Blanco, a junior who majors in biology with a pre-med track and a minor in psychology.

"There are a lot of misconceptions about mental illnesses and we

want to help and educate students to get rid of those misconceptions," Blanco said.

She said, "We cannot let a mental illness define a person. I don't think an illness should dictate what your life is going to be and with NAMI, we give people the opportunity to see mental illness from another perspective."

Mabit Gonzalez is a senior Biology major with a pre-med track and a minor in psychology. She has been a member of the NAMI club since August 2015.

"When I went to the first meeting of the club last semester, I went out of my routine and that made my experience a big relief moment," Gonzalez said. "We talked about a lot of different things and it was very interesting."

The club meets every third Tuesday of the month. Ferretti encourages students to sign up on OrgSync and follow them on social media to stay updated.

FIU continues controversy with Ft. Lauderdale bridge

BRIDGE, PAGE 2

Zohrevand's PhD dissertation.

According to the city memo, Zohrevand pushed for Engin-Ovation to be included on a list of three companies that could compete for the job of engineering work on the South Gordon Road and Laguna Terrace bridges.

Zohrevand included Engin-Ovation on the list even though the company "had been in existence for only ten days and had no record of bridge repair projects," according to the city's investigation memo.

Three and a half months later, the city gave Engin-Ovation the green light to do the work.

But according to the city's memo, the irregularities continued.

The bridge design plans that Engin-Ovation submitted were "virtually identical" to existing city plans for another bridge - plans that city staffers had drawn up themselves.

In the lead-up to Engin-Ovation submitting their plans, Zohrevand had obtained a copy of the city's in-house plans for the other bridge. When the new plans arrived from Engin-Ovation, the city was suspicious enough that it sent the plans to its Information Technology department for computer analysis.

The IT analysis showed that both sets of plans - the city's in-house plans and the plans from Engin-Ovation - were created at the exact same time, on the exact same day: 12:10 p.m. on Feb. 25, 2014.

The city memo says "Engin Ovation later sent the City an invoice for \$17,670 even though it appears that its work consisted of copying plans created by the City."

In the midst of all this happening, then-Public Works Director Anand recommended that Zohrevand be promoted to assistant director of

the department, and get a 10 percent raise. Anand, who now earns \$193,000 a year as deputy director for Miami-Dade water and sewer, said he didn't know about the irregularities with Engin-Ovation when he pushed for Zohrevand to be promoted. Anand said the promotion was supported by other top city administrators, although it ended up not happening.

Anand's relationship with Zohrevand went beyond simply being his boss.

In January of last year, Anand's wife partnered with Zohrevand to create a company, SES4 LLC. Also partnering in that business: the wife of Amir Mirmiran, the former FIU dean.

The company was short-lived and was dissolved a month later. Then the dean's wife created Engin-Ovation, which landed the city bridge work.

The city's investigative memo says what happened with the bridge contract could be criminal in nature, with possible charges including unlawful compensation (second-degree felony) or official misconduct (third-degree felony).

But the city memo says Anand's "role in this bridge repair contract is less clear. Mr. Anand also failed to disclose that he and/or his wife incorporated a business with his subordinate, Pedram Zohrevand, and with the owner(s) of Engin-Ovation. By incorporating a business, either directly or through his wife, with his subordinate, Mr. Anand demonstrated questionable judgement since such an arrangement can lead to a frequently recurring conflict of interest between their public roles and private interests."

Anand told the Herald there was no conflict, as that company was disbanded before it did work for anyone. He also complained "the city has written that report without any input from me, I wasn't interviewed for that process."

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PIPELINE PERFORMANCE



MICHAEL SLOAN/THE BEACON



Local band Salas plays with WRGP's Pipeline as audience

Wednesday, Feb. 17, Salas stopped by WRGP's studio for an interview with Pipeline's Natalie Bojorquez and Jasmine Romero. During the interview and broadcast of the show, the local band played a few of their staple songs for the duo and radio listeners.

Band Members:
Guitarist: Joey Prats
Drummer: Mikey Gomez
Bassist: Yawn "Doodles" Dominguez

Domestic duties, What roles do men and women take on today?

