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The Beacon, March 30, 2016

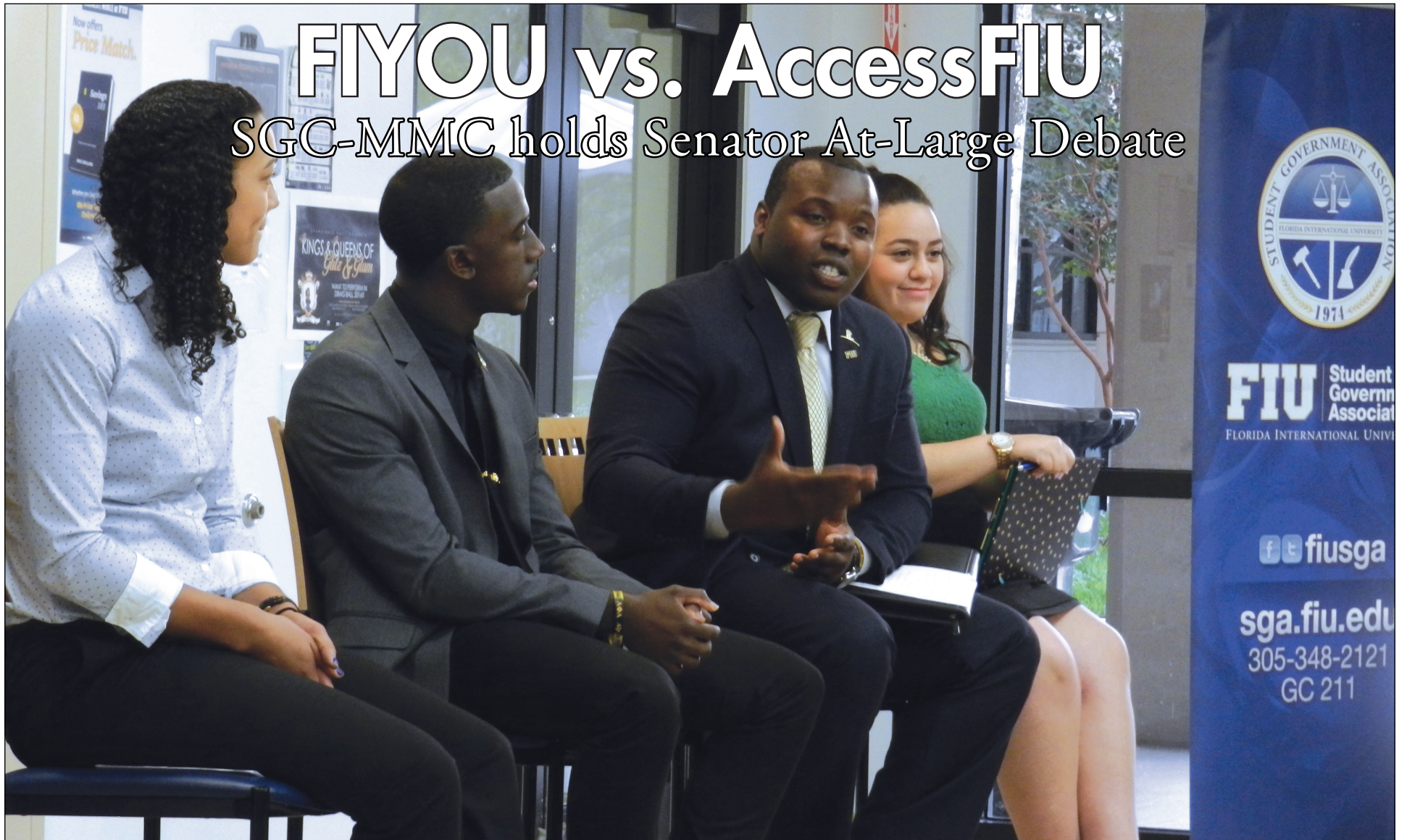
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PHOTOS BY SELENE BASILE/THE BEACON

Candidates debated their platforms at the Senator At-Large Debate hosted at Everglades Hall. Shown are: Sasha Santi (green shirt), Johnny Louis (gold tie), Tia Clay (grey shirt) and Stanley Evans (grey blazer).

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FIYOU and AccessFIU went head-to-head in the Senator At-Large debate Tuesday, March 22 to obtain three open chairs within the SGA senate office. The debate consisted of four candidates representing both FIYOU and AccessFIU parties.

Tia Clay of AccessFIU, wants to enact change within the athletics program. She herself being a Division 1 student athlete believes that having adequate representation for athletes in SGC-MMC will bring awareness to issues facing student athletes.

"Since I've been at FIU I've learned that there's a huge disconnect between athletics and the student body," said Clay. "The lack of awareness and relationships with student athletes can both be addressed in that we can connect with the athletics department by having more representation."

Clay said, "Because I looked and I found that there is no representation within the student government association. So I wondered, if maybe we can have somebody from athletics that [can give] an inside input."

Stanley Evans, also from AccessFIU, wants to make SGC-MMC a more diversified system, and is looking to find more ways to get students involved with the decisions that impact them.

"I'm here to break down the barriers and rescope the system," he said. "That way students have a more impactful voice on campus, and to be more involved in student government decisions."

Evans, also president of Council of Student Services, said "being involved

with such different organizations helps to understand that the students need different insights and different perspectives that are on campus. As a Senator At-Large, new traditions help the community get closer. I want to achieve this goal by listening to the insights and concerns of students."

Johnny Louis, from the FIUYOU party, is the candidate running to "improve the transitioning period from being an FIU student to a professional in your career of choice."

Having students who are confused on what to do after they graduate is a problem that SGC-MMC needs to provide assistance with, according to Louis.



He said, "If you spent all this time in college, I want to make sure that you have a set path through internships, to make sure that once you graduate you know

where FIU is going to take you." He also mentioned that "being able to help students get jobs that are provided here on campus" can help launch their careers.

Sasha Santi of FIUYOU, wants to enhance relations amongst SGC-MMC representatives and the student body.

"I want to work hard with students and I don't want there to be a divide between me and what the student body is," Santi said.

During the debate she pointed out the improvements that can be made to enhance the relations the representatives have with students.

"Essentially our position is working with a larger student body. I want to make

health and wellness on FIU campuses, and how SGC-MMC can make impactful actions to stimulate better change within the CAPS program. Clay suggested that "it's a big issue on any college campus and we do well with our CAPS program and our student health services. However, I have talked to students and they have said that our CAPS services takes a little bit longer to get to."

She also suggested that "if we were to get more bodies within the CAPS program, maybe we would be able to improve. That way students can have more support when they walk in the door. By talking with our psychology department maybe we can get volunteers or other people that can be trained to help students so that they are able to prosper."

