University Model UN ranks No. 5 in nation

EZITA RODRIGUEZ Contributing Writer

The University Model United Nations Team ranked better than some of its Ivy League competitors this year on the list of North American College Rankings for 2013-2014 on bestdelegate.com.

According to their website, “Best Delegate created the North America College Rankings to find out which team is the best on the circuit and to recognize teams for their accomplishments across conferences throughout the school year.”
The list consists of 25 colleges and universities, and there is also a list of top 50 and top 75.

Among the top five are: University of Chicago, Georgetown University, Harvard University, University of Pennsylvania and Florida International University.

Others mentioned on the list include the United States Military Academy at West Point coming in sixth, Yale University in seventh, Columbia University in ninth.
The FIU Model United Nations Team is also represented in the Model United Nations All-Star Team for the 2013-2014 year, with three University students listed as all-stars.
The students were nominated by their universities and were placed on the All-Star Team based on overall votes from all participants, according to a best delegate representative.

“The College MUN All-Star Team should be representative of the best and most respected leaders in the community,” according to the all-star team page. “They are diplomatic and skilled in committee, help strengthen the relationships between schools, provide thought leadership, and make the Model UN experience better for everyone.”

Mark Hodgson, a recent graduate and former program director for the FIU MUN team, Ethan Roberts, the current program director and Anthony Mercado, a recent graduate, each made the All-Star Team.

“To me, the Model United Nations is invaluable. It gives us a chance to practice problem solving, diplomacy and effecting change in the world,” said Roberts, a senior international studies major.

100 DAYS TO HOMECOMING

Nicole Montero Staff Writer

Reacting to publicized rapes on college campuses across the nation, the White House has released new guidelines requiring colleges to comply with new campus safety and security requirements aimed at curbing sexual assault, domestic violence, dating violence and stalking.

The proposed rule, formally published in the Federal Register on June 20, would implement changes to the Jeanne Clery Disclosure of Campus Security Policy and Campus Crime Statistics Act, under the Violence Against Women Reauthorization Act, which President Barack Obama signed last year.

Under the regulations, institutions would be required to compile statistics for incidents of dating violence, domestic violence and stalking, in addition to the currently compiled statistics for sexual assaults and other crimes.

Among the many recommendations, the White House urges universities across the country to ensure that reports of sexual crime cases remain confidential, as well as to conduct anonymous surveys and adopt anti-assault policies.

Whitney Bauman, assistant professor for the Department of Religious Studies and a part of the Women’s Studies Center, believes that the efforts are a step in the right direction and that they could bring awareness to such issues.

“I don’t believe that anything we do will be enough until the problem is solved,” he said.

New guidelines to combat sexual assault ‘a step in the right direction’ for universities

Adriana Zabaraín (middle), a junior in hospitality management and a golden zapper, performs with the dance team at the 100 Days to Homecoming event in the GGC pit. Students celebrated the upcoming football season with food, giveaways and performances.

SGC-MMC speaker pro tempore Lorenzo resigns

ADRIAN SUAREZ AVILA Staff Writer

Kicking off the SGC-MMC Senate meeting last Monday, President Alexis Calatayud discussed her upcoming attendance to a leadership conference aimed at training student government leaders from around the country.
The National Association for Campus Activities (NACA) Student Government West Institute Conference, which ran from July 10 to 13, serves as a student affairs event where student government leaders may come together to share ideas.

“The most exciting part, I think, is that we’re going to meet student government leaders from California,” Calatayud said.
Calatayud cited the Board of Trustees as being the highest level of representation. “If you don’t have that, then you don’t have much say,” she said.

In addition, Calatayud said she hopes to partner with the University’s athletics department and with student athletes to see how the SGC-MMC can creatively increase attendance at athletic events.

Aside from discussing personal pursuits, the Senate also discussed the vacancy of some positions.

As a result of transferring to University of Miami, Caroline Alcala left two positions, speaker pro tempore and senator at large, vacant.

“One of the things we need to address statutorily is that there isn’t actually anything in the constitution, the statutes or the rules and procedures that says what to do in the event of the resignation of the speaker pro tempore,” said Speaker of the Senate and graduate Senator Charles Perretti.

According to President Calatayud, the position of speaker pro tempore is a required one.

“It is an executive board position that sits in executive board meetings, University-wide meetings and in the long-term, budget meetings, which requires the presence of all executive members for votes to be made,” Calatayud said.

