Bright Futures raises standards for students

CHRISTIAN PORTILLO
Contributing Writer

Although the total amount of University students affected won’t be determined until fall, when all freshmen students have been accounted for, changes in the Bright Futures Scholarship Program requirements will leave less students receiving aid.

Bright Futures, funded through the Florida Lottery, has been helping students receive a more affordable education since its inception in 1997. Oddly enough, the same minorities who play the Florida Lottery will be the ones to reap less of its benefits.

The decrease in awards being disbursed to students is so alarming that it prompted an investigation by the U.S. Department of Education’s Office for Civil Rights, as explained by The Miami Herald.

Most of the students being affected by the increase in test scores are Hispanic and black, many of who attend FIU and make up for most of the South Florida demographic.

“We are predicting a 50 percent reduction in Bright Futures eligible incoming freshmen last year at this point due to the increased test score requirements,” said Francisco Valines, director of the office of Financial Aid in an e-mail to Student Media.

These changes came about because Bright Futures has raised the academic standard in terms of eligibility for students.

While the minimum high school GPA requirement will remain 3.0 for the Florida Medallion Scholars, it is now at 3.5 for the Florida Academic Scholars.

An increase in test scores asserts that students must attain in reading and math 1170 on the SAT and 26 on the ACT in order to qualify for the FMS award and 1290 / 29 for the FAS award for the 2014-2015 school year.

These numbers will remain the same for the upcoming academic year.

Scores have significantly increased

SEE BRIGHT FUTURES, PAGE 2

FIU’s very own gets his shot in pro boxing

JAMES PROFETTO
Contributing Writer

Cue the up-tempo background music filled with acoustics, a piano and a Latin vocalist soothing each customer in a small Starbucks location.

Amongst all of noise, a certain gentleman of average height walked through the doors wearing a black and gold Puma T-shirt with eye-grabbing red sneakers.

Meet 23-year-old Ahmed Elbiali, a Miami native with Egyptian roots and a lot to prove. “I was born in Cairo, Egypt. I came to [Florida] when I was five years old,” Elbiali said.

The clichés of a boxer’s childhood are redefined for Elbiali.

As a child, he grew up in a family where love was constantly felt and his parents never made him feel “starved.”

His parents taught him values that he keeps even to this day.

“I never sold drugs, I never got into real trouble as a kid...I don’t have that kind of story. But, as a child, when my friends did something bad, I wanted to do something worse,” Elbiali said.

Fast forward to the present day. Ahmed Elbiali’s track record is off to a nice start, with flashy titles included.

He is a two-time Florida Golden Gloves winner, he beat Robert Brant in the World Series of Boxing, beat Pernell Mitchell, a highly favored boxer at the time, and is 5-0 with five knockouts.

To top it all off, he signed with Al Haymon.

For the full story, visit fiusm.com

University hosts African fellows over summer

ALYSSA ELSO
Staff Writer

In the middle of June, 25 African fellows excitedly bought their FIU gear as they would be part of the University community for the remainder of summer.

Since June 14, the University has been hosting these fellows, who are participating in a six-week public management program as part of The Washington Fellowship for Young Leaders.

This is an exchange program sponsored by President Barack Obama’s Young African Leaders Initiative, which brings over 500 young leaders each year, since the beginning of 2014, for leadership training, academic coursework and mentoring.

The goal is to create unique opportunities in Africa to put new skills to practical use in propelling economic growth and prosperity and strengthening democratic institutions.

Chosen by the State Department’s Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs through a competitive process, FIU was one of 20 selected host institutions to represent higher education in the U.S.

“We had heard about the program through a variety of avenues and then we had to submit a grant application,” said Susan Webster, director of Student and International Research Initiatives.

The universities would initially apply to the state department, but according to Webster, because so many universities were interested, the state department decided to go through firms to sort through candidates and then contact the State Department with a list of interested universities.

“We had about 10 people contact us so we put together 10 different applications to those firms and then the firms applied to the State Department,” said Webster.

Of the 20 universities participating in three tracks — Business and Entrepreneurship, Civic Leadership and Public Management — the University chose to apply for the public management program.

For this program, the University created a special curriculum for the fellows.

“We created a public management institute for them, where they get an overview of public management, primarily urban management,” said Webster.

As far as academic coursework, fellows will learn about human resources as well as how to manage buildings and grounds.

“In addition to that, we have a week on ethnic and gender diversity and then in addition to that we have different weeks where we highlight environmental issues; for instance, environmental waste, how to deal with that and hydrology, just a variety of things,” Webster said.