Evans also echoed on the issue by suggesting that issue could also be resolved with a more diverse program. "[In] the CAPS system, psychologists are not diverse as it should be" he claims. "Students today are very diverse on our campus. Students are going in, not being able to communicate, not being able to relate to the psychologists today. I feel like more recognition towards that area can benefit the students more."

Transportation was another program of concern that the candidates said needed improvement. Stanley said that the shuttle taking students back and forth from MMC to BBC can possibly be free for students if necessary changes were able to take place. "The transportation from BBC to MMC today takes a good 1 to 2 million dollars to actually run the buses."

He said "[By] talking to Parking and Transportation, it is actually [a possibility]

sure that your voice is heard, and I want to make sure that everyone feels like they are being included," she said.

Some topics of concern were about

SEE DEBATE, PAGE 2

NATION & WORLD BRIEFS

What went on during captives' imprisonment in Iran?

While in solitary confinement in an Iranian prison, Maziar Bahari, an Iranian-Canadian journalist who was imprisoned in Iran for 118 days, looked forward to his interrogation sessions. Even if he was being beaten, he explained, at least he wasn't alone. "In the Quran they say the worst punishment for a

person is to put that person in a grave," said Bahari, filmmaker and author of "Then They Came for Me." "Sometimes when you're in solitary confinement, when you're deprived of all of your senses, when you cannot see anything except for the walls around you, you think that you're in a grave."

European critics of Trump worry what his candidacy says about US

In the United States, Republican presidential candidate front-runner Donald Trump is a hero to some, a problem to others, but generally seen a force of nature and perhaps unstoppable.

The rest of the world is having a hard time digesting that he

could well be the Republican standard-bearer, if not the leader of the free world. He's described as evil, a cyberbully, a rich narcissist, even a sort of anti-Christ. His populist campaign promises must be theater, the thinking goes, and can't be taken seriously.

North Carolina's bathroom legislation makes state an outlier in nation

North Carolina's newest state law doesn't just extinguish the city of Charlotte's attempt to ban unequal treatment of gay and transgender people, it also takes away the ability for any other city or county in the state to pass general anti-discrimination laws protecting a range of people.

That makes North Carolina's "bathroom" legislation special nationally: Only two other states, Arkansas and Tennessee, have gone so far as to block local officials from deciding it's OK for transgender people to choose which bathroom to use.

FIU Bike Drive for Refugees

BIKES PAGE 8

not being able to transport. As an active college student without a car, I can only imagine how it is for a refugee in the daily life," Stroman said.

"We have a table on campus selling doughnuts to raise money. We are speaking in classes and have reached out to residential life to spread the word to on-campus residents [at MMC] who are more likely to get involved. We have to help the people of America if we want the world to sustain and thrive for the future," said Stroman.

Thursday, April 14, from 6-9 pm, there will be a fundraising event for the Bike Drive at PDQ on

10121 W Flagler Street.

Anyone who makes a purchase at PDQ will help raise funds and 20 percent of the proceeds will go to the Bike Drive.

Interested customers just have to bring a bike drive flyer or say they are buying something on behalf of the go global FIU Bike Drive. New or gently used bikes can be brought to the FIU Bike Shop located in the Recreation Trailer West of the Panther Garage.

The Bike Drive is also accepting cash and check donations to be used towards new bikes. Donations can be delivered to GL 466 or online donations can be made at www.gofundme.com/fd6h9hb7.

"These are people in

our own community who are going through an unimaginable transition. It doesn't really matter what someone's political views are about accepting refugees. If somebody thinks that we should be taking more for humanitarian reasons or less for security reasons, all those are valid opinions," said Feldman, "But those that are here legally are people who are now our neighbors and don't have money, job skills or transportation and are trying to assimilate and be productive. Now they are fellow Miamians and if we have the capacity to make their transition a little easier, then that's something we need to be doing."

MMC-SGC's parties face off in debate

DEBATE, PAGE 1

to pay off that amount through outside sources or by using ANS fees. Because we already pay transportation fees to actually run the system today."

Louis also acknowledges that transportation and parking is an issue on campus. "I want to make sure that we have a continued expansion in our Panther Mover service. Especially so that parking in PG6 is no longer an issue, and so that people can get around this campus with more ease and accessibility."

Louis touched on the possibility of having the shuttle from MMC to BBC be completely free for students and suggested that "we cannot fully subsidize the program, because that is a bigger mission to accomplish, but [instead] to find a way to have a rewards program."

Another issue was the FIU expansion, and how it may affect natural areas on campus. With recent concerns about the Nature Preserve, the candidates were able to share their positions. To some candidates, the topic also pointed out issues with SGC-MMC being able to accurately represent the entire student body.

Santi expressed that building over the Preserve to create an intramural field was necessary and that it would also provide opportunity for students despite having backlash from some of the FIU community.

"The way SGA worked [the resolution] was as a compromise," said Santi.

Despite recent students' protest against constructing on top of the Preserve, Santi said "there was no polling done to get the students feedback on it. So had there been more of an opinion, then we could have really gotten more of a student's input besides just the town hall meeting. The whole expansion of the nature preserve and the IN field creates opportunity for initiatives and stuff to happen on campus."

Stanley said, "I talked to students that actually use the Nature Preserve, and

from their perspective they don't want that expansion. Did SGA really reach out to students outside of fraternity or greek life? Because these students, their voices need to be heard. Their voices are not being heard. These students need that representative and I'll be here for them."

When asked if the candidates believed that their is a disconnect between SGC-MMC and the rest of the student body, Louis said, "I don't personally feel like there's a disconnect between SGA and students."

Louis also suggested that he "feel[s] the connection goes as far as you want it to."

"Such as meetings like this, people are running for SGA and bring up their ideas, where are the housing students? Where are they when we have other meetings, and are voting on certain things. We want to hear your opinions. So the connection goes as far as you want it to, as long as you want to learn about it, and you want to have an input," he said.

The concept of students needing to be more involved in order to diminish the divide was not what SGC-MMC should be focusing on, according to Clay.

She said "I do understand to an extent that students do need to seek out what's on campus. However, I do agree that their isn't enough awareness. I think that as student government leaders their should be more of a reach out to the students."

When referring to SGC-MMC outreach she said that "it should be 100 all the way because that's what we do, that is what we are here for. [We are here] to serve our student body, that's what we are trying to accomplish. What we need to do is reach out, it shouldn't be that they're reaching out to us."

The next major debate for MMC will be the Presidential race on Thursday, March 31. Elections are to be held on Tuesday, April 5, and Wednesday, April 6. It will follow with the results being announced on Thursday, April 7 in the GC pit at noon.