Because of the vacancy of the speaker pro tempore position, the Senate will be open to applications from senators who are interested in the position. In the event that only one senator applies, that senator will win by default.

In the case that more than one senator applies for the position those interested will speak before the Senate in order to explain their qualifications. Votes will then be administered to determine who will take the position.

At present, Honors College Senator Nico Pasquariello, at-large Senator and Chair of the Internal Affairs/Review Committee Nicholas Recuset and Finance Chair and CARTA Senator Tomás Alcaya are interested in the speaker pro tempore position.

According to Calatayud, as Recuset and Alcaya are chairpersons within a committee, one will lose his chairship if elected as speaker pro tempore and the elected person’s vacant position will then be open for applications. One position in particular requires speedy election. As no one voted in favor of President Calatayud’s initial appointment for comptroller, Lillie Wilson, during the beginning of the summer semester, the position was never filled.

Despite the Senate’s previous response, Calatayud is appointing Wilson once more for the position, considering
Syrian opposition seeks US support for battle plans

Syria’s pro-western opposition has developed a plan to oust extremists from the self-styled Islamic state from their base in Syria and protect Syrian civilians in rebel-held areas, but it is waiting for the Obama administration to give it a hearing, the acting defense minister said.折叠

Kholouf, who’s held the intelligence data,” said Kholouf, who’s held the

need a no fly zone or anti-aircraft weapons. I need rebels could oust the extremists from the territory rebel forces have seized from the Assad regime and routinely cut off the rebels’ supply routes. But he said rebel forces could force the extremists on the defensive and expel them from a part of the territory they now control in just three weeks of fighting, if the United States provides the necessary backing. In a second stage, he said rebel forces could further push the extremists from the Raqqa region up to the border region between Syria and Iraq. “I need weapons. I need money. I need a no fly zone or anti-aircraft weapons. I need intelligence data,” said Kholouf, who’s held the post since May in the Syrian interim government.

Three FIU students make All-Star Model UN team

Changes to the Clery Act help combat sex assault on campus

because it has resources for students and schools,” Bauman said. “We should have this link available to our students because the student’s well-being should always be our first priority.”

He also proposes that FIU start brainstorming a way to combat issues of sexual assault. To this, he offers an idea, to have a town hall-style meeting in the fall that will discuss sexual crimes and come to an agreement on how the University should act.

“If one in five people were being targeted in the face in FIU’s campus every day, then you can bet that there would be a huge meeting about it and people would be dealt with accordingly,” he said.

Bauman believes that it is important for FIU to meet and to find a way to help the problem as a community. According to him, sexual assaults are problems that exist in sexist cultures and, because it is historically set in that culture, it is silent.

Cynthia Rodriguez, sophomore majoring in health service administration, also believes the University should meet to discuss how they will be combating these issues. She also emphasizes the importance of having anonymous methods.

“I think that anonymous surveys, and the gathering of statistics can work to get a better idea of the number of students who have actually experienced these crimes at FIU,” she said.

Rodriguez does not necessarily think that everything must be anonymous, but she believes that the option to be anonymous is a non-negotiable condition for her, many students are embarrassed to talk about their experiences openly—especially males.

“Men suffer the same emotional turmoil as women but are probably less likely to report cases of assault due to fears of being laughed at or ignored,” she said.

In fact, according to the National Crime Victimization Survey, 38 percent of rape and sexual violence incidents are against men, with 46 percent of victims reporting female perpetrators.

Another student, Stephanie Olayon, sophomore psychology major, believes that the guidelines set for universities will better the problem. Nevertheless, she has difficulty believing that the situation will have a perfect solution.

“I don’t think that this problem will ever go away because there will always be people that do this sickening thing to others—it be male or female,” she said.

However, Olayon also said that she was pleased with the government for bringing attention to issues of sexual assaults and opening the eyes of various students and universities.

The University’s sex assault numbers have remained low since 2010, according to the University Police Department annual security report. However, the most recent sex offense case, according to the online police crime log, was this past April in the Green Library, and the case remains an open investigation.

Though there are many questions about the effectiveness of the White House’s task force and new guidelines, Bauman remains optimistic.

“This is a huge epidemic and I am glad that it has been becoming less violent and less acceptable in society,” he said. “FIU should embrace these new policies and actually go above and beyond what the recommendations are.”

Three FIU students make All-Star Model UN team

that the presence of a comp-

triller is necessary this year in particular.

