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HORROR HITS HOME



President Mark B. Rosenberg setting down his candle at the Orlando vigil on Monday, June 13.

ANDY GARCIA/THE BEACON

SEE ORLANDO, PAGE 6

FIU office launches in Washington DC

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FIU in DC, the University's opening of an office space in Washington D.C., offers the 305

flavor to the 202 community. FIU in DC is a research-driven solutions center that aims to expand partnerships and create greater opportunities in the nation's capital for students, faculty and the South Florida

community. "With Washington, D.C. as a significant source of change and action, it is critical that FIU deepens its presence in D.C. to advance FIU's federal initiatives, create new win-win partnerships,

connect students to great jobs and expand research funding," said FIU President Mark Rosenberg during the opening.

The University kicked off FIU in DC Launch Week held in Washington, D.C., with a

thematic series of research discussions on national and global issues, networking events and an opportunity for students and alumni to engage with national leaders.

SEE OFFICE, PAGE 2

Vigil held at FIU-MMC in remembrance of Orlando

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An attack on Orlando is an attack on all of us, said University president, Mark Rosenberg to a full room in the Graham Center during the vigil held on June 13, for the victims of the gay nightclub shooting in Orlando.

"Hate crimes are heinous; they tear at the fabric of society and at the fabric of our souls," said Rosenberg. "At times like this, we have to find the strength within ourselves and in solidarity with our community to rededicate ourselves to the norms that enhance and fortify our civility."

Omar Mateen, a 29-year old security guard born in New York, killed 49 and wounded 53 at a gay nightclub in Orlando, Florida. Officials reported him pledging allegiance to the leader of ISIS during his

911 call, as well as stating his solidarity with the Boston Marathon bombers.

"These victims could have been our loved ones, could have been our neighbors, could have been us."

Mark B. Rosenberg
President
Florida International University

A somber Rosenberg asked the crowd of students, faculty and staff to examine the safety of their communities, the

importance of self-examination and inner strength and the challenges of hate in society.

"These victims could have been our loved ones, could have been our neighbors, could have been us," said Rosenberg. "As Panthers, we have a shared set of values at our FIU. These values reflect positively on who we are as individuals and who we are as an institution that brings us together."

"We want to reiterate to our commitment of creating a healthy and safe environment for all members of our community, and for the LGBTQA community most certainly," he said.

The associate director for Multicultural Programs and Services and LGBTQA Initiatives, Laura Vega had said, "I ask that you please keep the victims and their families in your thoughts and in your

SEE ORLANDO, PAGE 6

BISCAYNE BAY

SGC cabinet positions open

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This week is the start of Summer B, and the SGC-BBC's senate meetings have commenced in order to prepare for the summer and fall semesters.

The newly elected student leaders have officially taken office and have discussed many BBC initiatives and ideas.

SGC-BBC is calling on FIU students to apply

for open positions and opportunities within SGC-BBC in order to build the council for the term.

"So far, we've appointed our chief of staff, Leo Cosio," wrote public relations major and SGC-BBC Vice President Michema Lafontant to Student Media. "The cabinet applications are out and open. Anyone could apply if they have the requirements for [the] senate, cabinet, and

SEE SGC, PAGE 2

NATION & WORLD BRIEFS

Democrats narrows their focus to pass gun-control measures

Gun control advocates, who have failed for decades to impose broad limits on weapons purchases, may finally have hit upon a winning strategy as they push for a narrower ban on gun sales to suspected terrorists.

Compared with previous attempts to impose universal background checks or restrict gun show transactions, the new push has two features that make it more politically palatable: It would apply to a very small group of people instead of to all Americans; and it is tied to the nation's broader anti-terrorist initiatives.

US in diplomatic talks with Venezuela while backing recall referendum

The reopening of diplomatic talks with Venezuela won't clash with the Obama administration's support of a recall referendum that could oust President Nicolas Maduro, a top U.S. diplomat said Friday.

Thomas Shannon, the U.S. undersecretary of state for political affairs, described Wednesday's talks with Maduro as a first step toward finding common ground with the Venezuelan government. But Shannon emphasized that the administration would not back off its pledge to back an Organization of American States investigation into the erosion of democratic institutions in Venezuela.

Clinton toys with the idea of two women on the Democratic ticket

On a day when Hillary Clinton is going to campaign with Elizabeth Warren, the joint appearance raises the question: Is America ready for two women on a presidential ticket?

Clinton is the first woman to clinch a major party nomination for president. And now she's considering adding a second woman to the ticket with Warren, the Democratic senator from Massachusetts, as her running mate.

They will appear together Monday in Cincinnati, the kind of test run nominees often use to measure campaign chemistry as they narrow their choices.

TRIBUNE NEWS SERVICE

SGC-BBC interviews for cabinet positions

SGC, PAGE 1

judicial [branches]. Students can come to our office located in WUC 301 to apply or visit sgbbc.fiu.edu."

The selection process consists of multiple interviews with SGC-BBC officials. Once the candidates are selected, then SGC-BBC will require them to provide a statement to the senate.

The statement will require the candidate to explain their qualifications for the position and to summarize what their initiatives consist of. Once statements are heard, they will either be confirmed in their prospective position or denied by the senate.

They are also encouraging students to apply for the SGC-BBC internship in order to gain more experience with student council. However, if students want to be more informed on SGC-BBC initiatives Lafontant suggests social media.

"Currently, we are in the middle of planning and recruiting so stay tuned," said Lafontant. "Students can get involved by checking

out our social media outlets [on] Facebook, Instagram, Twitter, WeChat and Snapchat [by following] FIUSGABBC to see what we have planned for the future."

For the summer, senate meetings will be held every two weeks on Monday at 3:30 pm in room WUC 221. The next senate meeting will be held on July 11 in the WUC ballrooms. However, starting in fall they will be held every Monday at 3:30 pm in WUC 221.