Aside from the academic coursework, the fellows, who are staying on campus at the University Towers, are also required to complete specific leadership training and community service once a week in addition to visiting cultural areas like the Fairchild Tropical Botanic Garden and the Everglades.

At the completion of the six-week program on July 26, the fellows will attend a summit with President Obama in Washington D.C. before returning home to put their experiences into action.

The goal of the program, according to Webster, is for the young leaders to have a better understanding of public management as well as a better understanding in learning to deal with their constituents, either people they work for or people who may work for them, in a diverse manner.

“In terms of being affiliated with FIU, they already have an affiliation to FIU,” Webster said. “They are proudly wearing their T-shirts and so I think that part we have achieved somewhat and I am very happy they are here and hopefully we will be able to do this again.”

alyssa.elso@fiusm.com
6 arrested in burning death of Arab teenager in Israel

Israel authorities said Sunday that they arrested six Jewish suspects in the abduction and killing of a Palestinian teenager from East Jerusalem. The death occurred last week as a wave of unrest there and in Israeli Arab towns. A statement from the Shin Bet security service said the suspects were being questioned by the agency, but that further details of the investigation remained under a gag order. The suspects were denied access to lawyers while under initial interrogation. Law-enforcement officials believe they acted to avenge the slaying of three Israeli teenagers kidnapped and killed in the West Bank last month, Israeli media reported. The charred corpse of 16-year-old Muhammad Abu Khdeir was found in a wooded area near a Jewish neighborhood in Jerusalem on Wednesday, the morning after the funeral for the slain Israeli teenagers, who disappeared June 12. Their bodies were found June 30.

Powerful quake jolts Mexico and Central America; at least 4 killed

A powerful earthquake jolted a wide section of southern Mexico and Central America early Monday, killing at least four people and damaging dozens of buildings in Guatemala. The 6.9 quake was felt as far north as Mexico City, through central Guatemala and as far south as El Salvador. Its epicenter was on the Pacific Coast of the southern Mexican state of Chiapas, near a border town called Puerto Madero, about 40 miles below the surface, the U.S. Geological Survey said on its website. It hit at 6:23 a.m. local time. Most damage was reported in the Guatemalan state of San Marcos, where walls collapsed and electrical power was temporarily cut. Numerous landslides were also reported. Two people were crushed to death in San Marcos and at least 21 injured, the Guatemalan newspaper Prensa Libre reported.

CORRECTIONS
In Vol. 26, Issue 2, in the article “FIU hosts inaugural celebrity softball game,” we attributed the photo to Maria Lorenzo when it should have been Rhys Williams. The Beacon will gladly change any errors. Call our MNS Office at 305-348-2709 or BCB at 305-919-4722.

University summer treatment program helps preschoolers

Throughout the summer, University psychology students and faculty help change the lives of preschoolers with behavioral problems.

It is a therapeutic and summertime readiness treatment program for pre-kindergarteners lead by the Center for Children and Families of the College of Arts and Sciences.

The camp runs from July 16 to August 8 during the weekdays, from 7:30 a.m. to 5:30 p.m., with activities that include social-emotional skill building, sport games and standard school subjects such as reading and math.

Families come in seeking clinical attention because their child is being expelled from preschool, according to Katie Hart, co-director of the Summer Treatment Program for Pre-Kindergarteners.

She said the program sets out to help these children develop a smoother transition from preschool to kindergarten.

“Our motivation comes from a real desire to help these families make that transition— one that’s positive,” said Hart. “Because we know that learning and going to school is so important for future success.”

The program is intended for preschoolers between four and five years old identified as being at “High-Risk for Behavioral Disorders.” It is based at John W. Bell Middle School in a summer day camp setting where students from FIU and out-of-state universities are trained to be clinical staff members.

Throughout the summer, participants are evaluated for ADHD (Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder), disruptive behaviors and learning problems.

According to Hart, these students are interested in school psychology, speech pathology, nursing, public health and education, for example. They are supervised by licensed professionals for feedback on their performance— how they’re working with the children and how to be able to build a relationship.

“I know we’re helping the families in the long-run, and [the children] with school,” said Diana Madruga, a senior psychology major.

“It’s so much more that we’re helping than besides just their behavioral problems.”

FIU alumna Lina Garces said she also knows that the children experience different situations in their lives and that it is difficult for them to adapt and to meet with their daily goals and requirements.