“This is a very important year because it’s a base budgeting year,” Calatayud said. “Everyone’s budget is revisited.”

A brief discussion on student surveys also took place at the Senate meeting. Student surveys are part of the statutory requirements of the Inter- tors, according to Calatayud. The university serves as a tool to help the Senate understand what the current population needs and wants, allowing senators to have official information to refer to when they meet with administration.

Lower Division Senator Allan Collazo, along with his committee, will begin drafting a survey that they wish to pass on for evaluation to the Senate. Updating those plans on the workings of the Grad- uate and Professional Student Committee, Graduate Senator Rhett Williamson discussed the ongoing update of the committee’s webpage.

In this meeting, members will review those ballots that were previously denied. We’ve had a number of students express interest in creating a petition regarding the simulations. Williamson’s survey is very passionate about their applications.”

This, along with other items on the committee’s agenda, will be discussed in future meetings, Williamson assured.

Concerns over transportation fees were also brought to light.

Raymond Borrell, a Nursing and Health Sciences senator, called to attention a tweet that was featured on the ArikRosenberg feed on Twitter asking why the shuttle services between MMC and BBC are not free. In a tweet, the senator responded that lowering the fee would require the help of student government leadership. “I plan on meeting with officials from the Depart- ment of Parking and Trans- portation to discuss any poten- tial avenues for lowering the shuttle bus fee,” said Borrell.

While further word on this issue develops, an SGC-MMC representative works on adding an academic program to the University’s offerings. “I contacted Philip-Chu, who’s an associate professor in the Department of Theatre, in an effort to continue my pursuit of a film minor,” said Borrell. “I’ve been in touch with the Department of Theatre, who have given me a summer committee simulation on July 19 and 20, where they will recruit new members. Students should send in an applica- tion to save a spot in the simulation.”

INFORMATION ACCOUNTS

President Calatayud on development

SGC-MMC, PAGE 1

that the presence of a comp-
OPINION

No tip, no rent: Why you should tip

LUIZ SANTANA
Staff Writer

Servers: we take them for granted every time we go out. These workers write down our edible desires, bring it to us while we sit comfortably and chat, and do all it with a smile.

This summer, I had a chance to work as a server and the experience as a whole is something that was truly humbling.

If I learned anything during my time as a server, it was this: always leave a tip. No matter what your "financial" situation, it hurts the waiter severely when you leave nothing but garbage on your table.

I put quotes over the word financial in the above sentence because I would constantly see customers come in dressed in designer outfits and the experience as a whole was this: always leave a tip. During my time as a server, it was this: always leave a tip.

Servers only make around $5.00 an hour meaning that they will not have a steady income. Any sort of tip, I get worried for the worker as this will replenish the bills.

Whether it’s the family that understands your smiling face or your Saturday-night flavor on the menu for the day, I have more to clean. I sometimes have to work seven days a week, leave no tip even though I have 15-dollar bills.

One time, a group of young girls came to eat. I brought everything they wanted to them and even sang happy birthday for one of their friends. As they all got up to leave I looked at the table and saw no money.

I asked one of the girls, “No tip madam?” She said “no, sorry” with a face of pure pity and just like that they left with nothing but their wasteful remains on the table for me to clean.

Personally, I have rent to pay every month. I also have to pay for my car insurance, food and my phone bill to boot. These bills add up over time and I’m not left any sort of tip, I get worried when it time to come to pay my bills.

I frequently wash my hands and sometimes even lie about my health to avoid that time-consuming and life-draining cold -- say maybe once a year -- I almost never get sick. Many have said I was blessed.

The young couple who looks worth the little money that I get is not the way I would like it to be.

I have some ice cream.

We all know to drink lots of warm fluids when sick to soothe sore throats and to flush out our systems, but because we’re human, we’re cursed with wanting what we can’t or shouldn’t have.

That means the pint of Talenti Belgian Milk Chocolate Gelato you forgot was in the freezer that you’re suddenly craving. Except you are sick and you know you will not be able to enjoy it like you normally would.

Therefore, screw your diet and have a few spoonfuls of chocolate rich and silky deliciousness.

You are sick and you know you will not be able to enjoy it like you normally would.

Give hugs and kisses.

Although I have no romantic partners in my life, I still worry about hugging or kissing others while I risk for the spread of my illness. So I ask when you go home this evening, kiss your parents, your siblings and/or your spouse and spread your love, guilt-free.

