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State of the University addresses future plans

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FIU will graduate more than 5,500 students in May, for a total of close to 12,800 students this year, according to University President Mark Rosenberg at Monday's State of the University Address.

"It's really been an unbelievable year of celebration and graduation," he said.

The Address, held Monday, April 11 in the GC Ballrooms, was a conversation with the community about the developments and challenges that affect the

University according to Rosenberg. Second through fifth grade students from Sweetwater Elementary performed a skit to illustrate the importance of acceptance and diversity.

"We have a very good, aggressive, thoughtful, creative partnership with Sweetwater Elementary," Rosenberg said. "There's obviously a moral to this story, particularly now in this political season when lines seem to be drawn in ways that run counter to how we can all work together to rebuild the good society."

Following the skit and the president's

acknowledgement of faculty and staff, FIU's measurements according to state standards were discussed, providing context to the reason for the address.

"Every time I see the governor, and it's not that much but I will see him and he will talk to me occasionally, I have to report to him on how we're doing on getting our students jobs," the president said. "If we offer a degree, is there at the end of that degree, a good job for a student, or is that student well prepared to create a job. That's all I talk about with Gov. Scott."

With this context in mind, the University aims

to get involved in ending community violence. This involvement, as well as the work of the University to aid low-income students, its research, innovation and job ratings contribute to FIU growing into a recognized and respected institution.

"What I really am excited about is the respect that this University, that you are starting to get. That respect, we've had it for a while, but it's accelerated. It's deepened. It's enhanced," Rosenberg said.

This growing respect, the president explained, grew from recognitions such as the Carnegie R1 rating that was received this academic year, the No. 2 ranking



JAVIER SANLEY/THE BEACON

President Rosenberg addresses the FIU community.

on the Forbes list for top employers in Florida, and recognition from President Barack Obama, the White House and the Department of Education for the work

and support of low-income students.

Building local communities, a concern for

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JAVIER SANLEY/THE BEACON

Students from Sweetwater Elementary perform "The Line, the Dot, the Squiggle" at University Address.

Democrats scramble to replace Marco Rubio in Florida

JAMES ROSEN
MKC/Clatchy Washington Bureau
TNS

Rep. Patrick Murphy called on Rep. Alan Grayson on Wednesday to quit Congress over a House ethics investigation into allegations that Grayson had parlayed his post in the House of Representatives into personal financial gain.

The increasingly bitter Senate primary campaign between the Democratic lawmakers from Florida ratcheted into still harsher territory as Grayson countered by demanding that Murphy stop defiling his reputation.

Grayson and Murphy are the leading Democratic contenders to replace Sen. Marco Rubio, who quit

the Republican White House race last month after losing badly in his state's presidential primary. The Senate primary is Aug. 30.

A day after release of a detailed referral by the Office of Congressional Ethics to the House Ethics Committee, Murphy spoke as if the referral's allegations against Grayson had been proved.

"The committee has voted to keep the investigation of Congressman Alan Grayson going because he broke the law," Murphy told reporters in a conference call. "He broke the law to make money with an offshore hedge fund. It's that simple."

Murphy added: "With this unethical action, I believe, quite frankly, that he's disqualified himself

to be a public servant."

Grayson's Senate campaign fired back.

"Patrick Murphy needs to stop wasting the time of voters and taxpayers with his political smear campaign and start talking about the issues," said David Damron, Grayson's campaign communications director. "Rep. Grayson wants to expand Social Security and Medicare, and ensure that everyone can see a doctor and make a livable wage at \$15 an hour. That's what this race is about."

The referral released Tuesday said "there is substantial reason to believe" the multiple allegations

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Tom Wolf signs orders for LGBT protections

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Pennsylvania Gov. Tom Wolf is using his executive office powers and calling on the state's Republican-controlled House and Senate to take an exact opposite approach to nondiscrimination protections that lawmakers recently have passed in North Carolina and Mississippi.

In reaction to North Carolina's House Bill 2 and Mississippi's House Bill 1532 - both laws that exclude gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgender people from state anti-discrimination legal protections - Wolf, a Democrat, signed two executive orders Thursday extending equal protection under Pennsylvania law to LGBT state employees.

"What happened in North Carolina, and what is going on in other states, should be a call to pass nondiscrimination legislation in Pennsylvania now," Wolf said in a statement.

"I call on the General Assembly to swiftly put legislation on my desk that ensures that people throughout the commonwealth - regardless of sexual orientation, gender expression or identity - are treated equally

under Pennsylvania law," he said.

A similar bill to the one restricting trans North Carolinians bathroom use was killed in Florida in 2015.

According to lgbtmap.org, Miami-Dade county also has anti-discrimination laws that prohibit employment discrimination based on sexual orientation or gender identity. However, Florida has no statewide anti-discrimination policy protecting transgender individuals.

"South Florida is typically your liberal base, where they're expecting support. They have to fight for it, but they're expecting support from there. Where in Central and North Florida it's such an uphill battle," said Daniel Capote, president of FIU's Stonewall Pride Alliance. "The energy in Tallahassee is so not the energy that you see here."

In 2014, the county's human rights ordinance was expanded to include gender identity and expression, when originally the only LGBT issue it covered was sexual orientation, according to Capote. This ordinance takes on the same language as FIU's anti-discrimination policy, FIU-105.

SEE LGBT, PAGE 2

NATION & WORLD BRIEFS

BuzzFeed stunt highlights Facebook's push into streaming

Viral video maker BuzzFeed got at least 3.1 million people to flip over to Facebook to watch a pair of people in hazmat suits and goggles wrap rubber bands around a watermelon until it exploded. The live stunt Friday placed a major spotlight on Facebook Live, the social media company's push to get people to

stream live footage of anything and everything in their lives. To encourage early adoption, Facebook has been paying a small number of media companies, including BuzzFeed, to get creative with live streaming, according to news reports this week.