FEMMEAPPETITE



LESLIE ANGELA BLANCO

G e n d e r . Male. Female. What roles are assigned thus? Has much changed in this day and age? Men have always been viewed as the breadwinners,

powerful leaders, executors of action, and free to express their creativity in outlets such as writing, art, music and theater without ridicule. What about the roles assigned to their female counterparts? The duties of women were confined to the domestic space: raising children, taking care of household affairs and grooming their young daughters to find husbands.

Women were and still are viewed to be mothers, nurturers, household caretakers and caregivers. Despite the strides we've seen women make today to get equal pay, (although it's still 77 cents on the dollar), secure jobs, and to have the freedom to work in fields that are predominately male dominated—women are still doing more work than ever. Their second jobs consist of the household chores and “duty” of raising children.

Not only do women give birth and are obligated to raise kids, despite their efforts in securing a job equated to their male spouses, they seem to still carry the burden of doing domestic work such as cleaning and cooking too. Seems fair right? In this day and age of “modern progressiveness” gender roles and stereotypes are still prevalent despite the victory and strides that we've achieved in securing a place in the work force, despite the gender disparity in certain fields, women still end up doing more work over all.

A sociologist at the University of California, Irvine, Judith Treas explains that despite these roles being a personal choice between couples living together in their domestic spaces, society and culture do play a role in shaping how these roles are divided up.

More and more women in today's modern age have education equal to their male counterparts, even more so in some cases. Studies have shown that more and more women are going to college and getting degrees compared to men.

Many people believe that women have this “innate nature to nurture,” due to the world's cultural society but men are also nurturers.

The difference is that men are taught since birth or from their own cultures to suppress their ability to nurture or to show emotion.

Men and women are human beings when it comes down to it — harboring both masculine and feminine qualities. It is indoctrinated in our culture and society for it to be this way and for women to stay home and take on most of the domestic work. This is where problems stem

when dividing up the duties between the sexes pertaining to domestic work.

Last year, studies have shown that on an average day, 83 percent of women and only 65 percent of men spent some time doing household activities such as housework, cooking, lawn care, or financial and other household management. Statistics show that men are more likely to participate in sports, exercise, or recreation on any given day with 21 percent of men participating versus 16 percent of women.

However, it doesn't stop there — according to Time magazine, in a 2010 data study, 60 percent of women in the U.S. are either the sole income earner of their household or bringing in as much or more than their partners. It is evident that even today, women are still being regarded as the main caregiver and the primary household caretaker as opposed men.

The U.S. has no federal requirement for mothers to get paid maternity leave. It is entirely at the company's discretion whether they get paid maternity leave and some are even at risk for losing their jobs if they miss a certain number of days of work. America is the only country in the world aside from Papua New Guinea who offer no paid maternity leave to new mothers.

Businesses are valued over humanity. This is ironic because the person who brings human beings into the world in order to work in businesses are mothers. Despite their struggle to keep their jobs or to have jobs equal to men—the moment women get pregnant they are penalized and at risk of losing their jobs for having a child.

This baffles me the most because even though I don't have any children or a house of my own, let alone a life partner, I simply don't want to live a life where I am pressured, burdened, and subjugated into these roles because it is my “womanly duty” to take on domestic roles. If my partner and I decide to have children I would by no means be confined or let myself be confined to the role of the sole caretaker, nurturer, cook or cleaner.

Taking care of the household is a shared responsibility — especially if both parents work and have careers of their own. Men shouldn't mind or feel threatened by taking on the role of caretaker for their kids. It is a human emotion to feel nurturing, whether you are a male or a female; otherwise known as being a considerate human being when you can share and divide domestic duties between couples — especially when you become parents.

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

HEART TO HEART



JAVIER SANILEY/THE BEACON

Members of the Muslim Student Association pose together during their Hearts for Syria charity event held in the GC Pit Thursday, Feb. 18.

Musician uses old instruments to make new sounds

CINDY HERNANDEZ
Contributing Writer
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Venetian Snares “Traditional Synthesizer Music” is a great nod to both the electronic music that came before him and the many stylistic turns his albums have adopted over his decade long career.