There will always be an excuse not to do something. Sometimes we are tired, too busy or just not in the mood. My suggestion is to stop making excuses and do all the things you say you want to do while your health still permits you.

— sofia.galiano@fiusm.com

Send us your letters

Have something on your mind? Send your thoughts (400 words maximum) to opinion@fiusm.com or drop by our offices at room G1 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 from a month from any individual.

Four things to appreciate in good health

SOFIA GALIANO
Staff Writer

I almost never get sick. Many have said I workout too often. I’m certain I eat more fruits and vegetables than most of my friends. I frequently wash my hands and sometimes even lie about my health to avoid that time-consuming and life-draining cold -- say maybe once a year -- I almost never get sick. Many have said I was blessed.

To avoid that time-consuming and life-sucking emotion of regret, be sure to fully live out of the hours they work by serving as many people as possible.

I have some ice cream.

We all know to drink lots of warm fluids when sick to soothe sore throats and to flush out our systems, but because we’re human, we’re cursed with wanting what we can’t or shouldn’t have.

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**MATHEU’S EXHIBIT EXAMINES CUBA’S DYSTOPIAN STATE**

**JEFFREY PIERRE AND GRISELLE CANO**

*The Beacon Staff*

A state of dystopia, in the spirit of George Orwell’s “1984,” is exactly how Cuban-born artist Leonel Matheu describes his homeland.

With Matheu’s collection titled “Crossroads of the Dystopia,” a new installment at The Patricia and Phillip Frost Art Museum, one can’t help but be intrigued by his playful deviation from such a grim subject matter.

After a “Meet the Artist” session held on July 12, Matheu spoke with an afflic- mated and dystopian enthusiasms alike about his collection and most importantly, his influences.

“I think that the place where one grows up also influences us,” said Matheu, 47. “But, also, as time passes by, one can understand these influences.”

After almost two decades of compiling work, with his “Crossroads of the Dystopia” collection, Matheu’s experiences have finally found a voice.

He’s found a way to make sense of his life’s most influential moments — moments that, according to Matheu, began in Havana, Cuba, a city still struggling with economic isolation and a have-and-have-not system, a byproduct of the country’s still present communist policies.

Matheu also credits his time here in Miami and other excursions throughout the United States, Europe, the Carib- bean and Latin America for impacting his work.

Matheu has been a prominent figure on the national and international scenes for over 20 years.

With “Crossroads of the Dystopia,” Matheu displays colored pencil drawings, ink on paper and oil on canvas, with some multimedia and public installations, but the most intriguing aspect are the char- acters who are depicted and show up throughout Matheu’s work — the “dome-head” as he calls them.

Matheu says the idea came to him while looking for “an image that could communicate itself with many cultures, ages and could serve to the viewer as a guide when interpreting the artwork.”

“Perhaps they mask the sense of dystopia he knows is present in his homeland of Cuba, a situation that seems not only hopeless, but at times surreal to those looking from afar, just as his oddball carica- tures appear ridiculously unable to engage beyond the superfi- cial,” said Carol Domain, the museum’s director and chief curator, describing Matheu’s draff-faced characters in her director’s introduction.

Janet Biett, the curator, says Matheu’s dome-shaped heads serve as a self portrait and collective portrayal of a Cuban nation marked by displacement and dystopia.

“It has spirituality, technol- ogy, passion, solitude, dreams, chimeras and decep- tions,” she said.

Matheu, whose artwork resides at the Low Age Art Museum at the University of Miami, The Bass Museum of Art in Miami Beach and the Museum of Contemporary Art North Miami, will have his collection displayed at the museum until Sept. 14.

“The Frost is proud to have the opportunity to show- case the intriguing and wide- ranging body of work by this acclaimed artist,” Damian said.

**Jack White’s ‘Lazaretto’ breaks genre lines**

**COLUMNIST**

When analyzing Jack White’s music, one can’t really compare his work to any other musician’s work besides his own, as it usually sounds unlike anything that has ever been done before.

He might have his influences from which he draws inspiration, but Jack White’s music always sounds like nothing else but Jack White’s music, ranging from every band he has ever been in (The Upholsterers, The White Stripes, The Raconteurs and The Dead Weather) to his solo mate- rial. This is mainly due to his unmistakable guitar riffs, developed from the Detroit native’s use of guitar pedals to achieve a raw and crunchy manipulation of pitch.