"I'm really excited for an eventful year," said Lafontant. "I can't wait to see who joins this council and to meet a bunch of new faces at FIU. It's really important for students to get involved, so hopefully this year is the year to really push that."

SGC-BBC President Allhan Mejia, a dual degree student in marketing and sustainability has ran for a second term to continue his efforts in the council. Some of the initiatives he and the council will focus on for this year is BBC transportation for Bayview students and building a zen garden project on campus.

"We have this outdoor space

at BBC where we want to put a chalkboard up, called the wall of positivity," said Mejia to FIU News. "Any member of the BBC community can go and write something positive about their day. The point is to create a nice outdoor space where they can go create something beautiful and meditate, if they want to."

Currently BBC transportation for Bayview students to MMC still requires a fee, but President Mejia and Vice President Lafontant are hopeful to put forward new ideas and solutions for these student issues.

They also want to inspire those students to get more involved within SGC-BBC and the FIU community.

"[SGC] is the voice of the students," said Lafontant to FIU News. "SGA hears people's opinions and tries to get it done. If you're on the inside looking out [as an SGA cabinet member], you grow as a person and want to help others. If you're on the outside looking in, you see people getting things done, and you feel empowered and want to do things yourself."

FIU office opens in nation's capital to advance federal initiative

OFFICE, PAGE 2

One of the highlighted conversations was by Susan Goldberg, the first woman editor in chief of National Geographic Magazine, who spoke on "Equity and Equality of the Sexes in Communication: Are women getting there?", analyzing the role of women in the communications industry.

"As a woman in communications, the equity and equality of the sexes in communication panel was the most influential for me. The panel opened my eyes to a lot of unique realities that women face in the workplace. I took a lot of their advice into the way I now carry myself in my career. The panelists were incredibly bold and assertive, and I was deeply inspired," said Natasha Roque, an FIU student and the communications fellow for the FIU Office of Federal Relations in Washington, D.C.

Other discussions, in the events throughout the week, included strategies to mitigate cyber threats, solutions on resilience on coastal ecosystems and sea level rise.

Another highlighted topic of discussion was the role Hispanics play in the 2016 Presidential Election, examining the current Latino voting patterns and the impact of Hispanic voters in the U.S.

FIU has established a partnership with The Washington Center in D.C., an organization that places students in internships and academic seminars relevant to their interests, which also provides them with dormitory housing.

Approximately 40 FIU students are now living in the nation's capital, completing summer internships in governmental agencies, media outlets and corporate offices.

For many students, the months interning in the District over the summer will be their first independent living experience.

"FIU has been able to place so many students at The Washington Center. I feel as though this is a great opportunity that another school may not have been able to provide me," said Michael Carabello, FIU student and summer intern for the Council of States Government via The Washington Center.

But many other FIU students have also worked to attain D.C. Internships in public and private sectors independently.

Lucius Jackson, an international relations student and delegate of the FIU Model United Nations team, will be working with the U.S Department of State this summer and is excited to put his studies into practice, hoping his internship counts as a steppingstone toward a career in foreign service.

"The university views this as a time to embrace not only professional development, but also personal growth that will lead to increased confidence, success and skills as a team player," said Roque.

FIU Governmental Relations has had a presence in D.C. for more than 15 years; due to FIU and its community partners, who have contributed in support of student internships in the nation's capital to ensure that future generations have opportunities.

FIU in DC was made possible by several sponsors and donors, including Maria Elena Toraño who specializes in federal government services and the small business sector. Toraño has made a multi-year commitment to FIU's vision in Washington, with special emphasis on women's leadership.

During the launch week, she led a special discussion "Lessons in Leadership: What Washington Taught Me," where she talked about her years of experience working in corporate America, the federal government and the small business sector.

Funded by Toraño, the university plans to launch the Maria Elena Toraño Leadership Training Initiative in Washington, which will establish new programs to advance Miami's profile in the nation's capital and empower students as they enter the workforce.

"Through my partnership with FIU, I am keeping my commitment to be a part of the development of the next generation of leaders among my commitment to be a part of youth," said Toraño.

This tireless advocate and business leader is now poised to make history by supporting FIU's mission of being a Worlds Ahead research and leadership center.

FIU and D.C. are intrinsically linked; both places represent bold energy, global connectedness and rich culture.

"We look forward to partnering with Washington, D.C. to showcase the energy and vibrancy of Miami. Our dynamic presence in Washington should serve as a two-way access point, bringing a bit of the 305 to the 202," said President Rosenberg.

THE BEACON

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'Bigotry, hatred: ongoing issues'

THE BEACON | Editorial

FIU in DC, a questionable move



CINDY CUADRA

POP TALK
Sunday, June 12, 2016 marks the day 50 innocent lives were taken. It marks the day 53 people were clinging to life due to gunshot wounds and it marks the day the largest mass casualty shooting in United States history took place in Orlando, Florida.

This tragic event that happened in the downtown area of Orlando at Pulse, a well-known gay nightclub, has been the latest of many tragic events that have taken place in the past few years. Yet, the questions still remain: why does this keep happening, why is it so easy for people to purchase guns and what kind of world are we living in when it is easier for people to see two hands holding a gun than two men holding hands?

According to NBC News, the 29-year old gunman, Omar Mateen, entered Pulse with an AR-15 classified rifle and a handgun around 2 a.m. He was shot and killed three hours later when the SWAT team entered the club and targeted him. Officials

said that the suspect made a 911 phone call and pledged allegiance to the leader of ISIS before he began shooting.

The bigotry and hatred that still happens in this country is an ongoing issue. Nothing can justify such a crime against humanity, and instead of coming together and being united as a country, acts of hate and violence are still being instilled and conditioned into people from a young age.