Here, we catch Venetian Snares, also known as Aaron Funk, manage to create IDM on his new album that breaks traditional concepts of the genre through only the use of modular synthesizers.

The war created between synths and drum machines are exciting, new, and most of all, reflective of our faith in Venetian Snares delivering a quality product regardless of his inspiration or comfort zone.

The faded synths and far away blasts on the first track ‘Dreamt person v4’ promise a kind of distortion that is ultimately not given to us, but for the better.

Leading into the track ‘Everything About You Is Special,’ Funk uses quick, sparse drum patterns that are not atmospheric, but intricate that force listeners to explore the many complexities on the album.

Chimes and squeaky pitches ring in the track ‘Slightly Bent Fork Tong v2,’ as a common theme of what's to come, which

is Funk's playfulness throughout all of the album.

However, this might be Funk's most accessible album, but only in terms that the playfulness is very deliberate, nostalgic and almost cheerful.

The track ‘Magnificent Stumble

Yourself v1,’ reminiscent of early Yip-Yip or XBXR, noise pop and rock groups respectively, but Funk is unabashedly making something along the lines of noise pop here, perhaps being the stigma attached to the instruments used.

And that personal

Keep in mind, the instruments on this album were used to make music for the most primitive video games, and what was displayed on the screen, mere tiny pixels in the shape of a box with two pixels in another color for eyes, for example, had to evoke

“The magical sounds of old technology definitely ruminate over the album. The same manic, excitable sound carries out throughout the rest of the album, with the track ‘Can't Vote For Yourself v1,’

v2’ derives its looping sounds like some early video game soundtracks, progressively getting lighter and lighter until an end goal, which is the fabulous transition to the song, ‘Decembers.’

On “Decembers,” we get a Drexciya inspired track, laced with aquatic gurgling against a traditional breakcore beat along the fading noises of old computer monitors being turned on.

The magical sounds of old technology definitely ruminate over the album often.

The same manic, excitable sound carries out throughout the rest of the album, with the track ‘Can't Vote For

attachment to a theme carries very well into song titles.

“You and Shayna v1,” is steeped in regret, with a backing track of a chopped up old ballad against the most aggressive drum patterns on the album. “Goose and Gary v2” is also another example of Funk heading to dance roots, emitting the sounds of acid house by complete accident.

On “Anxattack Boss Level19 v3,” Funk juxtaposes the sounds of wind instruments blending into the fast drum patterns and randomly sequenced synth beat to mimic the intensity of a boss battle in a video game.

the image of some kind of force in the player to be enjoyable.

Funk really delivers a culmination of themes and sounds on “She Married A Chess Computer In The End,” going back to the kind of nostalgia of old computers, making more erratic musical choices as if imitating a chess game.

On the tracks “Health Card10,” and “Paganism Ratchets,” we find Funk ending back in noisy, terrifying breakcore that ultimately has us go back to what makes us love him, which is how much he blends in the bleakness of life into some of the most powerful electronic music out there.

SOFTBALL

PANTHERS' DEN



MEGAN TAIT/THE BEACON

Top: The softball team huddles together following a good inning during the game against Illinois, Feb. 19.

Right: Pitcher Hunter Scharf winds up on the mound against Illinois, Feb. 19. The Panthers will play Siena tomorrow.



FIU takes four out of five in Panther Invitational

JAYDA HALL
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If there was one word to describe the softball team's performance on Friday, Feb. 19, it would be unconquered.

FIU started the Panther Invitational with a doubleheader, and despite the heavy wind each team faced, the Panthers landed two consecutive wins against College of the Holy Cross (0-5) and Indiana University (5-4).

Holy Cross was first to be dominated by the Panthers. FIU made it impossible for HC to score a run for the entire game making the final score 7-0.

Ashley Leon, junior infielder, lead the bottom of the first inning and scored FIU's first run of the game.

Both teams played the second inning without scoring any runs. It wasn't until the third inning when HC finally managed to make it to third base.