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Obama chooses Tango over Brussels

M TALK



MICHELLE
MARCHANTE

President Barack Obama is the student who stays up all night studying for a test but then forgets to set the alarm.

He may have started the most important and powerful job of the United States with good intentions but ever since he took office, he's been nothing but a disaster. From the complete failure of ObamaCare to the horrible Iran Deal, the latest Hit 'n' Miss in Obama's legacy is his trip to Cuba and his response to the Brussels bombings.

For the first time in almost 90 years, an American president stepped onto Cuban soil. For some, this is an achievement of progress and for others, it is an insult to all the political refugees who fled Cuba's communism and those who died fighting for Cuba's freedom.

Obama's goal was to show the world that by beginning to build a relationship with Cuba again, the U.S. could help improve its human rights.

Sounds wonderful, except for the fact that as long as Cuba continues to be run by a totalitarian regime, nothing will change.

Sunday, March 20, 2016,

just hours before Obama's plane landed in Jose Marti International Airport, over 50 members of the Ladies in White, a peaceful human rights group that marches every Sunday for liberty, were arrested.

This group of women were beaten, not just by government officials but by other citizens as well, then arrested and detained for hours, for marching down the streets, asking for the liberty of Cuba and its political prisoners.

You would think that in honor of Obama's visit, the government would give them a chance to protest peacefully, but they didn't, showing the entire world that Cuba has no plans on improving the rights of the people despite the new "relationship" with the U.S. What can we expect when dictator Raul Castro didn't even show up to greet Obama at the airport?

We must give Obama some credit though. He did meet with dissidents and civil society leaders at the U.S. Embassy in Havana, including members of the Ladies in White and Elizardo Sanchez, the president of the Cuban Commission for Human Rights and National Reconciliation. He also called Castro out during the press conference when he wasn't paying attention.

Quite an amusing sight, after

all, it's not every day you get to see a dictator fumbling like a child who was reprimanded.

But Obama, unfortunately, screwed up when CNN reporter, Jim Acosta, asked Castro why he had Cuban political prisoners.

"What political prisoners?" Castro said. "Give me a name or names or when — after this meeting is over, you can give me a list of political prisoners, and if we have those political prisoners, they will be released before tonight ends."

Acosta should have had the list on him or at least known some names, but Obama could have intercepted. Castro was acting like there are no political prisoners - a complete lie - but by not saying anything, Obama was accepting this lie.

Obama's positive speech on Cuba's future was also destroyed when NBC's Andrea Mitchell asked Castro about the future of the two countries in relation to their different interpretations of democracy and human rights.

"I think human rights issues should not be politicized. That is not correct. If that is a purpose, then we will stay the same way," Castro said. "It's not correct to ask me about political prisoners in general. Please give me the name of a political prison, and I think with this is enough."

It's clear by Castro's answer

that Cuba isn't going to change its ways anytime soon - but then again, did we really think it would?

Let's face it: Obama's visit to Cuba was a vacation under the guise of presidential business.

He chose to attend the Major League Baseball exhibition game in Cuba between the Tampa Bay Rays and the Cuban National Team after giving a speech where he stressed that the world must unite to combat terrorism instead of returning to the White House when Brussels was hit by a terrorist attack that morning.

Maybe he thinks his decision to stay and watch the game is an act of defiance, showing the terrorists that they don't have enough power to change his plans but it looks more like he just doesn't give a hoot because, hell, he's on vacation. Lets hope that our next President will take terrorist attacks more seriously instead of heading off to dance the Tango in Argentina.

For the full column, visit FIUSM.com.

Michelle Marchante is the Assistant Opinion Director for FIU Student Media. Her column, M Talk, focuses on new and innovative events and ideas. For suggestions or comments, please email Michelle at michelle.marchante@fiusm.com

Education— a tool against terrorism

ELEPHANT IN THE ROOM



VALENTINA DEL
PINO

Bombs here, killers there, hate everywhere. Baghdad, Brussels, France, Libya and the Ivory Coast are some of the countries that had been targeted with awful atrocities in these past months between the end of 2015 and the new year.

Is this going to stop? Will we ever be safe again?

Many of my peers wonder. FIU Department of English professor Kathleen McCormack attempted to devise an answer to the question through a discussion with her students.

"Truly, it is way more complicated than anything we can come up with," McCormack said.

After some heated discussion, the class came to an answer: Hate is the product of ignorance and fear.

We all have felt it. We all have hated something or someone in our lives, it's human. We have hated due to the influence of our family, our ideologies or simply because something goes against our upbringing or our culture. It is truly normal to not like something.

Watching the news to realise the great amount of support Trump's campaign has received is truly terrifying - not only for American history, but also for the world. To think people my age really agree with what

Trump says makes me anxious. Trump is perpetuating ideas that are exactly what is

“

I truly am grateful for FIU, and its international community. One day you walk through GC and you find Haitian Community Club sharing their music and their food and the next day you find people dancing tango.

”

wrong with the world right now. He is feeding the public the fear of cultures that are not "ours" and that we do not understand. His campaign is full of ignorance of the outside, for what is not "American."

The only way we can stop hate is to fight ignorance. An open-minded person will never hate another based on their beliefs, even if that person does not agree with them. It's okay to dislike things or people; it's okay to not agree with people with other religions. An education is needed in order to respect and accept one another.

Education is needed to open our minds to

the unknown and respect it.

So there you have it: the solution to the terrorist attacks. We must end hate. I truly am grateful for FIU, and its international community. One day you walk through GC and you find Haitian Community Club sharing their music and their food and the next day you find people dancing tango. These types of things don't happen in other universities and as the FIU community we should not take this for granted.

If you look around while being on campus, you will find diversity all around you. Being this diverse helps us be kind to people, being open-minded help us be friendlier and care for things others do not understand.

I am not trying to say FIU is the answer to world peace, but it does provide its with students the tools necessary to be kinder and nicer to people no matter their race, religion or sexuality. FIU students should take advantage of these tools and promote kindness. An education that introduces diversity into the daily lives of students is the end of war and hate. FIU is doing the right thing starting with us.

Elephant in the room is a column about upcoming issues affecting students. Valentina Del Pino is a contributing writer for the Beacon. For further commentary contact Valentina at opinion@fiusm.com.

THE BEACON | Editorial

Student athlete voices hold power

Aside from faculty and staff of FIU, perhaps no one is employed so directly by the university as student athletes. Thanks to this arrangement, FIU's athletes are both in a position of power and of censorship.

Student athletes have power in the sense that they bring money to the school, plain and simple. From the tickets we buy, to even the soda and popcorn in the concession stands. That is all thanks to the those students we are playing. With no athletes there is no money coming in. Despite that much power and potential to help this school, athletes have the least say in anything that happens at FIU.