Growing up in Miami, and having visited Orlando so many times in my own lifetime, has made this awful event surreal and harder to process.

A couple of days before this tragedy, another shooting happened just a few minutes away from Pulse nightclub, at the Plaza Live Orlando. Christina Grimmie, a 22-year-old singer lost her life after a gunman entered an area of the theater where she was signing autographs after her concert.

The lack of security and the lenient gun laws are brought to light when cases like the Orlando shooting or the San Bernardino attack, that took place less than a year ago, happen so frequently.

According to NBC News, Mateen's father, Seddique Mir

Mateen said that "It has nothing to do with religion," and that his son was disturbed after seeing two men kissing in Miami a couple of months ago.

Seeing a gay couple exchange affection publicly is not what caused someone to shoot up a gay nightclub. It is the negative social stigma the LGBTQA community has had to endure for years that cause tragedies to happen.

It is not acceptable for the LGBTQA community nor the Muslim community to have to routinely defend themselves and their rights. It is not acceptable for people to fear for their lives because they want to live out their truth. We are all Americans with the same human rights.

We should be standing united alongside each other and not giving into the fear and stereotypes that cause these tragic events.

The aftermath of the Orlando massacre proves that it is possible for humanity to come together and pick each other up at the most devastating times. Many blood drives had people lined up in the wake of the shooting at Pulse nightclub to donate blood.

According to ABC News 11, blood drives received an overwhelming

response, and doctors were asked to come back because everyone there wanted to donate blood.

Vigils around the nation have been held in honor of the victims of the shooting. A strong community coming together in the wake of a tragedy is the change we need to see in humanity to change this vicious cycle of attacks.

We need to change the way we treat each other regardless of race, ethnicity, gender, sexuality or religion. We must remember we are all humans first. We cannot let fear win.

As the Orlando Mayor Buddy Dyer said in a statement made on the morning of the tragedy, "We will not be defined by a hateful shooter. We will be defined by the way we love each other."

For the full story, visit fiusm.com.

Cindy Cuadra is a contributing writer for FIU Student Media. Her column, Pop Talk, is a commentary on pop culture current events. For suggestions or comments, please contact Cindy at opinion@fiusm.com.

He, she, we: Department of Education brings gender identity to the forefront

EDUCATING THE MASSES



STEPHANIE ROQUE

As the LGBTQ community continues to grow across our nation, many questions surrounding gender identification of students in schools are popping up.

A question that seems to resound through school hallways and faculty rooms is as follows: in reference to locker rooms and restroom use, which gender will individuals of the transgender community identify with? What problems, if any, can this potentially cause to the student population and/or school faculty? Can this affect school funding?

The U.S. Department of Education has answers for you. On May 13, 2016, USA Today's Gregory Korte addressed the public regarding these same questions and what exactly the U.S. government is doing about it. The Department of Education informed public schools nationwide that students are allowed to use locker rooms and restrooms "consistent with their gender identity." A big step forward in America's continuous debate on gender identity and the LGBTQ community.

The Department of Education came to this conclusion based on the review of Title IX, the 1972 law that prohibits discrimination

based on sex, as reported by USA Today.

In reference to school events where sex-segregated activities would occur, USA Today reports that the U.S. Department of Education states that all transgender students must be permitted to participate in such school functions.

Furthermore, this principle, carried out by the Obama Administration, also falls into the category of extracurricular activities and sports. Korte reports that parallel to the Department of Education's statement, transgender students may participate in such activities.

However, if they are sex-segregated, the coach and school must understand that these students and their acceptance into that specific organization or sport cannot "rely on overly broad generalizations or stereotypes about the differences between transgender students and other students of the same sex."

As of today, this policy is only in effect throughout public schools nationwide. This includes all institutions receiving federal funding such as public universities, trade schools, museums and libraries.

Sororities, fraternities and private same-sex schools still don't have to abide by these new guidelines.

Schools are encouraged to comply; failure to adhere to Title IX can and will result in

the loss of funding for the institution. Jessica Torres, an FIU senior studying elementary education, believes that when it comes to the classroom, discrimination of any kind shouldn't occur.

"I feel that transgender students deserve the same respect and opportunity as every and any other student on school grounds. Any form of discrimination will not be tolerated in my classroom," Torres said to Student Media. "School is a place to learn: a place for opportunities, to explore and think creatively. Nothing should hold back any students especially gender identity discrimination."

This re-evaluation of Title IX is a step forward, not only to the LGBTQ community, but also for civil rights.

We are lucky enough to live in a country where we are free. That being said, no one should ever feel trapped in their own skin.

For the full story, visit fiusm.com.

Stephanie Roque is a contributing writer for FIU Student Media. Her column, Educating the Masses, is a commentary on the humanities, arts and education. For suggestions or comments, please contact Stephanie at opinion@fiusm.com.

A member of the FIU Student Media editorial board has personally been to the site and feels apprehensive about the range of benefits for students. We fear this may be another initiative which the University promotes as beneficial for students, but fails to show any real benefit other than being good publicity. Only a portion of FIU students will benefit from the new office, based on their interest in politics alone, and an even smaller demographic of those students will ever be chosen for the competitive D.C. internship.

The internship offers members \$500 a week, and obligates students to arrange their own housing. Regardless, this is a unique opportunity for FIU students who are interested in government and advocacy.

The DC office is being promoted as a space to network and think, though FIU may have overlooked that brains are portable. Thinking is not limited to physical walls. It is the thought of this editorial board that there are many local ventures that should be explored before expanding into other states, especially when considering only a handful of students will be chosen for the internship.

We wonder whether the office will surpass its opportunity cost or if bringing the 305 to the 202 will deprive students on campus of potential funding for local possibilities.