This sound was generously sprinkled throughout his solo debut in the 2012 release titled “Blunderbuss.” However, White has now seemed to have somewhat lost his Detroit attitude in his sopho- more release titled “Lazaretto,” making me think that he has prob- ably spent too much time in Nashville where the headquarters of his record label, Third Man Records, is located.

The reason I say this is the album seems unusually more on the folk rock side than any of his previous releases. White is experi- enced with this style of music, given his contribution to the soundtrack of the 2005 film titled “Cold Mountain” as well as several songs on “Blunderbuss,” including the title track.

Although the experimentation with instrumentation in this style is similar to “Blunderbuss,” such as the use of harps, fiddles, mandolins and upright bass, White seems to have complicated it further by presenting it in the form of Americana, which is charac- terized by the contemporary incorporation of country, folk, rock and roll and blues. This isn’t too different as was done in the previous album; however, these elements are thoughtlessly combined all in one.

By this I mean White exhausted whatever charm might come from Americana by cramming it all into the songs as opposed to sparingly throughout the album. Something he was able to musi- cally achieve in “Blunderbuss” but now failed to fully replicate by giving us practically an extension of that, but all jumbled up.

For example, the first single to be released, titled similarly to the album, starts off in White’s familiar fashion with a riff in a similar style to his work with The Dead Weather. It then breaks down into a fiddler’s solo towards the end of the track. Another single, “Just One Drink,” is almost reminiscent of a White Stripes-era track, except it introduces a ragtime piano, the kind you’d probably hear in a saloon; and that same fiddler as before.

“That Black Bat Licorice” introduces a sort of ska feel to the album with the same reggae piano and fiddler on top of it all.

It can probably be safe to say that this is White’s most ambi- tious release to date, given the cramping of multiple styles and genres into one album.

Not only that, but the artistry behind all of the work done on the Ultra LP release of “Lazaretto” on vinyl included hidden tracks beneath the center label, locked grooves, starting from the inside out on Side A and a hand-etched hologram, to name a few treats for the vinyl lovers.

Unfortunately, whatever was hoped to be achieved by combining all of these styles and genres is overshadowed by an incomprehensible execution. I feel that White focused too much on being the Willy Wonka of vinyl instead of producing quality work to accompany the experience presented in the vinyl release.

Notable tracks include “Three Women,” “Lazaretto,” “High Ball Stepper,” “Just One Drink,” and “That Black Bat Licorice.”
Alison Weir’s novel describes the unbiased side of the Palestinian-Israeli debate

CRISTINA GARCIA
Staff Writer

As National Public Radio’s 2014 April Fools’ Day joke pointed out, people aren’t dedicating a lot of time to reading articles. We skim over headlines, comment and keep scrolling through our feeds. That said, how many people dedicate time to learning about exhausting topics like Israel and Palestine?

On April 18, author Alison Weir, joined Panthers in the Graham Center to show that she went beyond the first page of Google and found something worth writing about.

Prior to writing her book, “Against Our Better Judgement: The Hidden History of How the U.S. Was Used to Create Israel,” Weir was the editor of a small newspaper. She skimmmed headlines just like everyone else and didn’t know a lot about Israel or Palestine.

According to Weir, she started paying attention in 2000, when there was the Palestinian uprising. That’s when she decided to learn what it was all about.

“I noticed we were getting very one-sided coverage,” she said. “We heard about Israelis in great detail. I thought and expected we would hear from Palestinians, but that was much less frequently.”

Weir decided to create the organization If Americans Knew after visiting the area in 2001. Before her visit, Weir wondered how people were going to treat her as a single female American traveling randomly and haphazardly through the area.

According to the latter article, the Israeli military estimates Hamas to have 10,000 rockets. The former article noted until now only 700 had been used since fighting began, with 170 intercepted by Israel’s defence system. Yet, up until now, no Israelis have been killed, while “166 Palestinians, mostly civilians, have been killed… while more than 1,000 have been injured.”

During her presentation, Weir asked the audience if it knew how many Israelis those “thousands of rockets” had killed. “They give us very little information about rockets and often leave out [they are small projectiles that cause very little impact],” Weir said.

According to the IF Americans Knew site (an extension of Weir’s project), 1,110 Israelis have been killed and 8,550 have been injured since 2000. On the other hand, 6,961 Palestinians have been killed, 56,520 have been injured since 2000, another 6,000 Palestinians are currently imprisoned by Israel, while there are zero Israelis imprisoned by Palestinians. Those statistics were last updated July 11.