Thousands plead to keep beloved manatee on 'endangered' list

On the final day for public comment on whether to downgrade the West Indian Manatee from "endangered" to "threatened," the unofficial consensus was overwhelmingly clear.

Over the last three months, virtually all of the 3,700-plus people who've weighed in on the matter with the U.S. Fish and

Wildlife Service want the big sea cow to retain its current federal classification. "The manatees' future is far from certain, which means the work is far from over, and the time for downlisting is NOT yet here," Colleen McGlone, of New Port Richey, Fla., wrote in a March 21 comment posted on the wildlife service's website.

European anti-terror efforts hobbled by lack of trust, shared intelligence

At the beginning of this year, the acting president of the council of the European Union asked the respected International Centre for Counter-Terrorism in The Hague, Netherlands, to figure out, among other things, exactly how many Europeans have gone to Syria to fight in a civil war that's entering its sixth year. The request, on its face, seemed simple enough. It came from the governing

council of the European Union, a collection of the heads of state of the 28 member nations in the EU. Its importance has been made clear by three deadly terror attacks in the past 15 months all linked to Syria and the Islamic State. And yet, in the end, only a rough approximation could be done.

Governor signs LGBT protection orders

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against Grayson, but it is up to the House ethics panel to investigate those allegations and determine whether they are true.

Among the allegations are claims that Grayson lured investors to his multimillion-dollar Cayman Islands hedge fund by marketing his access to information and decision-makers as a congressman. Grayson also is accused of omitting information from annual financial-disclosure forms, receiving fees from litigation involving the

government and keeping ties to companies that hold federal contracts.

Grayson firmly denied the allegations, as had his Senate campaign aides Tuesday when the House Ethics Committee publicized them.

On Wednesday, Murphy denied Grayson's claims that Murphy's campaign had paid a prominent law firm, Perkins Coie, to bring the allegations against Grayson to the attention of the Office of Congressional Ethics.

"I can assure you it had nothing to do with this,"

Murphy said of a \$10,000 payment from his campaign to Perkins Coie.

The Grayson-Murphy primary campaign to replace the Republican Rubio takes place as Democrats hope to gain control of the Senate from Republicans in November. Rubio's is one of 24 seats currently held by Republicans that are being contested in the fall election; only 10 Democratic-held seats are in play.

Additional reporting by TNS Staff

Florida looks to replace Rubio in elections race

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Beyond new legal protections for employees of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, Wolf also signed an executive order related to nondiscrimination in the "grants and procurement process," according to his office.

Wolf's statement and action come as at least one political group in Pennsylvania this week started a campaign against legislation that's been pending for months in the state to include LGBT as a class protected against discrimination.

Pennsylvania's LGBT advocacy group Equality PA says the socially conservative group Pennsylvania Family Institute is spreading misinformation about the pending Pennsylvania Fairness Act, by "bringing discrimination from North Carolina to Pennsylvania."

The Pennsylvania Family Institute is calling on people to protest the Pennsylvania Fairness Act and claims the proposed legislation is a "bathroom bill" that would violate privacy in restrooms and

locker rooms.

Capote finds that the wrong issues are often discussed when dealing with LGBT rights.

"The energy needs to shift," he said. "The attention to whose rights we need to protect is wrong."

He continued by saying that, when discussing "bathroom bills," trans people are portrayed as perpetrators of violence and harassment, when they are more often the victims.

"They're the people that actually need to be protected, not us be protected from them," Capote said.

Wolf is one of several elected officials nationwide who are taking action or publicly opposing laws such as those in North Carolina and Mississippi. Major businesses and CEOs, including PayPal in Charlotte, also have publicly criticized the exclusion of LGBT people from discrimination protection.

A similar proposal was introduced this week by a state senator from South Carolina.

Rosenberg addresses future of University

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the University, will also be seen in the University's building of a bridge across Eighth Street at Southwest 109th Avenue.

"If you give us a pile of rocks, we'll build a bridge," the president said.

Funding for the bridge is provided by the United States Department of Transportation in the form of a \$1 million Tiger Grant. Rosenberg says this is the first time this grant has been given to a university.

With the growth the University has seen there have been setbacks, said Rosenberg.

This year, in performance funding... we've dropped to fifth place. We are not happy about this, but it's what we said was going to happen. Other universities are starting to pick up the pace," Rosenberg said. "For next year, we know right now that we're going to drop in our graduation rate from roughly 57 percent or 58 percent then to 52 percent. So that means we've got to do better."

In looking forward to the future and doing better, the University is on track to meet its 6,000 annual internship goal outlined in the FIU Beyond Possible 2020 strategic plan.

Currently, the University has an 80 percent retention rate and a 76 percent placement rate according to the president. In addition, the president announced plans to build an Alumni Conference Center and hotel on campus.

While the University continues to push for expansion to the Fairgrounds, other expansions have already come to fruition, such as the new site in Washington D.C.

"We know we need to, we know we can, and we have improved," said Rosenberg. "But this is everybody's responsibility."

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Society is two-faced toward snitching

THOUGHTS ON A PAGE



DAMIAN GORDON

It seems that people don't just bandwagon on basketball teams these days, but also hate trains for the unlucky person of the week.

Who you are dictates what you're allowed to get away with. Many aspects play a factor, such as the position you hold in a society or group, how well liked you are, etc.

Recently, Nick Young, also known as "Swaggy P," was secretly recorded confessing to cheating on his fiancé, Iggy Azalea. The video was taken by fellow Lakers teammate D'Angelo Russell.

When a grown man is still calling himself "Swaggy P," it's not really surprising that he would do something so immature. The surprising thing was that Russell caught most of the heat since the video's release.

Back in the day, Kobe Bryant snitched on his teammates and kept it moving.

Maybe all those championship rings gave everyone amnesia.

Unfortunately for Russell, he has no rings to erase the public's memory "Men In Black" style like Bryant did.