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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Editorials are the unified voice of the editorial board, which is composed of the editor in chief, management, and the editors of each of the four sections. The Beacon welcomes any letters regarding or in response to its editorials. Send them to opinion@fiusm.com.

WEEKEND AT THE FROST



The Patricia and Phillip Frost Art Museum at the FIU MMC Campus. Top Left Image (from left to right): Jade Moten, Adrienne Rose Gionta, Chloe B. Gonzalez, Leah Brown and her daughter Juniper, and Donna Haynes.

Top and bottom left images: Dr. Jordana Pomeroy welcoming guests to the reception.

Bottom Left: The Patricia and Phillip Frost Art Museum at the FIU MMC Campus.

Bottom Center: Dr. Jordana Pomeroy speaking to guests

Photo credit: WorldRedEye, Photographer: Alejandro Chavarria

Frost debuts Suddenly Last Summer exhibit

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The Frost Art Museum opened the doors to its newest exhibit in the Summer of Women Series titled “Suddenly Last Summer” Saturday, June 18.

Klaudio Rodriguez, the Frost’s curator, invited Adrienne Rose Gionta, to curate an exhibition for the museum’s “The Summer of Women” series. Rodriguez asked the independent artist and curator to work with him because he wanted to display an exhibit that was created by women and that

celebrated women in art.

For her exhibit, Gionta looked to a 1984 song titled, “Suddenly Last Summer” by a band called The Motels for inspiration, and searched for artists who related to her interpretation of the song.

Gionta selected three artists, Donna Haynes, Leah Brown and Michelle Weinberg, and asked them to listen to the song and design an installation that reflected their interpretation of it.

Each created rooms that explore different aspects of summer, such as nature, love and romance and the fleeting

nature of summer days. Haynes’ room is the first in the exhibit.

Her pieces are reminiscent of a young girl’s bedroom, and they reflect the purity and innocence of “cheesy and idealized summer romance,” said Haynes.

The next room hosts Weinberg’s whimsical collages of color and geometric shapes.

Gionta explained that Weinberg’s room represented “a place for a moment and a time, like a makeshift artist residency.”

The final room in the exhibit is home to Brown’s work which consists of 13

black, laser-cut museum boards that represent scenes of Florida wildlife, in what she calls, “The Land of Eternal Summer.”

Gionta says that “each artist’s interpretation ... evokes a contemplative, timeless reverie, and deep longing for innocence, romance, nature, freedom ... associated specifically with summer.”

Haynes says that the exhibition offers FIU students the opportunity to reminisce about their own summer experiences.

Gionta’s exhibit is the second installation in the “Summer of Women” series, and will be open until Sept. 18.

Frost to open Vicky’s Cafe

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Jordana Pomeroy, director of the Patricia & Phillip Frost Art Museum, announced definite plans to open a café at the museum.

While sharing some student membership privileges, Pomeroy also announced the café opening mid-fall at the Frost Art Museum, “You get all the benefits and there’s a whole list of it. You get to come to members-only openings and [it] makes you eligible for all kinds of things. Soon, actually, discounts. We’re going to have a café here, and you’ll have a discount in the café. Which I think that will probably

be the biggest benefits for our students,” said Pomeroy.

Anticipated to be complete by September, this café can offer even more if you’re a member of the museum. The membership includes free unlimited admission, discounts on ticketed programs, exhibit previews and much more.

Pomeroy wants to rally more support for the arts but specifically with students because, “It is really important that we grow our membership. Your dollars make a huge impact on this museum,” said Pomeroy. She also shared that she would like to see more students get involved with the Frost Museum.

For the full story, visit fiusm.com.

With faculty help, dance minor returns

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A couple of years ago, due to budget cuts to the College of Architecture and Arts here at FIU, the dance minor disappeared and no one really noticed. It wasn't until last semester that Crystal Patient, professor of dance at both the Modesto Maidique Campus and Biscayne Bay Campus, took it upon herself to bring back this minor.

"Dance was a much desired and missed culture at FIU. The goal was to reconstruct and bring it into the 21st century of higher education," Patient says.

"It was my experience [that] some students were leaving FIU simply because dance had dissipated to only two classes a semester, and

they could not accurately pursue a dance degree. Phillip Church, interim chair of the theater department at the time of reactivating the minor, and I saw the relevance and impact dance had not only at FIU, but globally."

It was a difficult process but by spreading the word, having a group of students come together and highlight the importance of this minor, it is finally back and here to stay, as of the spring semester of 2016.

"I was not alone in the rebirth of the program – Dean Brian Shriner, Phillip Church, fellow faculty and staff in the theater department, and without a doubt, the student body made a valiant effort to see the program come back to life," states Patient.

The growing support for the minor came from the students here at FIU. With dance shows put on every semester, more and more people came to see what these dancers have to offer and why they wanted this minor under their belt.

Throughout the semester, dance concerts were held and featured many pieces with genres such as tango, modern, contemporary and even films of dances previously created for festivals. The shows often packed a full house with some audience members standing, just to see what students had to show.

"Knowledge gained from our graduates and future leaders would/will demonstrate how the multi-disciplinary art form can be utilized within modern economies."

Patient believes, "The dance minor was to graduate our students with the ability to communicate, collaborate, create and inspire effectively with a diverse group of individuals."

There are currently 22 students enrolled in the dance minor program, Crystal Patient hopes that number will grow exponentially.

"The minor offers master classes, performances (three times an academic year) and creative opportunities. New relationships are being forged between the program and the Honors College (dance club), Dance Marathon, Miami City Ballet, bridging the gap between South Florida University dance programs, [and] other local artists and alumni," Patient states.

Every show is free and open to the public. The

ultimate goal is "for these dancers to be able to show their talents, and inspire others to join this program as well," said professor Patient.