The team, however, was taken out before reaching home. Leon scored another run for the team when HC's catcher failed to catch the ball in time to get Leon out. Leon was the only player who scored more than once during the game.

Dani Mowry, junior

infielder, lead the bottom of the fourth inning and took a walk to first base. She and Ashley Belans, sophomore infielder, scored a run, putting the Panthers up 4-0 at the end of the fourth.

The fifth inning moved

“

It felt good scoring my first run, but it's only the beginning.

Aleima Lopez
Center Fielder
FIU Softball

quickly for both teams with neither scoring a run. Abby Summers, freshman right-handed pitcher, got two of HC's runners out on a double play, ending the inning for HC.

“Abby surprised me with her performance because she gave up zero runs,” Head Coach Gator Rebhan said.

The opportunity for HC to catch up to FIU in the sixth inning vanished when Summers had a quick strikeout in the top of the inning. Lauren Williams, freshman infielder, lead the bottom of the sixth and

scored a run.

Following Williams' run was Jackie Schoff, freshman outfielder, who scored a run and got an RBI.

Two runs in the sixth inning wasn't enough for the Panthers, though.

Indiana scored its second and last run of the game in the third inning.

In the fourth inning, Hunter Scharf, junior left-handed pitcher, came in the game to pitch for the Panthers. Both teams went the entire fourth without scoring, but that changed all of a sudden for FIU in the fifth inning.

Leon stole second base and home, tying both teams at 2-2 at the bottom of the fifth. Schoff broke the tie after scoring another run for the team, and Teixeira widened the gap, ending the inning with a 4-2 lead against Indiana.

The hits were tied at seven for both teams during the sixth inning after Deven Kennedy, freshman outfielder, scored another run for the Panthers.

Indiana couldn't manage to score a run in the seventh inning, which finalized the score at 5-2.

FIU currently holds an overall record of 8-2 and will move on to play against Central Connecticut State University Thursday, Feb. 25, at 7 p.m.

BASEBALL

Turtle's boys shell shocked

HOT CORNER



LOUIS
AGUDELO

FIU baseball was defeated handily this weekend when they traveled to the University of Mississippi to face the Rebels.

They were outscored 32 runs to 11 in three games, and lost all three. The Panthers were swept while featuring a twist on last year's rotation.

Opening night featured Andres Nunez (0-1) on the bump for the Panthers in front of a crowd of more than 10,000, a big move up from starting most Saturdays last spring.

Whether is was rust, his nerves getting the best of him or Ole Miss' offense just being impossible for the sophomore to suppress, he only lasted a total of four innings, and allowed five earned runs.

Most of the damage was done in the second inning, around two errors committed by FIU's infield.

The Rebels only gave up two runs all game, but scored nine of their own, on 10 hits.

One of those hits was a homerun.

Chris Mourelle (0-1) was the rotation's anchor a year ago, and for his consistency, was rewarded with Sundays off this spring.

Mourelle had a slightly better go of things on Saturday afternoon.

With a good bit of support from the offense posting eight hits, and doubles from Zach Files, Kenny Meimerstorf and Nick Day, respectively, Friday's run total was doubled.

The Panthers held the Rebels to their lowest run and hits totals in the series, and recorded eight hits of their own, a day after stringing together three hits in nine innings.

This was the most well-rounded game the

SEE TURTLE, PAGE 2

Panthers swept by Ole Miss to kick off season

TURTLE, PAGE 1

team played all weekend, but it still wouldn't be enough to top Ole Miss. The Panthers left seven runners on base, and dropped Saturday's contest 7 to 4.

If there was anything left to be salvaged from FIU's first series of the season, it would have been a quality start from Garrett Cave, the former opening-series Saturday Pitcher, on Sunday before coming back to Miami.

He was taken out in the first inning, an inning that wouldn't end until after Ole Miss had answered FIU's first lead of the weekend of 2-0, with nine runs of their own.

Any doubt left as to why this Rebels team was ranked 24th in the nation before this weekend was put to rest, at least for now, as the team didn't even steal a base all afternoon,

The Panthers completed the sweep, of themselves, as Eddie Silva struck out swinging for the last out, and lost 16-5.