Russell is not only getting labeled as a rat, but whether he can be trusted enough to continue playing with his team is being questioned. At the same time, Young's morals are not being challenged even though he was disloyal to the woman he was supposed to spend the rest of his life with.

Perhaps it's the way so many people view Iggy Azalea, as if she's the Hitler of music, that has led to Young being portrayed as the victim.

Young is also the center of a popular meme that people relate with. That may be helping several to side with him.

If the roles were reversed with Azalea being recorded, no doubt the comments of the video

would have flooded with praise for "outing that disloyal thot."

Maybe it's because cheating and NBA players are synonymous, like Jared from Subway is with kids playgrounds now. So people aren't shocked, caring less about matters like this and, in fact, actually expecting this from players.

The connotation of snitching is largely negative, especially in urban areas. Numerous rappers promote this norm when they're beat down or shot by someone they know, but refuse to report the assailants to the police because "they ain't no snitch."

Snitching, in some twisted way, is considered dishonest even if it has good intentions. Again, to use cheating as an example, most people would want to be informed of their significant other being unfaithful.

Going by this warped logic, if someone turned in their best friend for being a serial murderer, the response would likely be a loud "boo" followed

by tomatoes being thrown at them while they walked through the streets, instead of commending them for getting a danger away from the public.

We're told things like "no one likes a tattletale" since preschool, yet teachers and parents ask for this behavior when a vase is broken in the house or something is missing in the classroom.

No one likes a tattletale unless it's convenient for them. Then, the hope is for the tattletale to sing like Mariah.

It feels that when it comes to morals, society flip-flops more than the colors of flashing lights at a rave. This is how it's always been and will continue to be unless things change with people starting to think as well as judge for themselves.

Thoughts on a page is a commentary on the topics everyone thinks about, but doesn't discuss. For suggestions or comments, email Damian at damian.gordon@fiusm.com

THE BEACON | Editorial Access FIU and FIYou – a critical analysis

This year's SGA Election has been given plenty of coverage and conversation without much substance, which this editorial board has contributed to. Now that much of the pettiness of the elections has drawn to a close, we'd like to take a look at the platforms of the two parties critically.

For starters, both parties have listed changes to the Sweetwater Trolley on their platform cards as a promise to students. The Sweetwater Trolley is an entity of the City of Sweetwater. FIU and the SGA have no control over the routes, nor can they fund the increase in cost these changes would incur. The trolley makes stops at Sweetwater hotspots, including Dolphin Mall, which Access FIU adds to its list of stops promised. Walmart, however, is outside of the jurisdiction of Sweetwater.

Additionally, Access FIU promises to give more student input on the "2020 Initiative." Beyond Possible 2020 is not only already set, it is an administrative plan detailing University goals. Students do not have input because it's based on standards the administration wishes to uphold. Promising this to students gives false hope and furthers the idea that SGA candidates are self-serving and pandering for votes.

Access FIU also wants to achieve increased representation within SGA to better reflect the student body seen at FIU. FIU is a diverse space where the average student embodies the intersection of multiple identities. It's only right that a government meant to represent the best interests of students should be inclusive of students from FIU's various communities. Especially after incidents such as the Nature Preserve, where students were left feeling like SGA represents the interests of administration rather than the interests of students. Access FIU's promise to protect and expand outdoor green spaces and study spots for students potentially addresses that issue.

Access FIU will likely face the same problems the current SGA and administration are facing when trying to expand anything. It can only be hoped that green-space expansion is not limited to the relocation and expansion of the northern third of the Nature Preserve, as these spaces serve an important function.

Both parties seem interested in maintaining Panthers' mental wellbeing. FIYOU hopes to lower the "suicidal idea" on campus with more resources for CAPS, while Access FIU plans to open a "sexual and mental health kiosk."

Everglades Hall already houses a consultation office which offers consultation and referrals, stress reduction programs, a behavioral sleep program and takes workshop requests. Further, CAPS accepts walk-ins for all students, no matter the issue and features many outreach programs that bring the office to the students.

CAPS also has multiple programs in effect for suicide prevention. The Suicide Prevention Awareness Club aims to provide resources for students having suicidal thoughts. Suicide prevention is not new to this campus - the systems both parties wish to implement are already in place here.

This editorial board writes in hopes that these critiques of Access FIU's and FIYOU's campaigning platforms will assist the student body in making a well informed decision.

Texting can be a tool to combat depression

PANTHER HEALTH



MAYTINEE KRAMER

Our generation is a wired one. We use technology to stay in touch with friends and family at all times.

Through smartphones, computers and gaming consoles, people are permanently plugged into a network of social devices - creating a culture of "connected cocooning."

However, studies have shown that with the heavy rise of technology usage comes negative effects on sleep quality, stress levels and general mental health. More specifically, heavy use of technology has shown that young adults are more likely to develop depression or other psychiatric problems.

To combat depression and help people by providing direct support as well as anonymous data about people in crisis, the nonprofit Do Something started a 24/7, free "Crisis Text Line" to give people access to crisis counselors.

Today, people text more than they call and since they're more likely to send a text message, this service could become imperative to saving lives.

Launched in 2013, CTL is the first around-the-clock hotline in America to provide its services solely over text messaging, helping more and more teenagers and adults in distress.

As more people tap out text messages to trained volunteer counselors using the number 741741, data from those conversations has helped provide many possibilities for how to reach out to people

before a crisis occurs.

Do Something's CEO Nancy Lublin said in a TED Talk recently, "The way we communicate with young people is by text, because that's how young people communicate."

Due to the privacy of text messaging, Lublin said that more teenagers are likely to share the most private details of their lives that they would never voice aloud.

Texting is also very immediate, cutting right to the chase rather than crying and hyperventilating over the phone.

As the number of users grows, CTL is now able to pick up certain patterns before a counselor sees a text, meaning keywords give an idea about what the situation is and the severity of the case.