With only 15 credits needed, professor Patient affirms that a dance minor can help with almost any career field, and hopes that more people will see the need to keep it alive at FIU.

"I believe the dance program at FIU creates an opportunity for all of our students to investigate cultural diversity, ideas, think sustainably and to express themselves clearly and confidently." Patient says. "The program is a seemingly disparate pieces into a meaningful whole."

If you are interested in enrolling into the dance minor program, email Crystal Patient at cpatient@fiu.edu.

Students browse the related dance courses in the course catalog found [here]

"There will be no audition process for the program. Once the student has completed the paperwork and is officially a dance minor, they will contact me to discuss goals and aspirations regarding the program," Patient assures.

Continuing, "Joel Murray, chair of the theater department, and I have been developing and participating in bringing dance courses to the forefront of FIU's educational mission." She informs us, "By creating an online and hybrid dance appreciation course, dance at FIU is reaching our students far beyond the classrooms/studios and leading them into the forefront of higher academics of the 21st century."

South Florida Supercon returns for 11th year

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Supercon, a gathering place for geeks of all kinds, and declared the biggest convention in Florida, will be hosted in the Miami Beach Convention Center.

"This will be our 11th year" said Sara Mineo, communications coordinator on the Florida Supercon staff.

Their site states, "Florida Supercon was founded in 2006 by Mike Broder. The first Florida Supercon event was hosted on November

3-5, 2006 at The Hollywood Beach Resort in Hollywood, FL. The first Florida Supercon had an estimated 1,500 attendees."

From there, Supercon moved several times before finding a place to remain in, for some years to come. They switched locations in its first years from the Fort Lauderdale Marriott North, to the Hyatt Regency Bonaventure in Weston, then finally settling at the Miami Airport Convention Center its fourth year.

In its sixth year, the convention increased from three days to four. The

convention got so popular, it had to be moved to the Miami Beach Convention Center, maintaining its four-day run period.

The convention's staff plans for and feature many things at the convention throughout the four days, such as "celebrity guests, comic book creators, voice actors, industry guests, cosplayers, artists, writers, panels, Q&A's, films & shorts, costume & cosplay contests, vendors, parties, anime, workshops, video gaming and more!"

Mineo says that last year they had over 50,000

attendees. Usually, the event takes place from Thursday to Sunday, but this year, the much-anticipated Supercon weekend has changed from Friday to Monday.

Mineo says "it is changed because Monday is a holiday and most people have that day off."

Such a large convention, beckons the question of how they get everything finished in a timely and organized manner.

"We have eight employees on staff year-round and about 20 that only work during our three shows," Mineo says, "We have about

600 volunteers at the show. About half of our volunteers are university students." Supercon provides volunteer hours for the students that need them for their school's requirements.

Mineo points out, "we spend all year planning Florida Supercon."

Supercon is not the only event they spend their time planning. "On top of this, we have two shows in Fort Lauderdale that we also organize. Animate Florida in September and Paradise City Comic Con in December," Mineo says.

There are hundreds of

guests and artist that will be attending Florida Supercon this year and to check out the guests, Mineo says to visit the Florida supercon website, as there are too many to list.

"We would like to expand our show into other areas. Next year, we will be hosting a Raleigh Supercon in addition to our other shows. We are extremely excited about this expansion and we have already begun planning for the show even though we have not announced it yet." Stated Mineo

Supercon 2016 will take place July 1-4 in the Miami Beach Convention Center.

FIU Remembers

STANLEY ALMODOVAR III, 23 □ AMANDA ALVEAR, 25 □ OSCAR A ARACENA-MONTERO, 26 □ RODOLFO AYALA-AYALA, 33 □ ANTONIO DAVON BROWN, 29 □ DARRYL ROMAN BURT II, 29 □ ANGEL L. CANDELARIO-PADRO, 28 □ JUAN CHEVEZ-MARTINEZ, 25 □ LUIS DANIEL CONDE, 39 □ CORY JAMES CONNELL, 21 □ TEVIN EUGENE CROSBY, 25 □ DEONKA DEIDRA DRAYTON, 32 □ SIMON ADRIAN CARRILLO FERNANDEZ, 31 □ LEROY VALENTIN FERNANDEZ, 25 □ MERCEDEZ MARISOL FLORES, 26 □ PETER O. GONZALEZ-CRUZ, 22 □ JUAN RAMON GUERRERO, 22 □ PAUL TERRELL HENRY, 41 □ FRANK HERNANDEZ, 27 □ MIGUEL ANGEL HONORATO, 30 □ JAVIER JORGE-REYES, 40 □ JASON BENJAMIN JOSAPHAT, 19 □ EDDIE JAMOLDROY JUSTICE, 30 □ ANTHONY LUIS LAUREANODISLA, 25 □ CHRISTOPHER ANDREW LEINONEN, 32 □ ALEJANDRO BARRIOS MARTINEZ, 21 □ BRENDA LEE MARQUEZ MCCOOL, 49 □ GILBERTO RAMON SILVA MENENDEZ, 25 □ KIMBERLY MORRIS, 37 □ AKYRA MONET MURRAY, 18 □ LUIS OMAR OCASIO-CAPO, 20 □ GERALDO A. ORTIZ-JIMENEZ, 25 □ ERIC IVAN ORTIZ-RIVERA, 36 □ JOEL RAYON PANIAGUA, 32 □ JEAN CARLOS MENDEZ PEREZ, 35 □ ENRIQUE L. RIOS, JR., 25 □ JEAN C. NIVES RODRIGUEZ, 27 □ XAVIER EMMANUEL SERRANO ROSADO, 35 □ CHRISTOPHER JOSEPH SANFELIZ, 24 □ YILMARY RODRIGUEZ SOLIVAN, 24 □ EDWARD SOTOMAYOR JR., 34 □ SHANE EVAN TOMLINSON, 33 □ MARTIN BENITEZ TORRES, 33 □ JONATHAN ANTONIO CAMUY VEGA, 24 □ JUAN P. RIVERA VELAZQUEZ, 37 □ LUIS S. VIELMA, 22 □ FRANKY JIMMY DEJESUS VELAZQUEZ, 50 □ LUIS DANIEL WILSON-LEON, 37 □ JERALD ARTHUR WRIGHT, 31

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#ORLANDOSTRONG

Eboard stands with Orlando

A message from the Student Media editorial board to its readers.