Weir decided to create the organization If Americans Knew after visiting the area in 2001. Before her visit, Weir wondered how people were going to treat her as a single female American traveling randomly and haphazardly through the area.

Another article on abnews.co.uk describing the same event wrote, “When Hamas militants spotted them, they opened fire and four commandos suffered cuts and scraps. All the militants were killed.”

Weir said: “That’s when she decided to learn what it was all about.”

“Another thing that tends to happen is that when there is violence, ‘a period of calm has just happened.’ I feel it’s our job to give [the public] facts on the issue so they can exercise their civic duty to tell officials what to do and what not to do,” Weir said.

Weir said approximately 70 percent of the American public does not support taking sides on Israel-Palestine, regardless of the “massive Israeli propaganda” present. Speculations aside, perhaps it’s time some serious research was done on this topic so concrete action can be taken to resolve this conflict.

–cristina.garcia@fiusm.com

FIU LIFE: LOOKING BACK AT THE WORLD CUP

Bottom center: Students hold U.S. flags during the U.S.-Belgium game. (Below left) Junior hospitality management major Laila Dkeidek gets her face painted with the Brazilian flag during the World Cup kickoff at the Biscayne Bay Campus. (Top) Students react to a missed goal by the U.S. during the U.S.-Belgium game. (Right) Ana Correa, a sophomore in advertising and public relations, pastes a sticker in her Panini sticker book at the “Sticker Trading Day.”
Boxing fights its way into FIU students’ hearts

JAMES PROFETTO
Contributing Writer

Tropical Park’s boxing gym isn’t a thing of the past. It is still an important part of FIU students’ lives.

Walking up the ramp and into the gym, one can hear the sounds of a boxing match. The ground on every swing, a heavy bag being worked on and a single loud voice.

Every punch emits a vibration felt throughout the concrete walls of the gym. There are men and women of every age in the gym — a little boy not even nine years old found his way into the gym and to the heavy bag, a sport as wide as the boxing ring he stood next to.

The intramural FIU Boxing Club is a club founded by students. Beginning in the fall of 2012, the team has had its leader in Coach Ricky Piedra.

He is a breathing boxer and educator. He is still learning, breathing, and growing as a coach, just as his boxers do.

“It was like, I was in junior high, a security guard came up to me and asked, ‘Why don’t you box?’ I said, ‘Box? Boxing is soft.’” Piedra said.

Little did Piedra know that boxing would become one of his passions.

“You know, boxing saved my life. Boxing became my dad,” Piedra said.

Boxing at the University is growing; students of any age can join and become a part of the club. According to Piedra, the best fighters are usually those who are not even thinking about fighting; it is just something they end up doing.

Scott has been boxing for two years now, but has been a fan since he was a kid. “I had a roommate who I used to argue with a lot. We got real close to coming to blows. I had four roommates and he ended up getting on everyone’s nerves. We bought some boxing gloves, did some light sparring and one day I did something [boxer Floyd] Mayweather had done in a video.”

Piedra was a professional for 19 years and believes it has saved many people. “I had a roommate who I used to argue with a lot. We got real close to coming to blows. I had four roommates and he ended up getting on everyone’s nerves. We bought some boxing gloves, did some light sparring and one day I did something [boxer Floyd] Mayweather had done in a video.”

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Piedra said, “You know what, let me give this a shot.”

Scott said.

Unfortunately for Scott, he did not get the winning decision at the USIBA competition, but Scott and his coach plan on winning before he graduates in the fall.

“Next time [Kareim] fights, we will train so that the opponent will have to give up. His opponent will not know where he can win this thing. That’s our goal and Kareim will be ready.” Piedra said.

As a whole, FIU Boxing Club brought home two national championships. According to the USIBA official website, they won in the men’s 132 division and in the men’s 141 division.

“I’m very, very proud of those guys,” Piedra said.

To breed champions, training must be rigorous. Piedra believes in a strict regimen that his boxers know is not to be taken lightly.

“We run four to five times a week and on Saturdays we put on a ‘train every day’ with only an hour break,” Scott said.

He has made it a point to attend every training session on Saturdays.

As the direction of the club in the future, Scott hopes it will continue to move in a positive direction.

Scott was a longtime coach for the club, but recently decided to hang up the gloves. Now, the club is run mainly by students.

Piedra was a professional for two and a half years and has been coaching since 2004.

According to Piedra, the best moment in his career lies in the leadership of this club.