For example, if a text contains words like "die" or "kill," suggesting immediate danger, the message goes to the top of the queue for faster response.

From the data gathered by CTL, a trend shows that 30 percent of texts are about suicide and depression, with Sunday being the day people most often write in about killing themselves.

Texts asking for help with eating disorders usually peak on Sunday and Monday. In addition, two-thirds of all crises happen at night, between 8:00 p.m. and 4:00 a.m.

From this data, schools should make more of an effort in preventing crises. According to The National Survey on Drug Use and Health from 2008–2010, about eight percent of college students experience a major depressive episode each year.

In a 2012 survey conducted by the

National Alliance on Mental Illness, of the students with diagnosed mental health issues, depression was the most commonly cited condition.

However, the majority of students don't access the clinical services or academic accommodations provided by their institutions, either due to lack of knowledge of the services or because they're too scared or embarrassed.

FIU currently offers Counseling and Psychological Services at the Student Health Center, which focuses on providing mental health services to students that will facilitate and enhance their personal learning, emotional well-being and academic skills development.

With the data gathered by CTL, FIU should consider including text messaging as a way of reaching out to students and urging them to reach back.

In addition, if data shows that there are certain times when keywords regarding anxiety and eating disorders peak, the university should schedule guidance counselors to be available then.

The technology of texting should make us better, safer people and it should be used for good.

Texting is a great way to connect, and with our developing world, it should soon become a great tool in helping others and saving lives.

Panther Health is a commentary on college health in nutrition. Maytinee Kramer is a staff writer for FIU Student Media. For more commentary, please contact Maytinee at maytinee.kramer@com.

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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Fourth annual Miami Slut Walk protests against sexual assault

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The fourth annual Miami Slut Walk took place Friday, April 8.

A group of students, consisting mostly of women, started their walk at the GC Lawns by Einstein Bros. Bagels and made their way around MMC.

Originating in Canada, the Slut Walk movement began as a response to a statement made by a representative of the Toronto Police Department.

The police representative's public statement blamed sexual assault on the way women dressed -- demonstrating the prevailing rape culture mentality in modern society.

Funded by CSO and organized by N.O.W. FIU, this year's walk continued in its tradition to bring awareness to sexual assault and the culture surround it while also protesting against slut shaming.

"The official goal was to have [students] come out and to be aware of sexual assault and no matter what anybody is wearing or their attitudes toward [sex] doesn't mean you have the right to assault someone," said Rayna Milfort, volunteer coordinator for N.O.W. at FIU.

The event was met with enthusiasm, as described by the outreach coordinator of N.O.W. at FIU, Yulisa Vega, a freshman majoring in art with a minor in art history,

Slut Walk brought out students who were excited to participate.

"We had a lot of people show up before set up...it was an excited atmosphere," said Vega.

Vega also explained that there was a comment from a bystander who said Slut Walk was an excuse for girls to walk around like whores.

"There was no situation, I think, in which [supporters] didn't feel safe," Vega said.

Slut Walk is a movement that grew to eradicate the idea of rape culture and the use of the term "slut," brought out a group students from all races, sexual identity and gender to unite and stand against sexual assault against all.

For more information on Take Back the Night visit the Women's Center in GC 2200 or visit <http://studentaffairs.fiu.edu/get-involved/womens-center/>.



PHOTOS BY MONIQUE MERCADO/THE BEACON

Left: SlutWalk participants prepare to protest around campus.

Top Right: SlutWalk participants protest in the breezeway of University Towers at MMC.

Bottom Left: SlutWalk participants continue to protest across campus at MMC.

DRC student 'excels' in education and music

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It's one thing to enjoy music, but it's another for it to change your entire life. Fabian Carrera, a senior music and social work major at FIU is living proof of how music can have a tremendous impact on not only your happiness, but your health as well.

As a 9 month old in Cuenca, Ecuador, Carrera contracted Poliomyelitis, a disease which paralyzed him from the neck down for five years and impaired his ability to breathe by himself.

While in the hospital, music would filter into the room from a radio next to the bed. Slowly, Carrera would move to the rhythm. First his head, then his hands, until

the doctors realized he was regaining mobility.

After being released from the hospital, it was no secret to Carrera that music was not only a hobby, but an actual form of therapy with the potential to heal.

"I started noticing that I had a unique talent in music and tried to imitate singers," Carrera said. "People would laugh, and so I was worried because I wanted them to know I was serious. It was because I was singing so precisely."

Despite being put in a school for the mentally disabled as well as being marginalized for his disability and race, Carrera continued to persevere and practice his music, studying music and English diligently in Ecuador, then pursuing higher

education in the United States.

"As a disabled individual, there aren't many opportunities. But deep inside of me, I knew I wanted more. I was denied education, I wasn't allowed to take public transportation, but I always wanted something more," Carrera added.

Today, he holds a 3.92 GPA and is working hard in his Master of Social Work program in order to become a clinical therapist with credentials in music therapy. In the future, he hopes to help others who are facing chronic disease through music.

"When a disabled person asks for accommodations and is told it's unfair, it's difficult to deal with... let people learn the way they learn," said Carrera.

Besides excelling in his education, Carrera is an accomplished musician. His music career in the United States has been marked with performances from New York City and Washington, D.C..

On April 3 during his senior recital, Carrera performed "Raíces," the first Ecuadorian concert written for guitar and orchestra, accompanied by Masami Miyazaki on the piano. The piece was doubly special for Carrera, both because of its meaning as an homage to the Ecuadorian indigenous lifestyle, and because the composer, Carlos Bonilla Chavez, was close to him.

"[Bonilla] was my teacher for 10 years, during which I wrote conscriptions for him," said Carrera.

The concerto, later to be

performed with an entire orchestra, fused Ecuadorian rhythm and folk tradition with the standard three measure concerto format. This, in turn, formed the three Movements. The Allegro employed the "Sanjuanito" rhythm, the Adagio was set to the tune of the "Pasillo" and the Presto represented the "Yumbo." As an Ecuadorian, the piece proved to be very influential and close to Carrera's heart.