“I have this thing for kids, but as I said, it’s really motivating to see them change,” said Garces.

“In that moment when you say something, or when they actually get out of time out, you see that something changed.”

According to the Diagnostic and Statistical Manual of Mental Disorders, about one in 20 children across the country have ADHD symptoms. Many of them will continue to show these symptoms into adulthood, such as lack of attention.

Co-director of the

Intervening early is really our passion because that’s when you can make the most difference.

CAMILA FERNANDEZ Asst. News Director

Higher test scores needed for Bright Futures awards

Bright Futures, Page 1

since the 2012-2013 academic year, however.

Students applying for the FAS award are required to have 10 more points for the SAT and one point higher for the ACT.

This translates to 150 more points for the SAT and four more points for the ACT for students applying for the FMS award.

Currently, students who achieve the FMS award, the basic-level Bright Futures scholarship, are awarded $77 per credit hour, while students who earn the more difficult award are awarded $77 per credit hour, which has remained the same since last year.

This amount has increased since the 2012-2013 school year when the FMS was at $75 per credit hour and $100 for the FAS award.

Updates in the program no longer require students to submit Free Application for Federal Student Aid, however; students are encouraged to submit the FAFSA to learn of potential eligibility for additional state and federal aid.

FAS award receive $103 per credit hour, which has remained the same since last year.

“Intervening early is our passion because that’s when you can make the most difference,” said Graziano.

According to Hart, most of the parents come ready to get help as a way to gain successful strategies to help their child. Through daily reports and parent meetings, the program has been able to build confidence with parents.

Also, no medications are used on the children. This is because the program does not want to use pharmacological treatment at a very early age.

“Parents are the child’s first ‘teacher,’” Hart said. “We want to give [them] all the skills that they need to provide a more extensive aid to Latino families who, according to him, are notoriously misunderstood.

“That allows an even better experience for parents that are getting feedback every day on their child’s performance—to be able to communicate in whatever language.”

Hart said they continue monitoring their progress over time as they enter kindergarten and first grade. 

“Hopefully in third grade, they’ll call us three years later to say, ‘Oh, we’re doing great; Student of the Month Award!’” said Graziano.

“We keep us going on our 12-hour days,” he said.

For a related video, check out fiuasm.com/camila.fernandez@fiusm.com

INTRODUCING THE UNIVERSITY SUMMER TREATMENT PROGRAM FOR PRE-KINDERGARTENERS

“Intervening early is really our passion because that’s when you can make the most difference.”

Director

Paul Graziano

Department of Psychology

Director of the Summer Treatment Program for Pre-Kindergarteners

FUN FACT!

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Co-director of the
**Stand up to fight today’s epidemic**

**Get a grip: Don’t buy Pennyboards**

**No shame in my debit card game**

**SOFIA GALIANO**

**Staff Writer**

In today’s world, we are either hooked on a bright computer screen, slouched in a classroom, commuting in our cars or, frankly, on the toilet for prolonged periods of time. We are preparing for our funerals much sooner than necessary. Sitting down for hours on end is the inevitable epidemic of our culture. Research shows that remaining stationary day in and day out can damage our health and shorten our lives. Some even compare its effects to smoking — I thought it was an exaggeration.

Even for someone who is in shape and remains physically active, the negative effects of sitting down are still noticeable. I participated in track and field; volleyball and tennis in high school; finished first in my wave for FIU’s Night Color 5K in under 20 minutes and now bike about 15 miles daily — yet the negative effects of sitting down are still noticeable.

From the time I wake at 7 a.m. until the time I get ready for bed at 9 p.m., my eyes, neck, shoulders and back ache from computer vision syndrome and from being hunched over in a chair all day long.

That means that for most of the day my body is immobile. Doing this for nearly a week increases plasma triglycerides (fatty molecules), LDL cholesterol (aka bad cholesterol), and blood resistance," according to an article on Lifehacker.com. This can’t be healthy.

Just think back to our caveman days when we would hunt and gather our food, run from predators and do other things to flaut our bipedalism, unlike we do today.

Now, our butts rest on a barstool as greasy burgers and fries are served to us. We sit on park benches watching children run by, wondering from where they get all their energy. Some even compare it to their childhood, back when they had to work for it.

The concern now is how the changes to the education system is one that unashamedly makes things more difficult. It is difficult to make any suggestions in this case, as it’s not as easy as grabbing a Penny skate board and paying for it. Instead, we should focus on the issue of education and how it affects the lives of our children.