Saturday, June 11, 2016, 50 victims must be remembered without breeding hatred for a group of people. The actions of one man must not be the champion for ignorance and racism.

As an editorial board, we stand for peace and understanding. We proudly support the members of the LGBT community, who are fighting for acceptance and tolerance, and the members of the Muslim community, while they fight the uphill battle to disprove the stereotypes.

In the wake of the mass shooting, the deadliest in American history, Islamophobia and homophobia have been trending topics, with good reason. The two strands of prejudiced fear breed one response: violence and hatred.

The lives of the

50 victims must be remembered without breeding hatred for a group of people. The actions of one man must not be the champion for ignorance and racism.

As an editorial board, we stand for peace and understanding. We proudly support the members of the LGBT community, who are fighting for acceptance and tolerance, and the members of the Muslim community, while they fight the uphill battle to disprove the stereotypes.

It is our hope that as a community, we may come together as one in remembering the victims, without resorting to racism and hate.



ANDY GONZALEZ/THE BEACON

The FIU community gathers to participate in the memorial service for the Orlando victims on Monday, June 13 in the GC pit.

CHOOSING SIDES

In the wake of the Pulse nightclub shooting, communities feel the need to choose sides between supporting the Muslim and LGBTQA+ communities.

Community remembers victims of Pulse shooting

ORLANDO, PAGE 1

prayers. Especially [for] one of our own.”

“Our [alumnus], Laura Vargas; please give a special prayer for her,” said Vega. “She is currently in the hospital in Orlando.”

Crowds gathered around the GC pit to hear the live stream of FIU’s vigil and stood in line to participate in the candlelight ceremony.

Helen Gonzalez, a faculty member of Undergraduate Education, said it’s a mix of emotions for her.

“Frustration, anger. Anger mostly. Where you’re trying to make sense of something that there is no way to make sense of,” said Gonzalez. “People are looking for leaders to step up. Either people are going to step up and become a leader, or the people already in place need to address it.”

The president of Stonewall Pride Alliance,

Daniel Capote, said he made sure he was spreading support to the lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender community, especially by updating the organization’s social media accounts.

“We know why we exist,” said Capote. “Stonewall exists to provide support for LGBTQ students. And now we are here, unfortunately.”

Capote spent the whole weekend spreading comfort and support to all members of his community.

“You’ll be okay. We’ll be okay. We are community forged in fire. All it does is harden our resolve to persist,” Capote said.

The vigil concluded with a song, “Amazing Grace” sung by Korrin Anderson, a faculty member of Student Affairs, then proceeded with a candlelight vigil in the GC pit where students and faculty took part in placing a candle on the floor in the shape of a heart.

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They say tragedies come in threes. Orlando was the target of three horrendous events; two shootings, and an animal attack, all in the span of three days. The Orlando shooting was the most devastating event of the three, as it affected the most people.

In light of such an event, society seems to naturally resort to pointing fingers and blame the shooter’s alleged religion as the cause of this tragedy. However, he was a killer who was monitored by the FBI, with a history of domestic abuse and violent tendencies.

Sitora Yusify, who was briefly married to Mateen, told the Washington Post, “He was not a stable person. He beat me. He would just come home and start beating me up because the laundry wasn’t finished or something like that.”

An entire religion has to pay for the actions of an individual who mentally unstable.

An entire religion has to suffer the prejudice from society because of a

terrorist organization that happily takes credit for any tragedy that befalls their enemies.

An entire religion gets blamed because of a small percentile that barely reaches one percent.

This is especially evident when you take a look at some words posted on social media, after the tragedy occurred. The following is a statement posted from a self-labeled Christian organization on social media:

“Seems only right for Sodom America!” and, “God opened His armory to deal with proud f--america (in mass shooting at #Pulse nightclub).” This was posted by the Westboro Baptist Church on their Twitter account on June 12, during the time that the news of the shooting were being reported.

Yet, this is considered a small group unrepresentative of all Christians. This is “the group that is abominable”, but those same people who point fingers at all Muslims for being like Mateen or the Islamic State group, do not accept that the Westboro Baptist Church is the image of all Christians.

In the end, there is no one to blame. We cannot blame love, and cannot blame religion. Muslims, a group with over 1 billion people, did not kill or wish to kill these club-goers. It is Ramadan, the holy month; if anything, I would argue that this horrible act during this time would be universally seen as an even more disgusting and disrespectful sin.

The LGBTQ+ community has always just wanted their rights, to be respected, regardless of their gender identity or sexual preference. After this, they feel far from reaching that goal again.

Individuals with no respect for human life are out there and will, unfortunately, always be out there. It is how we support each other, protect and understand one another, and prevent individuals or hate groups from tearing us apart by pitting us against each other, that will make a difference.

In a world where life can end at any moment, there is no time for islamophobia, homo/transphobia, or any kind of hate against your brothers and sisters on this earth. Let us learn to stand together so these tragedies

don’t continue to happen. Humans are humans, we all live together and it’s our job to understand and love each other. We have no right to take innocent lives.

Whether you believe in a god or nothing at all, or if your love falls under any spectrum of the rainbow, we cannot let this tear us apart. We will not stand divided and let radical, sick-minded, violent individuals win; those who strive to make life difficult for everyone out of rage, for “the fun of it” or just because they believe to be the hand of a God millions of people believe in.