"At first, I was blown away. It's a beautiful nationalistic concerto," he added.

Though his background of performing music didn't develop until later, Carrera said he's dealt with being in the spotlight his whole life.

"When you're in a wheelchair, you're on stage at all times. I got used to it pretty

quickly," he said.

It is because of this, that he feels in his element on stage.

"In front of the audience, you have it give it 100 percent, or the entire piece is ruined," Carrera said.

Carrera's music career extends beyond the educational landscape as well, having recorded an album in 2003 titled "Guitar Forever."

While achieving aspirations never comes easy to anyone, Carrera believes it is important to never doubt yourself - especially when others are bound to.

"Believe in your dreams. Be constant and tenacious. Even if there are people telling you you can't, if you keep believing in yourself - you can achieve all of your goals." Carrera said.

PANTHER PROFILE

LGBT PRIDE



DARIUS DUPINS

FIU Pride month is well underway. I've been lucky enough to get a group of brave students who are willing to live in the student spotlight and share their stories as LGBT students.

Our first student of this series is Nicole Albertini, a junior who identifies as a lesbian.

Albertini was between the ages of 10 and 12 when she realized she was gay. After moving to Boston, Albertini grew more comfortable in her skin by attending queer specific discussions and events.

"I chose to come out to my mom on my birthday," said Albertini.

Though mostly positive, Albertini's coming out experience was spoiled by her mom gossiping and telling the rest of the family.

"That was alright, since

[the family] took it rather well," Albertini said about the aftermath of her mother telling the family of her coming out.

Coming out to immediate family is never easy. To have a close family member tell others your business that you weren't comfortable enough telling them in the first place could deter you from coming out to anyone else.

Albertini is currently in a long-distance relationship.

She said she wouldn't be comfortable on campus with her girlfriend showing public affection due to her past experience dealing with onlookers and religious individuals.

"The religion that most people follow in Miami is [Catholicism] and they see [being gay] as a very bad thing... even the way I dress, people stare at me," said Albertini.

Albertini hopes to get to a point when she's open to publicly express her affection for her girlfriend.



Nicole Albertini on her way to statistics class, April 8.

DARIUS DUPINS/THE BEACON

LGBTQA 3D series provides students with community support, safe space

HARMONEE FOWLER

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The month of April is Pride month for FIU, and Thursday, April 7, marked the final day of the 3D series.

It is an event dedicated twice a year to teach students the intersectionality of their identities and brings the students in the LGBT community together to help them learn about themselves.

This series was targeted toward people who struggle to find or accept themselves for who they are while sharing their experiences - not only about the LGBT community, but also about other issues.

During the last event, Director Mario Lara explained further what this gathering was about.

This 3D series stands for "Dine, Discuss, and Delivery." At each event they discussed

different topics such as human trafficking, domestic violence, while not excluding abuse among same-sex couples, as well as equality.

More than anything, they discussed how to be prideful in who they are as people, despite how much the world shames them in doing so.

This event branches off the LGBT initiative and speaks on how our social identities are intertwined with each other. According to Assistant Director of the Council of Student Organizations Marissa Lucchesi, this event allows people to talk about things with others going through similar situations with complete confidentiality.

During Thursday's three-hour session, they covered topics that they wouldn't be able to entrust or share with others very easily.

Sitting among others who silently harbor comparable

circumstances, these students are allowed to be open with one another, while meeting new people along the way that share the same struggle; in the midst of this you will find that everyone has a story to tell and that there's no shame in doing just that.

Fortunately, you don't have

on campus that can help... including mentors that are willing to have this conversation with you and your friends," said Lucchesi.

She also suggested the alternatives to lighten any hardships.

"Put yourself in challenges that have you think critically,"

“

There are resources on campus that can help... including mentors that are willing to have this conversation with you and your friends

Marissa Lucchesi
Assistant Director
Council of Student Organizations

”

to wait until next year for the upcoming event to arrive to finally be among like-minded people.

"There are resources

Lucchesi said.

When you're challenged, there are usually two choices: remain where you are or acknowledge your challenges

head on. Stepping out of your comfort zone could also play a part in learning about yourself, if you allow it.

"Educating ourselves is an important step in overcoming this struggle. Learn about yourself [and] what you stand for and the purpose of the community," said Lara.

Lara also said to "strive to help people understand the importance of your work, while realizing that in helping others, you also soothe the aching in yourself."

Despite the shortness of this event, much can be taken from it. While striving to be a better individual, this event points out ways that you can be a better advocate for the community, not only as a member of the LGBTQA community, but also as an ally.

BASEBALL

Monarchs reign in Miami after three game win against the Panthers

LOU'S HACKS



LOUIS AGUDELO

FIU is has dropped even lower in the Conference USA standings after being swept the weekend of April 8 by the Old Dominion University Monarchs.

The Monarchs came all the way from their home in Norfolk, Virginia to score three consecutive wins on the Panthers in their home field.

On Friday, Andres Nuñez (2-2) was given the ball and an opportunity to make his record a winning one. Things looked good to start with a strikeout of the first batter of the night, but a couple consecutive hits and a pitch left too high later, Nuñez and the Panthers were down 4-0.

Nuñez would give up another run in the second inning before being pulled out in the bottom of the third after loading the bases. Cody Crouse would come in for relief and although he let up a run on a deep sacrifice fly, would get out of the inning suffering minimal damage.

With all this offense from Old Dominion, the Panthers would



MEGAN TAIT/THE BEACON

Outfielder Kolby Follis dives back to first base on a pick off attempt from an Old Dominion University pitcher Saturday, April 9. FIU lost that game by a score of 10-2.

have to have something in the form of a response, right? Well, not exactly. Through the first three innings, ODU right hander Sam Sinnen had only allowed one hit.