**ADRIANNE RICHARDSON**

**Contributing Writer**

Whenever I heard the words “credit card” I always associated it with my parents and other adults who own homes, have children and pay bills. I never thought of someone in my age group having a credit card because of the level of responsibility it takes to handle one. Of course, I was much younger when I thought this way, but, when I entered my freshman year of college, I noticed that people in my age group own credit cards — not singular, but plural. Some had multiple in high school and that was crazy to me.

What is the need for one if you aren’t paying bills or providing for someone other than yourself? And if you don’t have a job, then I am really lost as to why there is a need for it. However, from my own observations, I see a lack of maturity and responsibility in other cards with reward systems to save on purchases, that can be tricky. Most companies realize that their customers are not going to pay their bills in full each month.

Aside from a rewards program, you also have to check if your credit card has an annual fee and, if so, how much it costs. Consider those factors when applying.

Getting a grip on this issue is important and students need to be aware of the risks involved. With every purchase, whether online or in-store, there is a chance of someone gaining access to your personal information. It is important to be vigilant and stay informed on the latest security measures to protect yourself.

**ADRIANNE RICHARDSON**

**Contributing Writer**

The largest safety hazard these boards present is that they are sold assembled without grip tape.

Grip tape is the sandpaper-like paper that goes on top of most skateboards like on long boards. It is very simple to grip you. Go to any Wal-Mart or Kmart and look at the section where the pre-built skateboards are; despite being of an absolutely terrible quality, they all come with grip tape.

To the individual who has just started skateboarding or simply wants to look trendier an Urban Outfitters summer catalog, a penny board seems like a good idea. They retail for approximately $100 with even cheaper imitations online and are sold both in stores and online pre-built. The average student who purchases one will assume they are good to go and while they will indeed be able to roll around, it will by no means be easy.

Penny boards are small fun boards for those like a challenge, but I do not recommend them for beginner and recreational skate boarders or just about anyone who doesn’t want a challenging experience riding. Without grip tape they are unstable. Even with grip tape, the grooves on the upper part of the board make treading through the tape much easier. If the tape stays on and doesn’t begin to peel or tear, the actual board itself is not as responsive as a traditional wooden board or deck.

The trucks, the aluminum turning mechanism under the board, are engineered off technology that predates the very era the whole skateboard industry is trying to appeal to. They are narrow and don’t provide for much stability, best suited for straight lines or slalom-style skating.

If you want to properly get into skateboarding around campus effectively, look into long boards or for a more compact option look into cruiser skateboards. A Penny may cost around $100 and comes in a variety of attraction colors, but for performance and safety, an extra $50 to $100 towards a cruiser or long board will get you wide trucks, a wooden deck and, most importantly, some grip.

**DIEGO SALDANA-ROJAS**

**Opinion Director**

The value of Penny Skateboards is right in their names — a penny. For those who don’t know, Penny Skateboards is a company that manufactures retro-styled skateboards. They are shaped to resemble 1970s skateboards that were made for beginner and recreational skate boarding.

For those who don’t know, Penny does sell a larger Nickel series that makes them dangerous. There’s barely any resemblance to retro-styled skateboards. They are shaped to resemble 1970s skateboards that were made for beginner and recreational skate boarding.

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Coldplay’s ‘Ghost Stories’: an album of reflections

After the instant commercial success of “Parachutes,” Coldplay’s debut album adorned with the classic song “Yellow,” the band was placed on a pedestal of high expectations. For the band’s next two albums, “A Rush of Blood to the Head” and “X&Y,” Coldplay would then distinguish itself as great songwriters and composers known for melodic acoustic rhythms and soul-piercing melancholic lyrics that create a dream-like mood. “I wanna live life, always be true, I wanna live life, and be good to you; I wanna fly, and never come down,” sang frontman Chris Martin in the song “We Never Change;” “I think I do, but I don’t forget; My body moves, Goes where I will; But though I try my heart stays still; My body moves, slept; I think I do, but I don’t forget; My body moves,” sang Martin in the opening verse. The album is filled with this anguish; some would even call it a breakup album — especially in light of the news of Martin’s separation with his wife of 11 years, Gwyneth Paltrow. Regardless, the band’s gift of dark yet lighthearted melodies is evident throughout the album. It’s minimal and almost basic, but the simplicity allows Martin’s falsetto fill the air and captivate the ear. The tempo takes a brief change in the EDM-infused song “Sky Full of Stars;” the words of Hopkins undoubtedly. As the final track “O” fades out, a distant and washed out hymn follows as Martin bellow his final words, “So fly on, ride through; maybe one day I’ll fly next to you.” “Ghost Stories” follows Parachutes in its level of intimacy. The album takes the band’s — more-so, Martin’s — private moments and displays them for the world to see. Martin makes himself vulnerable publicly meditating on the trials and lessons of his life. “I don’t really care what anyone says about this album,” said Martin in an interview with BBC Radio. “It’s as true as my nose. It’s a realization about trying to grow up basically.”