Unfortunately, it seems that student athletes are discouraged from speaking out. For every athlete who does not conform to the ideals of FIU, another can be subbed in and given their play-time.

During FIUSM's coverage of the scandal with former Head Coach Marlin Chinn, staff found it difficult to find members of the Women's Basketball team willing to comment upon the issue.

When FIUSM covered the FIU to Missou event, two black student athletes were present, but immediately felt uncomfortable being included in the video, and decided not to participate further.

This editorial board can't help but wonder if the decision of the Board of Trustees would have gone differently, had student athletes felt safe to voice their opinions regarding the practice fields to be built atop the northern third of the Nature Preserve.

Were athletes consulted when this decision was made, was there a demand for more practice fields among those who need them, or were they simply told the situation and expected to be grateful?

FIUSM wants to encourage student athletes to be more vocal. As a student, you cannot be treated differently or punished based upon your beliefs. As athletes, you have the power to pull funding from FIU. We want students to know, though, that student athletes have more to lose - from scholarships, to play-time, to housing - if they speak out against FIU. If they choose to do so, we need to stand in solidarity with them.

SEND US YOUR LETTERS

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

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Students start a slack lining group on campus

JAY VANPARIA
Staff Writer
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The Modesto A. Madique campus has been the playground for a group of slack line enthusiasts since the beginning of spring break. It was initiated by two FIU students, Tico Ginart and Chris Bonilla.

Ginart, a junior Hospitality major said, "It all started after I watched an inspiring documentary about the world's best slack liner on the internet. Being into extreme sports, I wanted to try it straight away."

Ginart and Bonilla purchased the equipment online and started to practice near the housing quad.

"The equipment is affordable and just costs about \$50 and will last for about five years. So it's a pretty good investment," said Ginart.

Slack lining is an extreme adventure sport that involves walking or balancing on a suspended length of flat webbing, tensioned between two anchors.

Professional slack liners practice at dangerous locations like a valley or a river. These individuals use harnesses, but those who love thrills and adventure avoid that extra piece of equipment.



JAY VANPARIA/THE BEACON

"Mastering any sport requires practice and that is why we try to take out as much time as possible for [slack lining], so that we get

better and better," said Bonilla, a junior Communication Arts major.

The group of students calls itself "Slackers Only" and anybody who is interested can join them on Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays

from noon to 3 p.m. at the GC lawns. Owing to the overwhelming positive response, the group has decided to take a step further and

register themselves as a formal student club with the Council of Student Organizations next summer.

"We get people of all kinds who see us practicing and develop an interest into the sport. College students, professor, even some high school kids are regular visitors to our practice spot," said Ginart.

One does not need to be extremely fit to participate because "Slackers Only" focus on the beginner level before trying to do tricks and moves on the slack line. The group usually practices by suspending the slack line between two sturdy trees anywhere on campus and keeping a low height.

Ginart and Bonilla guide and advise students who want to advance in the sport. They provide them with an insight of the experience of starting slacklining with zero knowledge.

"Our motto to encourage the potentially pro-slackliners is 'Hug a Tree,' so that they know that when they start to walk the line, they have to do it all the way and hug the

opposite tree," said Ginart.

When Bonilla first started to practice slacklining, he was too ambitious and suspended the slack line at a dangerous height, and started trying out professional tricks. He ended up ripping his ankle in the process. Ginart and Bonilla make sure that students are practicing safe slacklining and not putting themselves in danger.

This initiative by the two students has a positive effect on the FIU student body. The students can genuinely distress and come into touch with nature with this sport. Ginart and Bonilla usually ask the students to go barefoot so that they can experience nature more closely and make the most of the sport.

"I encourage people to bring speakers or some portable musical instrument to enjoy this experience and take some serious interest into this sport," added Chris.

You can follow the group on Instagram at SlackersOnlyFIU for updates, practice locations and information about the various events hosted by the group.

THE BEACON

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Still no new album from Frank Ocean

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"Boys Don't Cry," the title of Ocean's new album, will hopefully be released any day.

It is July 271 and there's still no new Frank Ocean album.

Well after a promised July 2015 release date Ocean has disappointed fans and critics alike with no album to listen to or critique.

Ocean's official website, FrankOcean.com, was updated and redirected users to boysdontcry.co. 24 hours later, Ocean's site was refreshed, now with merchandise and a few new tabs (VID/AUDIO/GET). Though inaccessible, these tabs give fans hope of possibly purchasing new music in the near future.

In April 2015, Ocean took to Tumblr to announce the return of his sophomore effort after popular and critical acclaim for 2012's "Channel Orange."

"I got two versions. I got twoooo versions..." and #JULY15.

Well, Frank... tomorrow is April 1 and we're still waiting! How could JU-LIE to us!?!?!?

Mega producers Rodney Jenkins and Hit-Boy have been confirmed as two of the albums co-creators. Legendary producer Rick Rubin was reportedly in the studio with Ocean but no details of whether he added any "Rick flare."

With scarce information about Ocean's new album and the occasional trolling from Ocean's brother, Ryan Breaux, there's no telling what we're in store for or when the upcoming release date for Boys. By the end of this lifetime, hopefully, we'll be able to bask in the glorious sounds of a new Frank Ocean album!

Ocean recently made a few headlines after coming out of hiding since the announcement of his album at Kanye West's Yeezy Season 3 fashion show during New York Fashion Week in early February. Ocean appears on West's latest studio release, "The Life Of Pablo," on aptly titled track called, 'Frank's Track.'

Musician Seinabo Sey is off to a fast start

GREG KOT
Chicago Tribune
TNSB Staff

When Seinabo Sey was 21 years old, she felt like she was running out of time. Would this music thing ever work out? How was she going to pay her bills? Out of personal crisis came inspiration - the song "Younger."

"You might as well get it while you can, babe/ 'Cause you know you ain't getting younger," she sang.

Written in 2013 in collaboration with Swedish producer Magnus Lidehall, "Younger" became Sey's breakthrough song in 2014 and anchored her acclaimed 2015 album, "Pretend." It's a pep talk and self-critique, a way of assuring a worried parent that also motivated Sey.

"It was the second song I ever wrote," the singer says. "It was written out of frustration, out of the feeling that I wasn't writing enough. Magnus had asked me if I'd done anything with this beat he had sent me, and I hadn't. I was angry with myself, and depressed because I was out of money. When I focused on what was making me angry, the words started to come. The first verse came fast. That line, 'There is a conclusion to my illusion, I assure you this,' was written

for my mom, telling her that it's going to be all right, I'm going to be all right."

Sey was born in Stockholm to a Swedish mother and Gambian father, Maudo Sey, who was a drummer in an Afro-pop band. Hanging around her father increased her passion for music, but she always thought she was too shy to be a "superhero," which is how she perceived people who could get up on a stage in front of people and perform.