“When I train my boxers and I see them growing, competing and winning, that’s when I know it’s worth it,” Piedra said.

When they come to me not knowing anything [about boxing] and I see them compete, that’s my shining moment of the program.

With experiences like this, any club would be blessed for a above average learning experience.

But Piedra said, “I believe in boxing every day.”

“Put your faith in me, that’s when I believe in it.”

Scott said.
Triathlon club president sets goal at full Ironman competition

ANTHONY CALATAVUD
Contributing Writer

Imagine the most intense training that you’ve ever gone through. Whether it’s running in the hot sun, swimming in your favorite body of water, riding bike through city streets or isolated dirt roads, the combination of all three of these exercises makes up a triathlon. Everybody has an exercise routine that could involve one of the three aforementioned workouts.

What everybody doesn’t have is the mental strength to not only push themselves to do it, but be the sole motivating factor. That’s right, no coach to push you, no timeout to help you when you’re tired; it’s just you and your resolve.

The University has it’s own group of these extraordinary people walking its campus, led by FIU Triathlon Club President Ernie Diaz.

“Coming from a running background in high school, I was consistently involved with the local Miami running community. I came across a flyer one day that peaked my interest. The event being advertised not only consisted of running, but swimming and cycling as well,” Diaz said.

Not many people get involved with competing in triathlons; Diaz got the inside scoop to the world of triathlon training through a close family friend.

“At the onset of my training, I partnered up with my family friend, German Plascensia, who is 67; he provided me with key training tips and guidance. Over the course of my first season, I was driven to compete in as many races possible. In essence, I was inspired by Plascensia and his strong discipline to persevere during training and life,” Diaz said.

Most students at the University don’t know how grueling a triathlon can be. Races vary in length from sprint, Olympic, half-Ironman and Ironman. “To be concise, a sprint is comprised of a 400 to 800 meter swim, 10 to 12 mile bike ride, and a 3.1 mile run. An Olympic distance race is the same as a sprint with the distances doubled,” Diaz said. “As for a half-Ironman, the distances are a 1.2 mile swim, 56 mile ride, and a 13.1 mile run.”

Think about the physical shape that you have to be in to do just one leg of a triathlon. Diaz goes on to say that the training is beyond extensive.

“For sprints and Olympics, I typically train about five to six hours a week with two swims, two runs and two bikes. For a long race such as a half-Ironman, the training volume increases about 10 to 12 hours. The breakdown would consist of two swims, three rides (40-75 miles each) and two races (6-9 miles each),” Diaz said.

The University has a relatively new triathlon club. Since the club is about two years old it hasn’t competed in a litany of races. “The FIU squad has not had the opportunity to race as much as older teams such as [Florida State University] or [University of Florida]. Yet, with that being said, each time we have raced collegiately, we have had athletes place in the top 10 percent of their age groups. Moreover, we have also had several top 10 overall finishes throughout the last two seasons,” Diaz said.

The Panther club is young, but not afraid to go against the bigger and older schools that have been entrenched in the triathlon scene for decades.

“Since the club’s inception, there has been a sort of camaraderie created between the members. Each member understands that the club is a learning space to grow as athletes and as individuals,” Diaz said.

“With everything one does, there is more than likely an end result or a certain peak.”

Diaz doesn’t just talk the talk, but he walks the walk in a real way. He enjoys the mental strength and discipline that comes from living out this lifestyle.

“For me, that is not necessarily true as I find triathlons to be more of a way of life rather than a chore or a sport,” he said. Ernie plans to run and finish a full Ironman at the completion of his bachelor’s degree. This triathlon club might just be one of the most impressive clubs that is flying under the radar here at FIU.

sports@fiusm.com

Top five football games to see this upcoming season

FOOTBALL

The University of Pittsburgh is historically a football powerhouse and can put up some points. It should be a great game to watch for any fan.

September 20: University of Louisville at FIU

This should be known as the “Attempt at Redemption” following the 72-0 blowout that caused FIU to be the laughing stock of all college football in 2013. That makes this one of my top five games to watch for FIU in the 2014 season.

October 2: Florida Atlantic University at FIU

The Shula Bowl is back in Miami on a Thursday night in early October as the Panthers host the Owls of Florida Atlantic University. The game, which will be on Fox Sports Networks, should be interesting as FIU looks to regain the trophy in this rivalry.