On the edge of ‘Groundhog Day’ and ‘War of the Worlds’

Doug Liman’s “Edge of Tomorrow” has been in cinemas for about a month now, and its word of mouth seems to have been making the rounds. When I saw it opening weekend I greatly encouraged others to see it, for it was not at all your conventional summer blockbuster. While by this point many have now seen it, I think it’s interesting and important to point out what makes “Edge of Tomorrow” such an important film of note during this time of reboots and sequels.

And if you still have yet to see it, hopefully this piece will convince you, in case one of your friends has not already done so. “Edge of Tomorrow” is an original and fresh Hollywood production, despite being based on a Japanese light novel by Hiroshi Sakurazaka, All You Need Is Kill. The reason behind this probably has much to do with its concept: a man must relive the same hellish day over and over, as well figure out how he got into this predicament, fix it and save the world.

The time loop scenario isn’t too new of an idea, but the way this film utilizes it certainly is: an action film with a time loop scenario is what is uncommon, and that alone might entice people to see it. The scenario manages to not be stale throughout, especially since it becomes clear before we’re half-way through what’s going on and why.

However, perhaps one of the biggest reasons why the film makes the premise work is its star, Tom Cruise. Once the time loop starts, Cruise is aware something isn’t right and eventually figures out exactly what’s going on. Not soon after, he becomes fully aware of what’s going on and must now find a way to stop it from happening—as well as stop that terrible alien invasion. Whatever further makes this premise work is that, once it’s understood what’s going on, the time loop is still happening, so our protagonist must still endure the same day over and over again. That’s something I expected, but I was surprised by how well the film handles it. Essentially, the film keeps its premise fresh throughout by changing up the situations within the time loop and not having it be that the protagonist constantly dies and continues to be confused.

Another major component of “Edge of Tomorrow” is its comedic aspects. Much to my surprise, the film is incredibly funny and almost light hearted, something the marketing didn’t really hint at (the marketing also made the film look generic). The humor helps the cleverness of not only the film’s script but of the protagonist, whom Cruise plays with excellent charisma. This also goes for Emily Blunt’s character, who is much more serious and almost acts emotionally opposite from Cruise (he smiles so much more than she does, for example).
Phantogram lights up the stage

Before June 27th I had only heard a few of New York duo Phantogram’s tracks. I knew a few friends were fans and promised me that night at Grand Central—they lied. It was a mind-blowing show. The second the stage hands came on to prepare for Phantogram to come on stage, the crowds began to get restless. The tight spaces became even narrower and the smell of cigarettes began to fill the air.

Darkness fell and within minutes guitarist Josh Carter and vocalist Sarah Barthel emerged from stage right to a deafening roar of applause. The decibels only went up after the New York natives started with “Nothing but Trouble.” I swore I was going to have a seizure with the number of lights going off at once. The crowd responded with energy that powered the entire performance. Carter and Barthel continued hammering out jams like “Don’t Move,” “Mouth full of Diamonds” and “The day you died.”

A most memorable moment was when Barthel climbed atop an equipment crate, wrapped herself in a glittering golden blanket and performed “Bill Murray.” She softly swayed from side to side with Carter strumming and singing directly in front of her. The yellow stage light formed a pyramid cage around her. A definite change of pace emerged from stage right to a blanket and performed “Bill Murray.”

They closed with their hit “When I’m small,” to which afterwards Barthel and Carter were met with a roar of applause and praise. The crowd was so loud that Barthel jokingly told them they couldn’t play if everyone was that loud. Her pleas did little to quell the overly-hyped crowd. They performed an encore of “Mouthful of Diamonds” and “Celebrating Nothing,” her spent voice laughed and thanked the crowd once again. Out of the 60 or so records I own only two or three are electronic music. My collection will now have “Voices” and “Eyelid Movement” as well as any EP of theirs I can get my hands on. Because of shows like this, the indie music scene in Miami has been solidified once again.