The family moved between Sweden and Africa, until Sey left home in her mid-teens and took the plunge. She entered a Stockholm music school and studied soul music. The performance-heavy curriculum got her over her stage fright, and she immersed herself in the vocabulary of neo-soul singers such as Erykah Badu, Lauryn Hill and Jill Scott. More doors opened when she was invited to tour with a Swedish rapper as a

as Britney Spears and Kylie Minogue, and suggested Sey reach out to him.

"I thought he's not going to care - he just made a Britney Spears song," she says. "But he cared. I'd never been in a studio with a real producer before, but he asked me a lot of questions about what kind of music I like, what I wanted to sound like. He was working with people like Katy Perry and other artists all the time, so it took a year to focus on my project. That was a good year because it taught me a lot - I had to do the songs on my own, working with his beats. It was the first time I understood what it took to make a structured, well-written song."

She wrote a batch of material in the wake of "Younger" that paired her emotive vocals with introspective and socially conscious lyrics. A 2014 EP included "Younger" and "Hard Time," about a relationship with a friend that had soured. "I write about feelings I am not comfortable expressing to other people," she says.

"I want to write songs like [John Lennon's] 'Imagine' or 'Crazy' with Gnarls Barkley, the 'Formation' song from Beyonce - songs that have a message and also have a catchy hook. I want both. Being a hitmaker like Max Martin, you can't take away what

he does, it's an absolute art. But making a hit, it's not rocket science. I want something more."

The final song on "Pretend" is "Burial," which became something of a tribute to her father, who died in 2013. "I started on that song before he died, it was like I was imagining my own funeral, and it was pretty spooky," she says. "When he died, I tried to write a song about it, but I was sad and tired, and couldn't come up with anything. I wanted to put three minutes of silence on the CD. But then I found 'Burial,' tweaked a couple of words, and then gave it to a friend who changed a couple of the chords to make it sound more hopeful, the idea that my dad is in a better place. So when I sing it now, that part of it is therapeutic for me because it's beautiful."

It also cuts to the heart of why Sey sings, and why she embraced music as her life. "To me, 'soul' means to tell the truth," she says. "The artists I love, like Jill Scott and Common, they are great storytellers who help people with their songs. I want to make music that makes me feel the way I felt when I was a lonely kid and listened to Destiny's Child. I felt empowered, even when I lived in a town where nobody looked like me. I hope when people hear my music, they feel less alone."

"I knew I always wanted to be a musician, but I didn't believe it could happen. We were poor, so I thought the only way for me to make a living was to do something 'proper.'

Seinabo Sey
Musician

"I knew I always wanted to be a musician, but I didn't believe it could happen," she says. "We were poor, so I thought the only way for me to make a living was to do something 'proper.' I felt I had to get an education to survive. I thought maybe I'll be a lawyer, because I watched too many 'Gilmore Girls' episodes. But I wasn't very good at anything besides music."

back-up singer and ad-libbing emcee. It was all about teenage kicks.

"I went on a summer tour and we drank and rapped our way around Sweden for like a year," she says. "It was a good way to pay the rent."

The rapper who hired her had worked with Lidehall, a prominent producer who had worked with artists such

Three key pieces to make your spring wardrobe sing

MELISSA MAGSAYSAY
Chicago Tribune
TNS Staff

NECK SCARVES

Recently spotted: Hedi Slimane started showing scarves on the spring 2015 Saint Laurent runway. Models wore thin scarves tied around their necks in an effortless, rock 'n'

shoulder areas as the focal point of the body that's in fashion at the moment. Lanvin, Gucci and Rodarte included a lot of neck scarves in their spring 2016 runway collections.

Staying power: "This is a very easy way to add texture and personalized effect to an outfit," says Penny Lovell, Los

subtle, depending on the style chosen.

How to best wear them: "It's more of an attitude than a trend," says Chutney Hunter, head buyer of designer ready-to-wear, shoes and handbags at Pacific Palisades boutique Elyse Walker. "There are no rules: Layer or tie them on with T-shirts,

her fashion pack have a penchant for wearing crisp white Adidas Stan Smith sneakers. Along with Adidas, brands including Asics, Puma, Saint Laurent, Jil Sander, Vans and Nike have increased their white sneaker offerings.

Staying power: The fresh look of the Stan Smith has evolved into the footwear item for appearing like an in-the-know style-setter while remaining comfortable. It won't be surprising if this sneaker trend stays around longer than, say, the five-inch platform stilettos, popular several years ago. "We are now at a point where literally any outfit can be modernized by a simple white sneaker," said Red Godfrey, vice president of the fashion office for Seattle-based retailer Nordstrom. "It is a classic, and after its fashion fandom moves on, you've still got a great pair of sneakers for weekend walks and workouts."

How to best wear them: "Mixing sportswear with more classic pieces is very now," Lovell says. That means sneakers are being paired with athleisure looks, as well as jeans, skirts and long dresses.

WHITE SNEAKERS

Recently spotted: Designer Phoebe Philo and



DARIUS DUPINS/THE BEACON

roll manner. Now, they're being worn as thicker bandannas and thin, silky versions tied in bows, often paired with chokers and reinforcing the neck and

Angeles-based fashion stylist to Anne Hathaway and Taylor Schilling. The neck scarf still has the '70s vibe that dominates in fashion now but can be

day dresses or with your favorite slip gown."



DARIUS DUPINS/THE BEACON

BOMBER JACKETS

Recently spotted: On the runways at Gucci and Phillip Lim, and on off-duty models swapping out their bulky black leather moto jackets for borrowed-from-the-boys outerwear. Now, silky, more feminine versions like those from Gucci are being worn as the updated take on toughness.

Staying power: "The bomber jacket is the sneaker

of the apparel world," Godfrey says. "Throw it on over anything, and look instantly and effortlessly cool. It's comfy, youthful, practical, easy to dress down or dress up or borrow from the boyfriend."

How to best wear them: Use a bomber to add a pop of color, a bold print or a military look with a slight twist, Hunter says.

SOFTBALL

UTEP sweeps Panthers over weekend series

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After a 16-7 win over Western Kentucky in the previous series all momentum was broken apart for the FIU softball team as UTEP came into Felsberg Field and took all three games.

The series got underway on Friday, March 25, with a doubleheader. A lightning delay pushed both games, but the Miners and Panthers took the field after a two and a half hour delay.

The game was locked at six a piece in the fourth inning and the go ahead run for the Miners in the fifth proved to be the difference in a 7-6 victory. Three different pitchers took the mound for FIU, but it was Rachel Dwyer who was marked with the loss (2-3). She pitched 3.2 innings, allowing seven hits but retiring 12 batters that she faced.