November 1: Rice University at FIU

The powerhouse of Conference USA football, Rice University, comes to Miami for the first meeting of the two schools on the football field on Nov. 1. The Owls of Rice are one of the early favorites to win the conference in 2014 and I see no reason to dissent that.

November 8: FIU at Old Dominion University

This is one of four away games for the Panthers in 2014 and I think it is the most interesting.

With ODU not even being in Football Bowl Series play yet – as they are in their second transitional year – it is hard to know exactly what to expect from the Monarchs. With quarterback Taylor Heinicke being so dominant for ODU and the quarterback position still yet unknown at FIU it will be strange to see the outcome.

ODU is also the alma mater of FIU’s very own women’s basketball Head Coach Cindy Russo; it will be interesting to see who she will be rooting for in the contest.

Keep checking back to FIUSM.com to get updates on all of the Panthers’ games coming up in the Fall.

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GERMANY WINS WORLD CUP

Many people gathered to watch the final match of the 2014 FIFA World Cup on Sunday, July 13 between Germany and Argentina. Germany won 1-0 with a goal in extra time. Argentina’s Lionel Messi winning the Golden Ball award for best player in the tournament.
ASK! Center nearly two months away

SOFIA GALIANO
BBC Managing Editor

Construction of the Academic Skills and Knowledge Center in the Glenn Hubert Library at Biscayne Bay Campus is nearly two months from completion.

The ASK! Center is a one-stop shop service desk offering library, technical and tutoring assistance.

Renovations will include a new carpet, seating, PC and Mac computers, study rooms, lighting and electrical outlets.

“We are trying to make it easier for the students,” said Gustavo Arauz, administrative office manager of the Glenn Hubert Library.

The project began in January with furniture testing which allowed the Student Government Association and students to select the chairs they wanted in the new library space.

Now the ASK! Center is being built and is set to be completed by Sept. 15. A wall was installed the first week of July to corner off the area, which Arauz said helps reduce noise from construction.

Signs are posted throughout the library notifying students of the possible disturbance, but Arauz and Shawn Tonner, head of Information and Research Services, recent renovations to the Wolfe University Center, students have other places to study if the noise is a nuisance.

“We’ve had no complaints,” she said.

The Center for Excellence in Writing will be moving from the first floor to the second floor to join Division of IT, the libraries, Center for Academic Success and the Office of Business Services in the ASK! Center.

Other changes are underway in the library.

The computers nearest to the entrance were removed to make way for a Starbucks kiosk which will be installed and open for business by fall.

Arauz said once the computers upstairs have been installed and are open for use, the remaining computers on the first floor will also be removed.

Miami’s high cost of living takes a toll on students, University offers assistance

RUBEN PALACIOS
Asst. News Director

Miami residents may have scenic beaches and nightclubs, but they pay a high price for living in paradise.

According to a New York Times article, Miami is one of the most expensive cities in the country to rent.

On average, rent in Miami consumes 43 percent of a typical household income, while living expenses that consume 30 percent of a household income is considered “affordable.”

For University students, the daunting rental rates in Miami limit their options for a living space near campus.

Some students struggle to find apartments worth living in, while others have to rely on the University to find them a home.

Moses McGahee, a senior sociology major, has lived on campus since transferring to the University in fall 2012.

McGahee said he chose to live on campus because high rent rates around the University did not fit within his budget.

“The main reason why I’m living on campus is because I came from three hours away,” said McGahee. “I have yet been able to find a reasonably priced apartment here in Miami.”

In an attempt to help students find a place to live, Division of Student Affairs shared an ad recently via Student Government Association at Biscayne Bay Campus with a number of websites with the focus of finding a residence.

The attempts the University made to help students find a place to live may seem small to some, but to others it shows that the school cares enough to lend a helping hand.

“It’s helpful because it shows that [the University] is actually concerned and that they are worried about the students’ well-being and they want them to live somewhere,” said McGahee.

The University has acknowledged how difficult and expensive it can be for a student to rent outside of school walls.

Meanwhile, University students can only dream about leaving their dorms for a cozy apartment.

 “[Living off campus] would be very easy for me to work with,” said McGahee.

“That’s the most likely what I would have done from the start, if it was cheaper I would have gone with an apartment from the start.”


SUMMER SPLASH: LIGHT UP THE NIGHT

Students kayaked to Beer Can Island where they enjoyed a bonfire and s’mores during the BBC Summer Splash: Light Up the Night pool party on Thursday, July 10. Along with night kayaking, students enjoyed music, food, a photo booth, and giveaways.

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