The Panthers were overwhelmed and outplayed by a team we'll likely be hearing a lot more from in the next couple months, in Ole Miss.

Not many conclusions can be drawn about this team yet, from these first three performances because of the disparity between these two teams, the better of the two hailing from the far and widely respected Southeastern Conference.

Going forward, this FIU squad faces a three-week homestand, without any truly important games during that stretch, and actually Conference USA-play not beginning for this club until March 22.

This will give them plenty of flexibility and time to try different

“The Panthers were overwhelmed and outplayed by a team we'll likely be hearing a lot more from in the next couple months.”

and still scoring 16 runs.

They even committed their first and second errors of 2016, but with that explosive first inning, there wasn't much the Panthers could do to recover.

With so much run-support, Ole Miss' pitching staff could kick back on cloudy afternoon, and record 10 strikeouts, while not even batting-an-eyelash at FIU's 10 hits, the most they had gotten all weekend.

lineups and rotations out, and tweak whatever else they must in order to be equipped to begin their title-defense, as well as provide them with some of their toughest opponents of the season, to test this team's newcomers, and the vigor of the veterans of the program.

Hot Corner is a column about FIU baseball. For comments and suggestions email louis.agudelo@fiusm.com

POWER AID



BLANCA MARTINEZ/THE BEACON

Students congregate at the Wellness and Recreation Center during the Strongest Panther competition held by the FIU powerlifting team Monday, Feb. 22.

TENNIS

Tennis sweeps second weekend

REINALDO LLERENA

Staff Writer

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The FIU women's tennis team defeated Georgia State University and George Washington University the weekend of Feb. 19-21 in Atlanta and swept their second weekend in a row.

The Panthers defeated the Georgia State Panthers, who were ranked at No. 67 on the ITA rankings, 5-2 on Friday, Feb. 19. The following day, the FIU Panthers swept the George Washington Colonials, 7-0, to complete their second weekend sweep of the season.

With the sweep over the weekend, the Panthers are off to their best start since the 2001 season. In that season, the Panthers finished 23-3 with a final ITA ranking of No. 24 according to fiusports.com.

In the match against Georgia State, the Panthers won two out of three doubles matches to claim the doubles point.

Freshman Maryna Veksler and junior Nina Nagode won their fourth-straight doubles match. The duo defeated Tarani Kamoe and Linn Timmermann of Georgia State, 6-3.

Redshirt-freshman Andrea Lazaro and senior Carlotta Orlando won their doubles match and secured the doubles point for FIU with a 6-3 win over Niri Rasolomalala and Kristen Rehse of Georgia State.

In singles play, the Panthers picked up four points against Georgia State.

Veksler defeated Timmermann in straight sets, 6-3, 6-3, to put FIU up 2-0. Orlando beat Lara Vovk and Lazaro defeated Rasolomalala, both in straight sets, to clinch the match for the Panthers, 4-0. Sophomore Nerma Caluk won FIU's fourth point when she beat Chiara Volejniecek in straight sets, 6-4, 6-1.

A day after defeating Georgia State, the Panthers continued their hot streak against George Washington, sweeping the Colonials, 7-0.

The duo of Veksler and Nagode won their fifth-straight doubles match, defeating Allison Hansen and Taylor Nederlander, 6-2. The Panthers claimed the doubles point when Orlando and Lazaro defeated Sara Grubac and Marie-Louise Decamps, 6-3.

The Panthers continued their dominant play heading into singles

matches.

Veksler came back from an 8-4 deficit in the final set tiebreaker to win, 7-5, 1-6, 10-8, over Teodora Radosavljevic. The win improved Veksler's record to 20-4 on the year.

Nagode defeated Lana Robins in straight sets, 6-2, 2-2 (ret.), to claim the Panther's third point of the match. Orlando beat Grubac, also in straight sets, to clinch the weekend sweep in Atlanta.

Caluk added to the Panther's point total when she claimed her 17th win of the season, defeating Nederlander in straight sets, 6-0, 6-2. Senior Kaitlin Brozovich sealed the 7-0 victory when she defeated Victoria Krogan, 6-4, 6-1.