Dwyer only allowed two runs for the game, while Corinne Jenkins allowed four runs in just one inning, also allowing five hits.

Stephanie Texeira led the Panther batting yet again with two RBI in three at-bats. Jackie Schoff also had a notable game, going 3-4 with two runs of her own. It seems like a broken record for the Panthers this season, leaving 8 runners on base in the first game.

The teams prepared



MEGAN TAIT/THE BEACON

Infielder, Erin Eiland rounds third base to score on a base hit on Saturday, March 26. FIU lost the third game of that series vs UTEP 6-4.

themselves for the second game of the doubleheader, a game in which yet again, a lone run proved to be the difference.

FIU had a quick 1-0 lead in the second inning, and just like in the first game of the night, the Miners managed to erase the deficit and take the victory, this time winning 2-1.

The loss went to Megan Kugelmann (6-3). Kugelmann pitched a complete game with five strikeouts, but two earned runs. Texeira had a quiet game, going 1-3, and Schoff went 2-4 with an RBI.

The Panthers left seven on base and had seven hits for the game and leaving a majority of

their players on base was costly yet again.

The night might have ended but the nightmares were just beginning for FIU. Saturday, March 26, UTEP completed the sweep over FIU with a 6-4 win.

For the third straight game, FIU had the lead but failed to hold on. The Panthers were up

3-0 in the second inning, but UTEP scored the next six runs of the game in the fourth and fifth inning. The Panthers scored a lone run of their own in the fifth, but that would be the end of their offense for the game and ultimately the series.

The bats were alive early for the Panthers, as six singles recorded their three runs in the second inning. Kaitlyn Musa had the fourth straight single for FIU to start the inning, bringing in the first run.

In the fifth inning, Texeira hit her eighth home run of the season to cut the deficit down to 6-4. It was the last run of the game.

Abby Summers dropped to 5-5 on the mound after being marked with the loss. Summers allowed four runs in 4.1 innings.

The weekend sweep marks FIU's fifth straight home loss of the season. After a strong 3-0 strong in Conference USA play, the Panthers are now 4-5 and 18-17 overall for the season.

UTEP improved to 15-20 overall for the season and 5-3 in Conference USA.

Next up for FIU will be another conference matchup, as the Panthers head to Denton, Texas to play North Texas this coming weekend. North Texas is right behind FIU in the Conference USA standings, sitting at 3-6 so far for the season.

TENNIS

Panthers win final home match on senior day

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The No. 49-ranked women's tennis team said goodbye to two seniors with a comeback win Sunday, March 28, at the FIU Tennis Courts.

The Panthers (14-2) honored seniors Kaitlin Brozovich and Carlotta Orlando before Sunday's, March 28, match versus Brown University. The match was the final home game for the two Panthers.

"Throughout my four years here, I've had a great experience with this team," said Orlando. "I'm excited for what's coming. Tennis will always be a part of my life."

Heading into the match, the Panthers remained undefeated when winning the doubles point. The team also jumped from No. 57 to No. 49 on the ITA/Oracle rankings. If the season were to end now, the Panthers would be the No. 1 seed in the

C-USA tournament.

For the Panthers to clinch the No. 1 seed, they need to win out the rest of the season.

The Bears took the doubles point, claiming the first two matches. Sophomore Nerma Caluk and Brozovich lost to Maddie Stearns and Ammu Mandalap, 6-2. Orlando and redshirt freshman Andrea Lazaro fell to Hannah Camhi and Katie Ta, 6-4, to give Brown the point.

"We were nervous in doubles," said head coach Katarina Petrovic. "After doubles I reminded them of their game plan. It was a very important match for both us and the seniors. I didn't want the match to get away from us."

The Panthers would come back and take four-straight singles matches to clinch the match.

Lazaro clinched the Panthers' first point, quickly defeating Camhi, 6-2, 6-0, tying the match. Lazaro remains undefeated in

dual matches. The redshirt freshman has won all 14 of her dual matches this season.

Junior Nina Nagode put the Panthers ahead, 2-1, with a 6-0, 6-3 win over No. 94 Alyza Benotto. The win was Nagode's 20th of the season.

Caluk finished her match minutes after Nagode. The sophomore won in straight sets, defeating Ta, 6-2, 6-1, extending the Panther lead to 3-1. Caluk's victory improved the sophomore to 25-5 on the season and 13-2 in dual action.

Freshman Maryna Veksler clinched the match for the Panthers, defeating Dayna Lord, 6-4, 6-2. Veksler's win improved her singles record to 25-7 on the season and 10-3 in dual matches.

However, the two seniors remained playing.

Brozovich fell in her final match to Mariska Chamdani, 7-6 (4), 6-0.

Orlando finished off the match with a comeback win in the final set over Stearns.

The senior came back from a one-set deficit and won in a tiebreaker, 4-6, 6-2, 7-6 (3), giving the Panthers a 5-2 win over the Bears.

After the match, Brozovich was given a Gatorade ice bath, Orlando ducked and did not get hit by the freezing liquid.

"It didn't hit me until now that it was my final home game," said Brozovich, still dripping from the ice bath. "I wanted to win my final match so badly. I kept pushing and stayed positive, but it didn't work out."

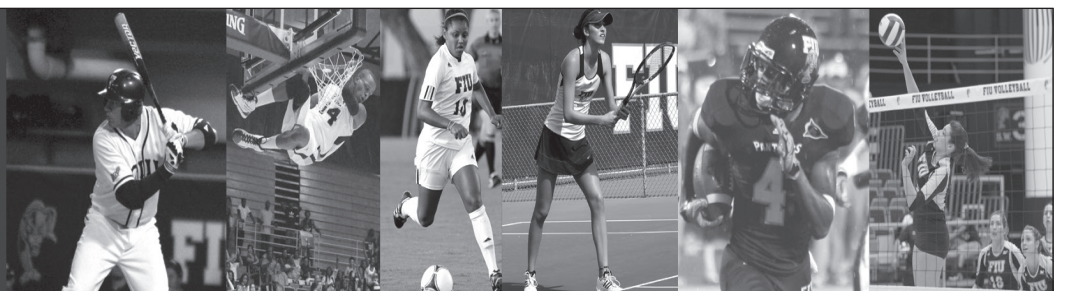
The season wraps up this coming weekend as the Panthers face the University of Central Florida Knights and the University of Alabama at Birmingham Blazers in Orlando. The Panthers will face the Knights on Friday, April 1, and play the Blazers on Saturday, April 2, to close out the season.

First serve against the Knights is set for 2 p.m.