I say "had" because, in the bottom half of this fourth inning, he gave up six runs on five hits to FIU bats in the hands of Kenny Meimerstorf, Irving Lopez, Rey Perez, Oliver Francis and Zack Soria.

Sinnen was pulled from the game and replaced by Culver Lamb. Lamb inherited runners on both first and third, and a face off with Zach Files. Files would ground out, but the ground out would score another run, and the Panthers would only be down 9-7.

The runs just kept coming from the Monarchs.

The rally wouldn't end there, though, because in the bottom of

the fifth, FIU would score four more runs off of hits from Lopez, Perez and Eddie Silva. ODU would tie things up in the top of the seventh amidst, and possibly even because of, heckling from the home fans.

11-11 was the score then. Soria had a chance to give FIU the lead with runners on second and third, but with two outs, he'd strike out swinging and we'd go on to the

eighth.

Two failed pickoff moves advanced to leadoff hitter from first to second and second to third, eventually being hit in by Old Dominion right fielder Nick Walker and the Monarchs would take a 12-11 lead.

The heckling was getting louder from both sides and there were even pleasantries exchanged between the home plate umpire Tony Maners and FIU's dugout, who had a very inconsistent strike zone on this night.

Maners made multiple errors and a had a lack of production in the later innings that would lead to a heart breaking extra inning loss 12-11 for the Panthers.

Chris Mourelle (4-3) would have similar, if not worse, luck on Saturday night giving up four runs before any of his teammates could step into the batters box.

Luck was on his side though in the bottom of the first, when Nick Day batted in his 15th RBI of the season and Kenny Meimerstorf brought across his team leading 23rd RBI of the season to make the score 4-2 ODU, but that would be the extent of the scoring in the first for both sides.

If FIU scored any more than twice on Saturday, it didn't occur on the baseball field, because two runs was all they'd post in this game. Two is also how many strikeouts Mourelle would manage

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SAND VOLLEYBALL

Panthers finish regular season 11-7

STEFANO RIVERA
Contributing Writer
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Although the University beach volleyball team hasn't achieved the same amount of success it's had the previous two years, it is finding its stride late in the season where it counts.

After being swept two weekends ago in Stetson, many heads were down; however, all that was needed was a little motivation and willingness to build strong character. The Panthers got right back on track the following weekend, winning four out of five matches in

Miami.

To conclude the regular season, the Panthers participated in the Fiesta on Siesta Key Saturday, April 9. The team competed against Grand Canyon University and Texas Christian University in this brief one-day event.

The Antelopes of Grand Canyon came into the match with a 13-3 record, defeating the College of Charleston and Florida Atlantic University the day before Friday, April 8. However, the Panthers were a whole different animal.

The Panthers nearly swept the Antelopes, getting off to a 4-0 lead, and ultimately winning

4-1. The lethal tandem of graduate student, Tina Toghiyani, and senior, Aren Cupp, got the team on the board first, winning 21-16, 21-17.

At the No. 4 slot, they defeated Grand Canyon's sophomore, Emilee Erichsen, and junior, Jordyn Sanchez.

At the No. 5 spot for the Panthers, redshirt sophomore Savannah Davis and sophomore Natalia Giron, showed why they won CCSA Beach Pair of the Week honors last week. Together, they handled their competition with ease winning 21-13, 21-17.

The team's only loss came from the No. 2

duo of graduate student, Martyna Gluchowicz, and junior, Marina Boulanger. In a tightly contested match, they fell 21-13, 18-21, 12-15.

Sophomore, Estefanie Bethancourt, and junior, Anabela Sataric, got pushed to a third set, but eventually won 21-14, 16-21, 15-11.

The Panthers then faced off against TCU. Going into the match, the Horned Frogs were 14-4 and winners of six in a row. Not only did the Panthers snap their win streak, but they ended the weekend with a sweep, finishing the regular season 11-7.

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FORMULA ONE

F1 takes step in right direction, still ways off

REY'S TRACKS



REINALDO LLERENA

After two poor qualifying showings from Formula One, the FIA, the governing body of F1, announced they are returning to the old qualifying system from last year, but not taking scrutiny from both drivers and fans.

The new "knockout" qualifying system,

introduced last offseason, was supposed to allow for continuous action on track during qualifying.

In Qualifying 1, the cars would be out for 15 minutes. After seven minutes, the slowest car would be eliminated. After the first car was knocked out, a timer would count down from 90 seconds.

After seven cars were eliminated, the remaining 15 cars would advance into Qualifying 2, where the process begins again. Then the final eight cars are entered into a 12-minute session for pole

SEE RACE, PAGE 7

SAND VOLLEYBALL

Panthers sweep Fiesta on Siesta Key

BEACH, PAGE 6

Head Coach Rita Buck-Crockett made a slight tweak to the lineups, pairing Boulanger with Sataric and Gluchowicz with Bethancourt, which proved to be successful. Both duos won their matches in two sets.

The rookie duo of freshman Dominique Dodd and junior Katie Hogan got another victory, finishing the afternoon 2-0. They won a closely-contested three-set match 19-21, 21-18, 15-11 at the No. 1 slot.

Cupp and Toghiyani once again competed together and won

convincingly at the No. 4 spot, 21-11, 21-16.

For Toghiyani, this win placed her at the top of the FIU beach volleyball record books. She surpassed Maryna Samoday for most individual wins, 63, in program history.

The team will have two weeks off until it's back in action. FIU will send two pairs to Hawaii to partake in the Outrigger Resorts Aloha Invitational Friday, April 22. As they compete there, the rest of the team will head to Georgia to play in the first ever CCSA Conference Tournament.

SET IT UP



MEGAN TAIT/THE BEACON

Freshman defender Lyrik Fryer steals the ball from the UM forward, attempting to kick the ball to a teammate to set up the attack Friday, April 8 at the FIU soccer stadium.

FORMULA ONE

F1 eliminates new qualifying system, many fans unhappy

RACE, PAGE 6

position.

