University joins the #selfie movement

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With the trending topic of selfies taking over social media channels, the University couldn’t pass up on the new fad.

The school has smiled in the background of multiple selfies taken by students using the new iSnap photo booth, which currently sits in the middle GC.

The iSnap photo booth is a presence-based marketing technique where guests can share photos on social media to expand interaction, according to its website. Jodi Ann Reid, assistant director of social media in External Relations, brought iSnap to campus with the help of Eduardo Merille, director of social media community manager. They’ve been in charge of its use since then.

“It was initially used to keep [the concept of] the frame alive—to keep the conversation about FIU going on social media outlets,” said Merille. “The goal was to add to our hashtag campaigns.”

iSnap was first brought to the University to be used specifically at commencement ceremonies, and has since been used in multiple events on campus, such as open house.

The machine cost about $5,000, and comes from allotted funds given to the External Relations’ Marketing and New Media. There is a $50 monthly maintenance fee, which includes software updates.

While many students are fond of the purchase, some find it to be alarming.

Raqyu Aymerich, a sophomore majoring in biology, said over the phone. “I’ve seen it at commencement, and something much more useful, such as student resources,” she said over the phone. “I’ve seen it on campus and if people wanted selfies, they can use their cell phones.”

By renting it out to others, though, the External Relations office is able to recover its cost. This business model was part of its original idea of the project.

However, it’s only been rented out for two events for $300 each.

The office doesn’t charge for certain events, such as commencement or open house.

There is currently only one booth, which is in the pilot stage, according to Merille, and the department is unsure of purchasing a second one.

Merille said it’s all about strategic placing to get the most use out of it.

“At commencement, we placed it [where the graduates come in] so they can take pictures and post it on social media outlets,” he said.

The booth is easy to use—students can simply take their photo, sign in to their social media accounts, add a message, and share.

Nicole Montero
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After almost two years of finding a possible listening device in the Graham Center’s Serenity Room, the Muslim Student Association asked the University Police to analyze the bugging device in a forensic lab.

Back in 2013, members of MSA contacted the Council of American-Islamic Relations, an organization that promotes the interests of Muslims in the United States, after they found a small metal object embedded in the carpet with wire attached to it while praying in the GC Serenity Room in 343.

Nezar Hamze, director of CAIR, received the device from the students and then contacted the United States Attorney’s office to report the incident. That’s when University Police got involved, said Chief of Police Alexander Casas.

“We investigated the situation, but in the end, we found there was nothing that we could do,” said Casas.

Casas explained the situation to the attorney and to MSA. The bugging device was then turned over to the University Police to be impounded.

Several agencies that work closely with the police department, like the Miami-Dade Police Department

See MSA, PAGE 2

PLANNING AHEAD

BRYAN PALACIO
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Growing up as a British-Pakistani Muslim, Kasim Hafeez was raised around extreme anti-Semitism. All he knew to be true was that Israel was responsible for everything wrong in his world.

“I used to be a radical anti-semite and anti-Zionist,” said Hafeez. “I hated the Jewish state, the state of Israel and Jewish people as a whole.”

Hafeez is now a self-admitted pro-Israel and Zionist supporter. He spends most of his time on tour sharing his life story with his speech, “How I Found Peace from a Lifetime of Hatred.”

Hafeez was the guest of honor at Hillel’s First Shabbat, an on-campus event organized by Hillel FIU, Shalom FIU and other Jewish student organizations at Modesto A. Maidique Campus on Friday, Sept. 12.

Shabbat is Hebrew for Sabbath, the holiest day of the week for Jews. It is commemorated by abstaining from most forms of work and includes prayer services and customary meals.

“You’re not a real Muslim!” were the words yelled at Hafeez by a Muslim audience member who was escorted out during his presentation. “This man doesn’t represent you or Islam!”

This is Hafeez’s new life. After decades of being indoctrinated with hate and violence, he now stands up for the people he swore to help destroy.

“It was a gradual change and it started by picking up this book, ‘The Case for Israel’,” Hafeez said. “At that point in my life, I thought I was an expert on the Middle East. I thought I’d buy this book and I’ll disprove it.”

So Hafeez spent a few weeks doing some research in his attempt to discredit the book. Weeks turned into months, and months turned into years. Hafeez couldn’t seem to find the overwhelming evidence he needed to disprove it to himself.

“When you believe something that you’re ready to die for, you can’t accept that it’s wrong,” Hafeez said. “You have to somehow find a way to prove it right again and I was struggling.”

Eventually, he concluded that the only way he was going to get the evidence he needed was to take a trip to Jerusalem, Israel.