For the full review, visit fiusm.com.
**Basketball to softball; a power shift in the making**

The world, or rather Miami based fans, are all about the now. The success of the Miami Heat has caused people to become impatient and in search for a quick fix. The Coley era never brought back a trophy for all to see but the softball team can be the next team to hoist next years conference championship, barring any setbacks.

**Paintball Club hopes for more competitive atmosphere in future**

The FIU Paintball Club has quickly transformed from a couple of guys that got together on weekends to play into a full fledged organization. FIU senior, Victor Borges, a psychology major that co-founded the club in the fall of 2012, but the paintball fever didn’t really catch on until summer of 2013. One of the club’s captains, Pedro Munoz, a senior advertising major, talked about the the club’s exodus from obscurity.

“The club started in 2012 but it wasn’t really anything people could follow up with,” Munoz said. “I got together with [Borges] last summer and started it up again. I wanted to make the club bigger and start an actual team.”

The club meets every Saturday morning to practice and discuss club issues at Medley Paintball Park, one of the Splat Attack locations. Meetings usually last two hours and there is no fee to attend. Attendees are only responsible for their cost for entrance and equipment.

**Taekwondo becoming a club powerhouse at FIU**

Taekwondo, established over 2000 years ago is a Korean ancient martial arts that has finally reached FIU thanks to Chris Alvarez, the head coach of the club here on campus. Alvarez was able to explain the overall concept of the sport as well as talk about the club’s achievements, goals and plans for the future.

“I started the club two years ago and I found inspiration in starting a taekwondo club because I wanted to bring and share something I love with other people,” Alvarez said.

**Taekwondo**

**Jorge Corrales**

**Contributing Writer**

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**"Ignoring your passion is slow suicide. Never ignore what your heart pumps for."**

Pedro Munoz,

Co-founder and Captain

F IU Paintball Club

**Taekwondo**

**Alejandro Aguirre**

**Contributing Writer**

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Coley reached accolades no other Panther has ever reached, and deservedly so, but athletes are always judged on championships and unfortunately for Coley, she never knocked through that barrier. She was also passed over in this years WNBA Draft, a shock for many Panther fans. She was then signed by the New York Liberty but was waived just a few days later.

In her four years at FIU, Coley never made it out of the conference and experience twice did she make it as far as the Women’s National Invitation, falling to the University of South Florida in 2011-12 and the University of Florida the next year.

Yes, Coley is now the 5th leading scorer in NCAA women’s history but with time that could be passed, just as she passed her predecessors. A ring can not be taken away.

The softball team has the potential to be the best group of ladies to come out of FIU since they were once led by former star Ashley McClain, the Panthers career leader in doubles and batting average.

Granted, they did come up short this past season but it’s only going to add fuel to the fire and an experience this team never had. As the No. 3 seed in the C-USA tournament, their first-over appearance, they were upset by the six seeded East Carolina Panthers, 5-1.

In their final appearances of the season, Jenkins struck out three and only allowed two runs on five hits. She finished it with a 17-30 record as a sophomore. Texeira finished the season with a .408 batting average, just one point behind McClain’s single season record set back in 2009.

The Panthers will also have a chance to finish at the top of the conference next season and in only their second year in the conference, will host the conference championship in May.

Coley needed support in the second season, as many as people call it, the conference tournament, but inconsistency was always the name of the game. Rarely did the rest of the women’s team step up in the tournament until Coley’s senior year when they lifted the team past expectations before having the wheels fall off against Middle Tennessee, a team Coley was 2-8 against in her career.

The softball team is full of unknown talent. Aside from Texeira and Jenkins, the Panthers also have infielder and catcher Krystal Garcia, outfielder Gabby Spallone and outfielder Rebekah Sanchez that will all returning next season. Each of the three starting 52 of the 53 games. Garcia and Spallone both hit over .315 for the season.

Now softball isn’t the outgoing and enthusiastic sport that it bring fans that can fill up a stadium. Neither was the basketball team but if history has anything to say for it, it’s a sport people would rather stay and watch for three hours, especially during the Spring and Summer time in Miami. Who wouldn’t say no to an air-conditioned arena over a sun-blazed stadium.

**Club Feature**

**Patrick Chalvire**

**Contributing Writer**

Like most sports, there are levels of play, like most sports, there are levels of play, like most sports, there are levels of play. What once started as a small club of six members two years ago has expanded to over 50 active participants and continues to grow. Beyond practices and sparring, the club also enters itself into various competitions and tournaments throughout the state of Florida. These events include several aspects of the sport that is also emphasized in the Olympics that include forms and point fighting.