According to fiusports.com, the win over the Colonials was the third 7-0 sweep of an opponent this season and the fourth shutout of the 2016 season.

FIU improved to 4-3 all-time versus Georgia State and improved to 2-0 all-time versus the Colonials.

The Panthers will return home on Friday, Feb. 26 to face the Eastern Michigan Eagles. First serve from the FIU Tennis Courts is set for 1 p.m.



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Academic medical centers do poor job reporting results of medical trials

JONEL ALECCIA
The Seattle Times
 TNS

Leading academic medical centers across the U.S. have a poor record of reporting results from clinical trials, leaving patients and doctors with a potentially skewed view of the safety and benefits of treatments, a new study finds.

Nationwide, only about two-thirds of results from more than 4,300 studies completed between 2007 and 2010 were published or reported, and only about one-third were released to the public within two years of completion.

The analysis was published Wednesday in the journal *BMJ*.

“Once you realize that human experiments are being done and the results are not being reported, you realize that the entire scientific enterprise is being threatened,” said Dr. Harlan Krumholz, the Yale School of Medicine cardiologist and health care researcher who led the study.

Without accurate and timely reporting of clinical trial results, doctors and patients can’t make evidence-based decisions about conditions from cancer and heart disease

to mental health disorders, Krumholz said. “It’s biasing the medical literature,” he said.

The reasons researchers don’t report

papers detailing their results or posted the results on ClinicalTrials.gov as of July 2014.

That’s the Web-based registry

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 Cardiologist and health care researcher
 Yale School of Medicine

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study results can range from the nefarious, they failed to get the results they wanted, to the mundane, they were too busy to input the data, experts said.

Krumholz and his colleagues analyzed results from more than 4,300 interventional clinical trials completed at more than 50 of the leading academic medical centers in the U.S. between October 2007 and September 2010. They looked at whether the institutions had published academic

authorized by Congress in 2000 to allow public reporting of clinical trial results. In 2007, a new law expanded the site’s mandate, requiring reporting of basic results for public access. The site is one way patients with a range of rare and common diseases can research trials that may offer new treatment options.

There are nearly 209,000 studies in the U.S. and 192 countries now posted, but many completed trials include no results.

In the *BMJ* study, only 13 percent of academic medical centers nationwide posted study results on the federal website.

“This paper brings to light that the institution has a responsibility,” said Dr. Deborah Zarin, director of ClinicalTrials.gov. “They used to leave it to individual investigators.”

Part of the trouble is that there have been few incentives to encourage reporting or consequences for failure to do so. Under the federal Food and Drug Administration Amendments Act of 2007, results of certain trials are required by law to be reported within a year of completion and researchers can be fined up to \$10,000 a day per trial for lapses. But, so far, no fine has been levied.

New rules are expected soon aimed at strengthening reporting of clinical trials funded by the National Institutes of Health and regulated by the Food and Drug Administration.

According to Zarin, the *BMJ* study isn’t the first to call out academic institutions for poor reporting rates by name, but it’s part of a move to change the system to benefit doctors, scientists and patients.

“Nobody wants to be at the bottom of a list like that,” she said.

Big US banks to roll out ATMs that take smartphones

JAMES RUFUS KOREN
Los Angeles Times
 TNS

To the long list of things you can do with your phone, including watch a movie, buy a latte and hail a ride, prepare to add one more: get cash.

Over the next few months, the nation’s three biggest banks will start rolling out ATMs that will let customers withdraw currency using their smartphones instead of debit cards - the latest step toward a future in which phones could replace bank branches and wallets.

“My boys are five and six I don’t think they’ll carry around plastic when they grow up,” said Michelle Moore, head of digital banking for Bank of America, which plans to make cardless ATMs widely available as early as May.

San Francisco banking giant Wells Fargo plans to offer cardless access at a limited number of ATMs by this summer and at all ATMs by the end of the year. Most of JPMorgan Chase’s ATMs will start offering cardless access sometime in the second half of the year.