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BASEBALL

Panthers continue to struggle against C-USA teams

LOU'S HACKS



LOUIS AGUDELO

The Panthers lost another series over the weekend. After losing three out of their last four games, dropping two out of the three games to Marshall University at home gave them their fourth series loss of the season and their second against a conference opponent.

The series began Thursday, March 24, night with the Panthers jumping ahead early, when with two outs, a double to the opposite field off of the bat of Zack Soria scored two runs.

The Thundering Herd had their first run come across via a walk with the bases loaded, Andres Nuñez's (2-1) third of the inning, but he'd eventually get out of the inning with the with lead for FIU still intact.

After leading off the bottom half of the second inning with a double, a couple of wild pitches advanced Eddie Silva from second to third and then third to home, to increase the lead to 3-1. After a scoreless third, an error by first baseman Nick Day scored the Marshall runner on third, but the one would be alone that inning.

An opposite field home run from Marshall's 6-foot-7 first baseman Thomas Lane bounced off the net in left field and tied the game up in the top of the fifth inning and in the top of the sixth inning

Marshall took the lead with an infield single and some help from FIU players out of position.

With a chance to redeem himself, Nick Day stepped into the batter's box and in his words "come back and provide for my team". He'd be intentionally walked, after a wild pitch would allow to runner standing on third base to score.

Another walk with the bases still loaded brought Austin Rodriguez across in the bottom of the seventh and tied the game back up at four and then an error at second base scored another and the Panthers took a 5-4 lead.

A couple more walks with the bases loaded boasted the lead to 7-4. Marshall's Sam Finfer sent a rocket home run off the light post in right field in the top of the eighth, but two more would come across for FIU in the bottom of the eighth, and this game would belong to the Panthers with a 10-5 win.

Friday, March 25, night Marshall would be ready to get revenge on FIU, but they'd have to wait until the weather delay was over, with nearby storms threatening the game. The game would eventually start, at around 7:20 pm and the Thundering Herd jumped out to an early 2-0 lead of their own in the first inning.

A home run off the bat of Austin Rodriguez would bring FIU closer, but it would take waiting until the fourth inning to see the game tied back up at two with an RBI single by Eddie Silva.

The Panthers took the lead just minutes later when a wild pitch allowed

Silva to score from third.

With the game 3-2 in favor of the home team, it was Marshall's turn to play their hand and they did by scoring two runs in the next inning with a couple of timely RBI-singles.

Chris Mourelle (3-2) had some of his best stuff Friday night, with seven strikeouts, his highest total this season, but after giving up four runs on 11 hits, he'd be allowed to come out for the sixth inning and even made it through the sixth without much else happening, he was pulled from the game.

FIU would tie the game back up on an interference mix-up by the Marshall third-baseman Aaron Bossi, but the Herd would get the last laugh Friday night after scoring the go-ahead run in the top of the eighth and going on to win the game 5-4 and even the series up at 1-1.

On Saturday, March 26, with a chance to win the series, and bring their record against Conference USA competition to .500, FIU went to work.

Garrett Cave(1-2) had a relatively successful first inning pitching for the Panthers, with two strikeouts, a hit, a walk, but no runs scored.

To start the scoring in Saturday's game, Zach Files brought across Eddie Silva in the first inning with an RBI-Double to center.

With Files standing on second base, Soria, crushed a homerun to left-center field and made FIU's lead 3-0.

Marshall would have an answer quickly for at least one of those three runs, in the top of the next inning, when their shortstop Leo

Valenti hit an RBI-single between Austin Rodriguez and Irving Lopez to get things started for his team.

Jack Schaaf hit a sacrifice fly to center field to score fellow outfielder Kolby Folis. Schaaf has the lowest batting average of all starting position players at .260 right now, but also the most RBI's in the entire program at 17. Marshall would score a run in the fifth, sixth, and seventh inning taking the lead 5-4.

Austin Rodriguez would be the answer in the bottom of the seventh inning with a double down the left-field line, scoring right fielder Kenny Meimerstorf, and bringing the game to five runs per team.

For the second time that weekend, Marshall would score the last run of

the game in the top of the eighth inning off an RBI single off the bat of DJ Gee and with that take the third game of the series, and the series itself.

Over the weekend, Head Coach Turtle Thomas said, "Marshall is a very good team, they've been hot lately...the last few games, they've been on absolute fire."

This is a fire that his team is going to have to hope rubbed off on them, because 2-4 against CUSA teams is not going to cut it.

If they're relying on a late-season surge like they did last season, I'm not sure they'll get it.

On the offensive end, they're batting almost 30 points higher than they did last year, but from everything I've seen, hitting isn't the problem.

This year's pitching staff pales in comparison to last year's. As of right now, FIU is on pace to give up almost 100 more hits to opposing batters by the end of this season.

The Panthers had a short break from CUSA-play on their short trip Tuesday, March 29, up to "The World's Most Famous Beach" in Daytona, to play a game Bethune Cookman University.

Soon after they'll be headed to San Antonio Texas on Friday, April 1 to take on the University of Texas at San Antonio and have another hack at a Conference USA opponent.

Lou's Hacks is a weekly column about the baseball team in FIU. To contact Louis email him at louis.agudelo@fiusm.com



MEGAN TAIT/THE BEACON

Utility infielder Eddie Silva dives back to first base on a pickoff attempt. FIU lost two out of three games played against Marshall University from March 24-26.

BEACH VOLLEYBALL

Panthers go winless at Stetson Invitational

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The women's beach volleyball team's most recent event saw them competing at the Stetson Beach Invitational in Deland, Florida Friday, March 25, and Saturday, March 26. In an event in which all opponents were ranked inside the top 10, this gave the Panthers an idea of where they are.

On Friday, the team first squared off with No. 4, University of California, Los Angeles. The Bruins swept the match, giving the Panthers their first 5-0 defeat of the season. Having three 5-0 victories throughout the season, the Panthers finally got an idea of how it felt to be at the losing end of them.

The Bruins (7-3) wreaked havoc on the Panthers, especially their No. 1 duo. The pair of Nicole and Megan McNamara defeated senior, Aren Cupp, and graduate student, Martyna Gluchowicz, convincingly, winning 21-13, 21-12.

The Panthers were beaten in two sets in all but one match. The No. 3 duo of graduate student, Tina Toghiyani, and sophomore, Estefanie Bethancourt, was able to force a third set, but was eventually defeated by UCLA's No. 3 duo, Zana Muno/Reily Buchler, 19-21, 21-16, 15-5.

The loss to the No. 5 duo of redshirt sophomore, Savannah Davis, and sophomore, Natalia Giron, snapped its seven match win streak to begin the season.

Up next for the Panthers on Friday

was No. 2, Florida State University, a team they've had success against in the past. Last season, the team defeated the Seminoles twice, including a match in the AVCA National Championships.