Like most sports, there are levels of competition. What Alvarez likes to do is help the newer members gain experience and confidence in the club.

Special thanks go out to the FIU Taekwondo Club, scored 2nd place in the paintball team poomsae forms division at the national collegiate taekwondo competition in UC Berkeley, scoring a silver medal for FIU.
Don’t worry US fans, the team returns in 2016

As an Argentinean and avid soccer fan, I’ve cheered, cried, sang, fought and even thrown up in the name of soccer. On July 1, I watched U.S. soccer fans consumed by the same passion that consumes me every time Argentina’s national team is playing. Even though the USA lost, they gained international respect and seemed hundreds, if not thousands, of new fans.

So, I’ve decided to let everyone in on a little secret. If you became a fan of the United States’ men’s national team during the World Cup, there’s good news for you: you won’t have to wait 4 years to see the Yanks play again on the international stage.

In 2016, two of FIFA’s six continental federations, the South American Football Confederation, or CONMEBOL, and the Confederation of North, Central American and Caribbean Association Football will join forces to host a special tournament, the Copa America Centenario. The special tournament celebrates the 100th anniversary of the Copa America. The Copa America is CONMEBOL’s mini World Cup, where countries from South America compete to be named the region’s best. Last Copa America in 2011 was held in Argentina and won by Uruguay.

Although the next official Copa America will be held in Chile in 2015, the 100th anniversary of the oldest international continental soccer competition would be the year after and could not be overlooked.

On May 1, the two continental confederations announced the special tournament during a press conference right here in Miami. The tournament will be held from June 3 to June 26.

Here’s another bit of good news. The United States made the cut because it is hosting the tournament. And one of the probable stadiums is Sun Life Stadium.

I’m excited that I may be able to see my national team play in my own backyard. I’m also hoping to see the stands filled with the American pride I saw this World Cup. I’d like to see if the fans will continue to support the team, or if it was just a World Cup phenomenon.

Despite loss, US fans make impression in Brazil

In a World Cup filled with surprises, the United States managed to pull off what was considered by many to be the unthink-able: they survived what was coined “the group of death” and advanced to the knockout stages for the second consecutive World Cup.

One of the things that struck me in traveling throughout Brazil was the amount of American support coming from the local and international fans. I wore my navy blue United States warm-up jersey to the matches in Belo Horizonte and Fortaleza, two places where the United States team was not expected to play.

On both occasions, however, I received a surprising amount of “U-S-A” chants as my family and I walked past hundreds of fans making their way to their seats. Before the Argentina versus Switzerland match, my family and I were carrying a United States flag around the stadium and were even stopped by a couple of Japanese fans who asked to take a picture with us. Something drew them to the red, white and blue that had already impressed many of the people in attendance.

Despite a heart-breaking loss to Belgium in the knockout rounds, the US team further proved to the world that they too can compete against the world’s elite. Many in Brazil acknowledged it as one of the better games of the World Cup and even called Tim Howard the best goal-keeper in the tournament, ahead of Mexico’s Francisco Ochoa Magana, Italy’s Gianluigi Buffon and Brazil’s own Julio Cesar in a recent article published in Rio de Janeiro’s O Globo.

That day, and in the days before the ultimate test against Belgium, I did not encounter one Brazilian, or soccer fan in general, that was not cheering for a United States victory.

Between the United States’ relentless style of play and the classic underdog story that has come to define them year after year, the team has built quite the international fan base that will continue to grow in tournaments to come.

Taekwondo kicks off with University students

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is to have them compete in local tournaments in South Florida against other taekwondo schools and work their way up. From there, they would have to qualify to move on to the national tournaments and then the college championships.

The college championship is very competitive and big name schools such as Berkeley and MIT, for example, being their own taekwondo club. In the college championships last year the club had five members go to the University of California at Berkeley which is a huge accomplishment. That marked the first time that FIU was represented in that tournament. In 2014 they tripled in size and showed up with 15 members to the tournament and came back with 16 medals.

Recently, Alvarez has named two members of the club as co-captains. They are Daniel Cuyun and Alfonso Meneses. They have both been there since the club was founded and they represent the team when they go to compete in tournaments. Alvarez did this to show the other club members that you will be rewarded for the hard work and sacrifice you put in.