Cash machines that work with a phone instead of a

card aren’t new, but they are rare. The number of cardless ATMs stands in the low thousands nationwide.

Soon, they’ll be much more common. Bank of America, Wells Fargo and JPMorgan Chase have a combined 47,000 ATMs, more than 10 percent of the nation’s cash machines.

The banks’ entry into cardless ATMs comes as a small but growing number of Americans are using their phones to send money to one another and to make purchases using so-called mobile wallet apps such as Apple Pay and Android Pay.

It also comes as banks are trying to push customers to do more transactions online, on their phones or through ATMs, all of which are less expensive than transactions done at branches staffed with tellers.

Just as with mobile wallet payments, which make up a tiny fraction of payments overall, analysts expect using a phone to get cash from an ATM probably will start out as a little-used novelty.

But over the longer term, it could be one more application that will make customers feel comfortable using their devices as financial tools, leading

to a general growth in mobile banking, said Mark Schwanhausser, a director at consulting firm Javelin Research & Strategy.

“You’re acclimating people to the techniques of mobile payments,” he said. “It’s like a mobile wallet on training wheels.”

Banks will offer cardless access to ATMs using either near-field communication,

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You’re acclimating people to the techniques of mobile payments. It’s like a mobile wallet on training wheels.

Mark Schwanhausser
 Director
 Javelin Research & Strategy

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the tap-to-pay technology used in Apple Pay and Android Pay that connects phones with credit card payment terminals, or codes that customers get through their bank’s mobile app.

Using near-field communication, or NFC, a customer would sign in to a mobile wallet or bank app, then physically tap the phone on the ATM and enter a PIN.

Bank of America and Wells Fargo plan to roll out NFC access this year, though it will be available

only at ATMs equipped with NFC readers.

Wells Fargo expects more than a third of its 13,000 ATMs will have those readers by the end of the year, while more than half of Bank of America’s 16,100 ATMs are already NFC equipped.

Chase also has an NFC system in the works, though spokesman Michael Fusco

said he’s not sure when it will roll out.

For now, Chase is starting with a code-based system, which requires a software update for ATMs but no new hardware. Wells Fargo will start offering code-based access late this year.

Those systems require customers to sign in to their bank’s mobile app, request an access code and then type that seven- or eight-digit number into an ATM.

The codes can be used once and expire in about 10 minutes, features that aim

to prevent codes from being stolen or misused.

“After that small window of time, it’s a meaningless set of digits that can’t be used again,” said Jonathan Velline, head of ATM banking for Wells Fargo.

Though customers might worry about seeing their bank accounts pillaged if their phone is lost or stolen, Ed O’Brien, a director at bank consulting firm Mercator Advisory Group, said accessing an ATM with a phone could prove more secure than using a card.

Fraudsters can steal debit card numbers and PINs by installing tiny devices on ATMs, a crime known as skimming. Industry estimates put bank losses from ATM fraud at \$1 billion in 2008, and it probably has grown since then, according to Mercator.

“The magnetic stripe has an issue of security. Someone can duplicate a magnetic stripe, which does happen all too often,” O’Brien said.

But if a phone is stolen, a thief would have to get past a few layers of security to withdraw cash from an ATM. They’d need to unlock the phone, sign in to the mobile bank app or mobile wallet and, in most

cases, know the customer’s PIN.

As the banks prepare to launch cardless access, Bank of America and Chase also are working on more features set to be released later.

Both plan to allow customers to set up an ATM transaction in advance, cutting down on the amount of time they have to spend in front of the machine.

A customer could log in to his bank app and say he wanted to withdraw \$150, and that he’d like a \$50 bill, four \$20s and two \$10s, a feature that will be available as the banks also provide more ATMs stocked with multiple types of bills.

Once the transaction is set up, he could go to an ATM, tap his phone, grab the cash and move on. Schwanhausser of Javelin likened it to picking up tickets at will-call instead of buying them at the box office.

And O’Brien of Mercator said being able to spend less time at the ATM could also improve security.

“You get your money in 10 or 12 seconds. You’re not having to look at whether someone is behind you, you don’t have to hide your PIN,” he said.