Religion is meant to reflect love; it is a comfort, a sanctuary. Love is everyone’s sanctuary and we need to protect it, not point fingers. Sadly, Pulse was a physical sanctuary that was disrupted and destroyed, now making many LGBTQ+ places feel unsafe.

We, as a people, must stand with Orlando and all others who have been affected by this horrible tragedy. Pray for Orlando in your own way, and love for humanity so we can make this cycle of hate stop.

FOOTBALL

Football welcomes new defensive coordinator

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With less than 50 days away from FIU's opening night against Indiana University, newly hired defensive coordinator, Ron Cooper has to prepare for this season with his young, unproven defense.

Training camp begins Aug. 1, and Cooper has to find new starters to replace top defensive leaders, including both former defensive ends and sack leaders, Michael Wakefield and Denzel Perine, and former starting cornerbacks, Richard Leonard and Jeremiah McKinnon. Cooper, however, seems unfazed by the challenge.

Cooper said: "It's tough to replace those guys, but that's a part of football. I'm confident in the team we have now, and the players that we recruited from junior college. Once we get them on the field and set them up for success, the weakness of the position will soon turn to the strength for us."

Fortunately for Cooper, who coached the secondary team last season, he will coach the linebackers as well. Defense is led by tackling leader and All Conference USA player, Anthony Wint.

"I'm excited to work with the linebackers, and we are expecting a lot from them," Cooper said. "We need guys like Wint to lead this defense and getting the guys lined up."

Cooper will be going into his second season as an assistant coach under head coach, Ron Turner and his fourth defensive coordinator position in his 30-year coaching career. He will replace Matt House, who accepted a coaching position at University of Kentucky, after one season.

Last year, the Panthers were ranked No. 76 in total defense. Despite recording only nine interceptions, they recorded 51 pass defended and 42 pass break ups, which is ranked sixth in school history.

The Panthers' first two games will be home against two teams from the Big 10 conference. Their first game is on Thursday, Sept. 1 against Indiana University; they face University of Maryland the following week on Friday, Sept. 9.

"I don't want to look toward the future of how we do this season," Cooper said. "Right now our main focus is on Indiana."

These first two games could be a challenge for FIU since the team is seeking its first winning season under Turner. Indiana and Maryland may not be top-ranked teams in the Big 10 conference. Both teams, however, will still provide Big 10 talent that plays.

"We have a whole month of camp to prepare for them and we're going to play fast," Cooper said. "That's what Florida is known for, and that's how we're going to play throughout the season."

CLUB SPORTS

MMA club seeks to break workout stigma

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If getting fit is the first of your summer goals this year, you may not think of getting into mixed martial arts as a way to do it. But, you may be wrong if you don't give it a shot.

MMA, a fairly new sport that combines disciplines such as striking and grappling, has found its way to FIU. From boxing to jiu-jitsu, there are plenty of ways that students can get and stay in shape with different options.

These MMA-based clubs were founded as far as 7 years ago and have become quite the success for students looking to get out of their comfort zones and further their workouts to new heights.

I have been a fan of this sport for about nine years now

and I have watched it grow from a seemingly unknown sport to one of the fastest growing. Yet, it hasn't gained a large amount of acceptance despite its exciting fashion.

Roonnerys Mendes, an FIU student, said: "When I think of mixed martial arts, I think of two men or women fighting each other till their bodies can no longer function. It's way too barbaric for me especially when I see a lot of blood."

Sure, a lot of these people have a point in regards to the violence argument. Mixed martial arts is based on combat and includes the possibility of someone getting injured.

But, it is also a form of art.

"I think it's an art form that emphasizes self control and a connection between the mind and the body," MMA

enthusiast and Campus Life public relations assistant Vinson Pressley said. "Any one who participates in this sport is a true master of their spirit and body."

FIU has covered all the bases of MMA and has established a list of clubs and organizations that specialize in one or more of the sports' disciplines.

Capoeira. BudoKon. Taekwondo. Wrestling. Karate. Any of these clubs would be a great option for anyone looking to get into the sport of simply change their workout routine. FIU even has a mixed martial arts club that combines all of the fundamentals of these aforementioned clubs into one.

Having a great body is a plus when participating in MMA, but the health benefits are pretty good, too. Because

of the amount of physicality that these disciplines require, your entire body will utilize energy that stimulates everything from your muscles to your nerves.

Also, MMA relieves a great amount of stress with techniques that target specific areas of your body. Within the first few minutes of unloading some punches or kicks on a bag, you'll feel significantly better with all of that negative energy leaving your body.

So, before you think of yourself standing in front of a 265-pound man getting ready to fight for your life, remember that MMA isn't just about that. For you, it can be a way to bring something new and exciting to your exercise routine.

Championship game ends in one-point difference

INTRAMURAL, PAGE 8

a layup, the full court press was on and Baller Alert was making a run.

A 17-point lead was suddenly cut down to a five-point lead with just three minutes remaining.

Xavier Towns of All Summer Term A said: "During their run, we were able

to keep our composure and talk to each other. My job was to limit the other from scoring and that's exactly what I did."

Baller Alert had several opportunities to tie the game in the final minute, but two missed layups eliminated the team's chances.

Holding on to a two-point lead with 12 seconds remaining, Chance III got a decisive rebound on a missed free throw.

He was immediately fouled and knocked down both free throws to seal the win.

Courtney Bigby of Baller Alert knocked down a last second three pointer to end the game at 72-71.

"If the game was about a minute and a half longer, it would have ended differently," James Davis said. "We blew a 17-point lead."

Chance III will remember this game the

most since he is graduating soon.

"I've been trying to win this championship for a while now," Chance III said. "It was definitely a pleasure to go out on top."