“Everyone in the club is doing a great job and everyone is progressing,” Alvarez said. “As long as they put the effort in, they will see positive results and gaining competition experience goes a very long way.”

This club is very open to new members with or without past experience in taekwondo. Getting in to the club is fairly straightforward. New members show up to the practice and speak to Alvarez about joining. During the summer they practice twice a week at the school’s Rec center at 9 a.m.

During the regular academic year, they practice four times a week at a gym called Peak Performance. It just so happens that the club’s motto is “Achieving Peak Performance.” Clearly this club is on the upward trend as they continue to gain more members and excel in the many competitions they attend.

Panthers in Paintball Club looking for competition

FUTURE, PAGE 6

players, but if you haven’t played like a team and don’t know how to play each other’s strengths, you won’t last in the sport.

The team is also in the process of getting sponsors for both gear and apparel. Getting sponsored will immensely add to the team’s legitimacy and help their chances of playing competitively.

There are five divisions of competitive paintball, with five being the lowest and one being the highest. FIU Paintball Club will enter the circuit in Division Five.

The pinnacle of the sport is the Paintball World Cup which is held every October in Orlando. There, the top teams from all five divisions meet to see who has the best paintball team in the world.

FIU Paintball Club is still in its infant stage, but that doesn’t stop team captain Munoz from dreaming big. “If we work hard enough, I could definitely see this team making a trip up to Orlando for the World Cup,” Munoz said.

Munoz is very ardent about his sport. While some may see the activity just as recreation or a waste of money, Munoz sees it as one of the biggest parts of who he is.

“I have always been into sports, but it wasn’t until last summer that I really fell in love with the competitive aspect of it,” Munoz said. “It’s my passion. Ignoring your passion is a slow suicide. Never ignore what your heart pumps for.”

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Panther Sports Talk Live

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Student Government Council at the Bay brings two new senators onboard

ALEXI CARDONA
Staff Writer

The Student Government Council at Biscayne Bay Campus appointed two new senators at this week’s senate meeting. Ana Correa, a sophomore advertising major, was chosen as the new School of Journalism and Mass Communications senator.

“I want to make sure our students in [SJMC] are well-represented,” Correa said.

Correa is an FIU Alternative Breaks site leader, a peer mentor and the president of Wine to Water at FIU, an organization that helps provide clean water to people in need around the world.

Eli Jean-Mary, a freshman majoring in music business, was appointed lower division senator. He applied for the position to work on his shyness and further develop his leadership skills.

“I’ve got big dreams and I don’t want them to go to waste,” Jean-Mary said.

Both new members were unanimously appointed.

The council voted to have the remaining summer senate meetings every two weeks instead of every week.

Last week’s senate and general meetings did not reach quorum because of low attendance from some senators.

Allhan Mejia, the speaker of the senate, said he hoped to start updating the constitution by the end of summer, but that initiative has been pushed back.

The Student Government Association needs to form a constitution committee consisting of four members from each council — two executive branch members and two senators from both the Student Government Council at Modesto A. Maidique Campus and SGC-BBC — to start discussing updates.

Mejia volunteered to be one of the senators in the constitution committee and asked for one more volunteer. The discussion was postponed for the next meeting.

The council at BBC is still recruiting members to fill seats in the senate. Representatives are needed for the College of Education, the Chaplin School of Hospitality and Tourism Management, the Nicole Wertz- heim College of Nursing and Health Sciences and the Broward Pines Center.

The SGC-MMC senate did not meet on the first week of July because they meet on a biweekly basis over summer.

-Jeffrey Pierre

Director of Entertainment

In South Florida, the water is a summertime rite; with that, the Office of Campus Life at the Biscayne Bay Campus is looking to nurture an FIU summer tradition. Campus Life is hosting its annual Summer Splash event titled, “Light Up the Night,” a pool party. “It’s not an event they should miss,” said Barrientos.

Campus Life’s initiative to promote an annual University pool party is something the office has put a lot of thought into.

“Kayaking by the bay is one of the events people love the most,” according to Barrientos, and is expected to bring in more students to the event than last year.

“Last year, it was pretty much just a pool party,” Barrientos said.

Kayaking by the bay is “one of the events people love the most,” according to Barrientos, and is expected to bring in more students to the event than last year.

Barrientos says the “Light Up the Night” pool party will include kayaking, free food, a camera booth and a disc jockey. This year’s collaboration with the BBC Recreation Center allowed the office of Campus Life to offer the kayaking service to students for free.

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