Instead, as seen in the first two races in Australia and Bahrain, there were cars were going into inspection with five minutes left in the session, leaving both spectators and teams furious at the new system.

For instance, at Bahrain with almost seven minutes left in Qualifying 2, all of the cars were sitting on pit road, waiting for the next session to start.

Because the new system was not doing what it was intended to do, the Grand Prix Drivers Association, the equivalent of the MLB Player's Union or the NFL Player's Association, issued a letter to F1's stakeholders and fans regarding the decision-making of F1's executives.

"We feel that some recent rule changes – on both the sporting and technical side and including some business directions – are disruptive, do not address the bigger issues our sport is facing and in some cases could jeopardise its future success," the letter stated.

"Therefore," it continued, "the drivers have come to the conclusion

that the decision-making process in the sport is obsolete and ill-structured and prevents progress from being made."

Shortly after the GPDA letter was published, Bernie Ecclestone, the chief executive of the Formula One Group, said that the new qualifying system would be given another shot to prove itself.

It didn't.

As of Monday, April 11, the FIA has overruled the new qualifying system in favor of last year's qualifying system. The old system had the same time-restrictions as the knockout system, but cars would not be eliminated until the end of the session, rather than every 90 seconds.

The qualifying rule changes add to the questionable decisions F1 has made in recent years.

At first, the new 1.6-liter 6-cylinder hybrid engines were criticized for being too quiet. Mercedes, the reigning constructor's champion, tested out a louder exhaust system in May 2014 with poor results.

The exhaust, shaped like a megaphone, did not increase the noise of the engine and hurt the car's

performance. To this day, Mercedes aims to make the cars louder without compromising performance.

Fans have also criticized Formula One Management for being too strict on their copyright. For instance, FOM has taken down several YouTube videos and video game modifications to protect their copyright.

Also, fans cannot find race replays online because FOM does not allow anyone to reproduce their product. Compared to other racing series, such as the WeatherTech Sports Car Series or the Blancpain GT Series, FOM is stuck in the 1990s because they do not post full races online.

In the future, Ecclestone wants the modern Formula One cars to be around three seconds quicker per lap than current models by increasing downforce to all cars. However, Formula One fans are against Ecclestone's idea.

The fans believe if the cars get added downforce, then there will be no close racing because the turbulence from the car in front will ruin a car's handling and make passing nearly

impossible.

However, not every decision FOM makes has been questionable.

The new tire rules for 2016 has been widely celebrated by fans and teams for adding another level of strategy to a race.

Now, a team is allowed to bring whatever sets of tires they deem necessary for a race weekend, but they must use at least one set of Pirelli-mandated tires.

Therefore, the team must balance their choice of tires with Pirelli's choice of tire for the race.

So, although Formula One has taken several steps backwards in recent years, the new tire rules and the elimination of the "knockout" qualifying system shows that FOM is willing to listen to its fans.

However, until FOM reduces its copyright holds, they are going to be falling behind other racing series that allow free use of their product.

Rey's Tracks is a monthly column about issues surrounding Formula One racing. For commentary and suggestions, email Reynaldo Llerena at reynaldo.llerena@fiusm.com.

BASEBALL

Inconsistencies ruin potential Panther win

BASES, PAGE 6

and one of the only things he could really enjoy because giving up six runs, five of them earned can't have felt great.

The fifth and sixth runs came across for Old Dominion in the eighth inning off of a Sinnen RBI single and a throwing error. At this point, Saturday's contest was already seemingly out of reach for the Panthers, but the Monarchs just kept piling on the runs.

Michael Agis came into the ninth inning to pitch for FIU and ODU scored three runs. Agis also allowed five hits that inning and was lucky that there were only three runs scored. If not for the fact that ODU hit two sacrifices and designated hitter Turner Bishop hadn't rolled his wrists on his swing and grounded out, the ninth could have been a lot uglier.

The bleeding stopped there, but the damage was already done. A strike out, caught foul ball and another strikeout would be the story for FIU's half of the ninth inning and

they'd go down 10-2 and lose the first two games of the series.

On Sunday, the Panthers were playing for pride, if nothing else.

Garrett Cave (2-3) only notched two strikeouts for his stat sheet on Sunday, but that is all he'd need to distance himself even more from the rest of the pitching staff as he has the most strikeouts of any pitcher at FIU with 41.

The flashy stats would be of little help to the sophomore and his teammates this weekend. To start off Cave was all over the place, the first run scoring via a wild pitch. Another run would score that inning off of a sacrifice by Connor Myers.

Myers wasn't done there, though. He'd hit a solo home run in the fifth inning to put his team ahead 3-0. The eighth inning was perhaps the most embarrassing inning of the weekend, when the Panther gave up eight runs and committed two errors.

Old Dominion's lead was 11-0 before the Panthers scored their first run on a Nick Day RBI single

in the bottom of the ninth inning. That would be all for the Panthers' rally and the Monarchs would complete the three-game sweep with an 11-1 domination in Miami.

While FIU is still batting .310 as a team, their pitching has only gotten worse since the start of the season with a current team ERA of 4.69. They're dropping in the CUSA standings and fast. The Panthers are tied for third to last place in the conference, are four and eight against conference competition and 15-19 overall.

The Panthers were visited by Bethune-Cookman University Wednesday, April 13, and they have a weekend road-trip to Ruston, Louisiana to take on Louisiana Tech University April 15 through the 17. Even if they win all four games this week, they won't be above .500 in respect to their overall record, or their in-conference record.

Lou's Hacks is weekly column about FIU baseball. For commentary and suggestions, email Louis at louis.agudelo@fiusm.com.

Facebook adds features to video stream tool

DAVID PIERSON
Los Angeles Times
TNS

In the two months since Facebook made its video broadcasting tool available to all users, the social network has found people are 10 times more likely to write a comment under a live stream than an ordinary video.