However, this match was headed towards the opposite end of the spectrum. The Seminoles started off hot, defeating the Panthers No. 1, No. 2 and No. 3 duos in dominant fashion. At the No. 4 duo, Davis and Giron finally gave the team a victory in three sets against FSU's No. 4 duo, Annie Montgomery/Kayla Joyce.

The Seminoles won the match 4-1.

After losing both matches on Friday, the Panthers went into the latter half of the Stetson Invite hoping for some positive

momentum.

The team faced off against host school and No. 9, Stetson University and although it resulted in 2-3 loss, it showed signs of improvements. The Panthers forced the Hatters into three, three-set matches, going 1-2 and split the other two matches.

Giron and Davis, at the No. 5 duo, continued their winning ways defeating Stetson's No. 5 duo 21-14, 21-15. Davis reached her 22nd overall individual win, tying her for 10th all time in program history.

The event wrapped up on Saturday afternoon against No. 5, University of Hawaii. The Rainbow Wahine once again were too much for the Panthers to handle. In a 4-1 defeat, the Panther's only victory came from the No. 5 duo of Toghiyani and Bethancourt, winning

in three sets 11-21, 21-19, 16-4.

Coming into the Stetson Beach Invitational, the Panthers were ranked No. 10. Surely, after four consecutive losses, they will fall out of the top 10 for the first time this season.

The team will be back at home for the FIU Surf and Turf Invitational at Miami Beach. Friday, April 1, the Panthers will host University of South Carolina, Tulane University and Florida International University.

Saturday, April 2, will be much more challenging for the Panthers. They will take on No. 3, University of Southern California, and No. 8, Georgia State University to conclude the event.

Rebecca Quesnel and Naomi Ruele represent FIU at NCAA championships

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Naomi Ruele and Rebecca Quesnel finished up what will go down as two of the most historically successful seasons for each of them and for each of FIU's Swimming and Diving programs.

After both Ruele and Quesnel successfully qualified for the NCAA Championships the week before, the two talented student-athletes showed up to the challenge that were the NCAA Swimming and Diving Championships last week from Wednesday, March 16, through Saturday, March 19, at the Georgia Tech Aquatic Center in Atlanta, Georgia.

Ruele scored 22.68 seconds in the 50 Free Prelims, which placed her 41st in the competition. Quesnel scored 199.20 in the Platform Program Preliminaries, placing her 38th in the competition. By competing in this, Quesnel became the

first FIU diver ever to take part in the NCAA Championships.

Making her first ever appearance, Ruele competed in Day Two of the NCAA Championships, Thursday, March 17th, in what's known as the "50 Free Prelims," short for the 50-Yard Freestyle Preliminaries. She proceeded to obtain her fourth-best [collegiate] career time, at 22.68. This score placed her at 41st in the competition, which was, unfortunately, not high enough to qualify her for the 50 Free Finals.

Ruele's score of 22.68 was the fifth time in her career that she scored under 23 seconds in a 50 Free. In the Conference USA Championships Preliminaries, she scored 22.33, which became her best time ever, until, of course, she broke that personal record in the round that came right after, the Finals, where she would score 22.23 seconds.

Competing at the top of her game and coming out on top was no new thing for

Ruele, as she came in either first or second place in the 50 Free an incredible twelve times in the season.

Ruele put up a flawless performance at the Conference USA Championships earlier this season, winning gold in all seven events that took place, three individual competitions and four relay competitions. She was named C-USA Swimmer of the Meet there after breaking two school records at the 100 Free and the 200 Free Relay.

Three days after her performance at the NCAA Championships on Sunday, March 20, Ruele also happened to qualify for the 2016 Olympic Games that will take place in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil.

This came as a result of her officially FINA-approved time trial score of 26.07 seconds at the 50 Free, which took place inside of the same Georgia Tech Aquatic Center in Atlanta, Georgia.

Ruele will be representing her native country, Botswana, as well as Florida

International in Brazil for the Olympics. The Games will span from August through August 21.

As for Quesnel, she had a special season of her own, as well. She became the first FIU diver to ever participate in the NCAA championships last week at the Georgia Tech Aquatic Center, scoring 199.20 in the Platform Prelims, thereby placing her at 38th.

Quesnel was awarded Conference USA Diver of the Week five times during this exceptional 2015-2016 season.

Earlier this season at the Conference USA Championships, Quesnel was awarded the gold medal for her performance in the 1-Meter competition as well as the Platform program in which she set the FIU record score.

She also placed second in the 3-Meter competition. She broke personal records of hers at the 1-Meter and 3-Meter this season.

Bike drive aids incoming refugees

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The FIU community is helping Church World Services Miami collect bikes for newly arriving refugees who will soon call South Florida their new home.

"Bike Drive for Refugee Families" is organized by Eric Feldman, the Coordinator of the Offices

meeting that I had on the phone with CWS, they had mentioned that some refugees had been asking for bikes, not only just for kids but also for the adults since they just moved here and they don't have cars," said Feldman. "So, I decided to start a bike drive for refugee families here at FIU and see if people would donate a bike or donate money towards buying a bike for the refugees."

get routed to agencies where these organizations provide job training, language education and basic needs such as food, water and community infrastructure.

"There's a distinction between an immigrant and a refugee," said Feldman. "A refugee is specifically someone who is applying to the United States to be able to come and escape something, that if they stay at home country they can be imprisoned or jailed. It's more than just immigrating to the United States because they want better opportunities or they want a good job. So this bike drive and organization works specifically with refugees from around the world."

Ashaunte Stroman, a Mentor for the Global Living Learning Community and a player on the FIU Women's Rugby team got involved with the Bike Drive by promoting the Bike Drive to the University.

"Eric Feldman did a presentation with the FIU Go Global Department and he spoke about the mission of the bike drive and distributed the expected outcome. I was sold personally because I love bikes and I know how it feels to be limited due to

“

"These are people in our own community who are going through an unimaginable transition."

Eric Feldman
Coordinator of the Offices of Global Learning Initiatives

”

of Global Learning Initiatives and the FIU Recreational Center Bike Shop for the duration of the spring semester.

The goal is to collect 20 new or gently used bikes and raise \$2,000 in order to purchase bikes for the refugees to CWS Miami by the end of April.

So far, the Bike Drive has been successful - it has received \$60 in cash donations and three bicycle donations that will be given to the refugee families.

Feldman works with CWS to recruit volunteers and internships where students can go into the community and learn about global issues. He was invited by the CWS to be a part of their community advisory board to represent FIU and that's where he started the bike drive.

Church World Services is one of five organizations in the country that is approved by the state department to resettle refugees. When the U.S accepts refugees from different countries, they

SEE BIKES, PAGE 2

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