All summer Term A lost only one game during the season at the hands of Baller Alert, which won all five games during the regular season.

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BASEBALL

THE ROAD AHEAD

Baseball team rebuilding, looking to go further next season

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The FIU baseball team's season ended on a wild pitch versus Marshall University, but the loss does not mean much when considering the team's future.

The Panthers finished with a .500 overall record (29-29), including the Conference USA tournament. However, Head Coach Turtle Thomas stepped down a couple of weeks after the season. Thomas served as head coach for nine seasons and had 282 wins, two conference titles and three NCAA regional appearances during his time at FIU.

With Thomas out of the

picture, the search for a new head coach is underway. Former FIU standout Aramis Garcia, now in the San Francisco Giants minor-league system, expressed his desire for Frank Damas to become the next head coach of the team. Damas, who resigned his assistant coach position in 2014, is now a local-area scout for the Arizona Diamondbacks.

The season started out rough, as the Panthers faced No. 24 University of Mississippi, more commonly known as Ole Miss, for the first series of the year. Ole Miss, a NCAA Tournament regular, swept the Panthers and scored 32 runs in three games.

However, the team rebounded by winning the series versus teams such as St. Thomas

University, Seton Hall University and Manhattan University. The Panthers maintained an even record until conference play began in the latter part of the season.

The Panthers also broke even in conference play, going 15-15 versus conference opponents.

A couple of FIU players broke out over the course of the season. Catcher Zack Soria, who replaced J.C. Escarra after he underwent a season-ending shoulder surgery, solidified himself as a middle-of-the-lineup hitter for the Panthers. Soria finished the year with a .294 batting average, three home runs and 23 RBIs.

Although the majority of the team is staying put, two graduating seniors departed from the team. Rey Perez and Austin

Rodriguez, both infielders, were honored before the May 20 win over the University of Southern Mississippi for their contributions to the team. Neither Perez nor Rodriguez was selected in the 2016 MLB first-year player draft.

However, Williams Durruthy was selected in this year's draft. Durruthy was selected in the 31st round by the Arizona Diamondbacks. Durruthy has not decided whether he will turn pro or return to school for one more year. If Durruthy returns, the Panther bullpen will have a solid back end with Durruthy closing.

Another positive change is in the works for FIU Baseball. The team's aging stadium will undergo a major renovation soon. The list of improvements

include additional shade for fans, a renovated locker room and an indoor batting cage. The multi-million dollar renovation is still in the funding stage. The stadium was last renovated in 2007.

Despite the rough start to the season, the team managed to make the C-USA tournament and break even on the year. Heading into next season, competition for positions will be the common theme. Soria and a healthy Escarra will battle for the starting catcher job, and competition for the two open infielder positions will be the highlight for the Panther offseason. No matter who wins the starting competitions, the Panthers will have a solid and more experienced team versus this year's squad.

SOCCER

Panthers play in Copa America

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It has been a busy offseason for the FIU men's soccer team and Head Coach Scott Calabrese. After earning the most victories the team has won in 11 years and being crowned C-USA champions, Calabrese and FIU saw three of its players from this past season join the Puerto Rico national team and added some new, young talent.

In a friendly match that took place on May 22, the United States National team geared up to play the Puerto Rican National team in preparation for the Copa America Centenario, which is currently ongoing.

Three Panthers represented their home nation in the friendly and one even scored a goal in the game. Senior forward Luis Betancur netted a beauty in front of his home crowd at the Juan Ramón Loubriel Stadium, located in Bayamón, Puerto Rico.

Along with Betancur, current Panther Darren Rios and former FIU defender Patrick Lopez, also took the pitch in the first ever friendly between the United States and Puerto Rico.

Lopez, the walk-on athlete who scored the game-winning goal in the C-USA championship game, was amongst the starting 11 alongside Betancur.

"It was a funny feeling at first playing the United States, but once the game started, I put those emotions aside and gave Puerto Rico everything I had," Lopez said.

"Looking back to when I first walked on at FIU, if I would have told myself that I would be scoring the championship winning goal for my FIU family and now representing my national team, I probably wouldn't have believed myself," Lopez said. "It is a dream come true and I am thankful everyday, especially for all those who were apart of it."

The final result of the friendly ended with a 3-1 victory for the United States.

National team caps, however, isn't the only good news coming from the FIU men's soccer team this offseason. Four new players have signed on the dotted line and agreed to join Calabrese's squad during the spring signing period.

The FIU program announced on June 10 that midfielder Alessandro Campoy (Miami, Florida), defensive midfielder Esteban Calvo (Escazú, San José, Costa Rica), defender Adam Hassan (Davie, Florida) and defender Aron Heiddal (Gardabaer, Iceland) will all be wearing blue and gold next season, in hopes to help FIU return to the NCAA championships.

INTRAMURAL SPORTS



Technical foul call decides new basketball champions

SETH LOUIS/THE BEACON

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A matchup between All Summer Term A and Baller Alert ended with a one-point win that placed the former as intramural champions.

Eddie Chance III scored a game high of 29 points for All Summer Term A. Baller Alert struggled to make shots and was plagued by a number of turnovers, leading to easy fast break points for All Summer Term A.

"We made plays, got defensive

“ We made plays, got defensive stops and every time we had the bigs on us we took advantage

Jean Chapman
All Summer Term A
Intramural Sports

”

stops and every time we had the

bigs on us we took advantage," Jean Chapman of All Summer Term A said.

Those defensive stops and taking advantage of the bigs gave them a double digit lead at the half.

The second half started with quick baskets by Baller Alert and high defensive pressure. Chance III was face guarded the entire second half, limiting his scoring powers. Although Chance III managed to evade his defender to knock down two more three pointers and

SEE INTRAMURAL, PAGE 7