That intense engagement is what makes Facebook and marketers salivate, as it could open a new front for a company whose advertising revenue grew nearly 50 percent last year to over \$17 billion.

The Menlo Park, Calif., tech giant said it won't include ads in its streaming video in the near future. For now, the company is mainly interested in learning how

users interact with its new tool and whether a vibrant ecosystem of user-generated videos can drive its growth.

On Wednesday, the company introduced a host of new features to Facebook Live, including the ability to live-stream to select groups of friends, live reactions with floating emojis and photo filters.

The playful additions are reminiscent of Periscope's floating hearts and Instagram's photo filters. Facebook also plans to add a doodling tool similar to Snapchat's.

Such features will encourage people to view live videos, and keep watching them, said Michael Pachter, an analyst for Wedbush Securities.

"Facebook is merely trying to

make the site stickier any way that they can," he said.

Facebook won't say how many people are using its Facebook Live, explaining it's too early to judge the product, which was first introduced to celebrities, athletes and journalists last August before rolling out to everyone.

The tool has been embraced by media companies, which may pressure Facebook to introduce ads, and ordinary people looking to find an audience among Facebook's 1.6 billion monthly active users.

Liz Cook, a tattoo artist in Dallas, has watched the number of likes on her business' Facebook page climb by 300,000 to more than 1 million since she started live streaming in August.

"I totally thought people

would be bored out of their minds watching me, but they were fully into it," said Cook, who broadcasts tattoo sessions with clients that can sometimes take days. "The dynamic allows customers to feel me out before they commit."

It hasn't all been smooth sailing. Users have complained about the deluge of unwanted smartphone notifications they receive whenever friends or people they follow are broadcasting live. Facebook said it's working on an easier way to switch off the notifications.

Other features introduced Wednesday for Facebook Live include a search tool to find live videos, the ability to invite friends to watch your broadcast and a map available only on desktop that shows where live streams are

occurring around the world.

The new features underscore the company's deepening commitment to video, which is gaining a growing share of digital audiences, especially on mobile devices, while commanding higher ad rates. Since 2014, Facebook has seen daily video views grow eightfold to 8 billion.

With live streaming, the company hopes it has an even more compelling reason for users to interact with one another.

"Live is natural and it's immersive in a way that puts people in the center of the action," said Fidji Simo, director of product for Facebook.

Florida Panthers still have a lot to prove

DAVID PIERSON
Los Angeles Times
TNS

This is the best Florida Panthers team in franchise history.

The Cats have spent the past six months staking that claim, offering us evidence, tantalizing with the possibility.

Now all they have to do is go prove it.

See, the real hockey is just about to start.

There haven't been many nights like Saturday's in this club's 22 NHL seasons, when a regular-season-ending Fan Appreciation Night doubles as a team appreciation night. Usually it's the players saying thanks but sorry because the games have ended with no playoffs. Now the real season has just begun, with an 82-game warmup skate about to give way to the Stanley Cup playoffs.

The Cats looked ready for it Saturday in a 5-2 skate-waltz past the Carolina Hurricanes on goals by Teddy Purcell, Jussi Jokinen and Aaron Ekblad all in the first seven minutes, a second-period blast by Jonathan Huberdeau and then a last-second empty-netter by Reilly Smith.

It's a cruise-ship foghorn sound that fills the arena with every home goal. To Carolina it must have sounded like a locomotive's warning as it's about to run you over.

"I figured we'd play well at home," said Gerard Gallant, who should be a frontrunner for coach of the year honors. "But first you want for nobody to get hurt and make sure you're ready for the playoffs."

The Cats almost won twice Saturday but did not. The New York Islanders had to lose in regulation Saturday to assure the Isles would be Florida's first-round playoff team. Now, instead, it will be determined Sunday if the opponent is the Isles or the veteran, playoff-tested Rangers, who would be the tougher matchup of the two New York teams.

Florida's win ended with a perfect kaleidoscope: a smattering of celebratory rubber and plastic rats slapping into the ice, Panthers players giving randomly selected spectators the jerseys right off their backs, and fans standing in appreciation of the most dominating season they've seen down here.

This team is better than the 2012 squad that last made the playoffs and won its division. It

is better than the exciting 2000 team led by NHL goal-scoring leader Pavel Bure — the last Panthers team before this one to win more games than it lost. And, yes, it is better than the Cinderella Rat-Cats who somehow skated into the Stanley Cup Finals in ever-distant 1996.

That's by my eye. But the evidence is more than empirical.

These Cats set the franchise record for most victories and were the first to top 100 standings points.

Said Gallant, savoring the number: "103 points. If I'd have told you that in training camp I think you would have laughed."

His team also set club records with a 12-game overall winning streak, a seven-game home streak, a six-game road streak and four all-star representatives.

And this was the first Florida team, so deep, so lethal, to sport five 50-point scorers — led by Jaromir Jagr, whose team-leading 66 points at age 44 is one of the great stories in all of sports, not just hockey. What a roster general manager Dale Tallon has built! Such a smart blend of savvy and guile leavened by rising, next-gen stars.

This team's leading scorer, 20-year-old Sasha Barkov with 28 goals was not yet born when its second-leading scorer (Jagr, 27) first entered the league. Has any team, ever, been able to say such a crazy thing?

This is big, this greatest-team-in-franchise-history stuff. Look around.

The Dolphins likely will forever be haunted by and in futile pursuit of the perfect ghost of 1972. Can any future Heat championship surpass the national attention and buzz of the back-to-backs led by LeBron James and the Big 3? There certainly is no assurance the Marlins or Hurricanes football ever will win it all again.

These Panthers are right there, though. They have the talent to go wrest that crown that always has been embodied and claimed by the flying rats of '96.

One of the club's marketing themes for this postseason is #HistoryStartsNow.

The hashtag is a bit vague but somehow accurate.

Because if this team is to make history as the best this franchise has ever put on the ice, the proving is about to begin.

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