See Shabbat, Page 2
NATION & WORLD

BRIEFS

Apple reports record-breaking orders for iPhone 6, iPhone 6 Plus

Pre-orders for the iPhone 6 and iPhone 6 Plus topped a record-breaking 4 million in the first 24 hours the phones were on sale, according to Apple. The first iPhones will be delivered to some customers Monday, but many who pre-ordered will have to wait until next month to get their phones on the new devices. People who wait in the now-traditional epic lines at Apple stores on Friday also may be able to snag a new phone, but supplies there will not be endless either. In comparison, Apple reported in 2012 that the iPhone 5 sold at a pace of about 2 million in 24 hours. The record-breaking sales last week also spurred myriad complaints of problems. The new iPhones were supposed to be available for pre-order online Friday at midnight, but once the clock struck 12 and customers around the U.S. refreshed their Web browsers, nothing happened. Many continued seeing Apple’s “We’ll be back” message for hours.

Natural gas contaminated drinking water in Texas, study says

Natural gas production near homes in a Texas subdivision contaminated residents’ well water, according to a study published Monday. The discovery was made in a community where the Environmental Protection Agency halted its own investigation two years ago. In the course of a broader effort to determine whether the Environmental Protection Agency was remiss in its handling of the story, a new study published Monday exposed what the environmental watchdog group Advocates for Environmental Justice describe as “a potentially serious pollution problem.”

Students seek to reignite case of bug found in classroom

MSA, PAGE 1

and the Florida Department of Law Enforcement, were contacted but denied any participation in the incident.

“Their preliminary was that they could not identify it,” said Casas. “It was not then and they assured us that it was not a device typical of what they would use in a surveillance.”

Casas then contacted the FBI.

“Our partners at the FBI recognized the type of device that it could be,” he said. “They directed us to a website where the device could be purchased in quantity.”

The device was a very common conditioner microphone that is typically used in digital recorders and can be purchased on digikey.com for $39.08. It can also be purchased in quantities of a hundred per pack at $162.

“Basically, the FBI told us that the device was typical,” he said. “So typical that it’s what most students use to take notes in class.”

MSA representative Rayid Sakib, junior engineering major, previously told student media that the bug had a wire on it when it was found, but University Police say it did not.

Sakib also said that this was an issue of First Amendment rights for not only Muslim students, but for anyone who uses the Serenity Room.

Farouk Farouk, president of MSA, and the Florida Department of Law Enforcement, were contacted but denied any participation in the incident.

“Why would anyone need to listen to college students’ conversations and prayers? It doesn’t make any sense,” he said. “Also, it’s not just MSA that uses that room. It’s practically open to anyone—so how exactly do they know that the device didn’t just fall out of someone’s pocket?”

Natalia Monterrey, a sophomore in history, the story of the

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LETTER TO THE EDITOR: MILITARY EQUIPMENT NOT WELCOME

Many can agree that armaments are for security, but at what point do arms become a counterproductive security measure?

The Michael Brown shooting brought up this point when Ferguson police herded crowds of protestors with automatic rifles and mine resistant vehicles. Even the cable television began talking about the show of force. This brought to light the relatively unknown Defense Department Program 1033 – which allocates military surplus and grants money to local police to buy gear.

FIU Police is a recipient of this program. Our police have a mine resistant vehicle and 50 M16 rifles that are capable of automatic fire. In countries filled with violence, it’s common to see police walk the streets with these kinds of rifles. This is not the case in our educational institution.

Campus police officers direct traffic, write tickets, and give directions to lost freshman. They don’t respond to violent insurrections during a typical day. Our campus police were granted more automatic rifles than the local Sweetwater police through this Pentagon program.

There’s an argument that is parroted in order to justify extraordinary security measures – terrorism. It’s the argument we wash our hands with whenever we violate human rights. We use that concept to justify almost anything, from spying on our own citizens to tear gas. This makes us believe a state university is an educational institution does not need an arsenal of military gear in order to provide security to students. I don’t feel safer knowing that the police have their own mine resistant vehicle.

It makes me contemplate what they could possibly need it for.

In a recent Miami New Times article, journalist Michael Miller asks the FIU spokesperson whether or not military equipment intimidates students. The spokesperson did not give a response, but let me answer that question since I am a student: it does.

SEND US YOUR LETTERS
Have something on your mind? Send your thoughts (400 words maximum) to ariel.weinstein@fiusm.com. 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.

ARIEL WEINSTEIN
Staff Writer
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Women have faced and continue to face obstacles due to sexism. For years, society has worked to create a world where men and women are equal. This includes workers’ rights, equal pay, the right to vote and all human rights in general.

Why then, if the world is trying to equalize races and genders, do clubs and parties not seem to understand this concept? Walk around any college town, go to any fraternity party, show up at any club and understand that men are willing to pay a cover charge for clubs when girls get in free.

This leads me to wonder why clubs and parties do this. In one sense, it is a rather sick way that clubs make money. Men are naturally attracted to women, and clubs understand that men are willing to pay a price to get into a place where there are an abundance of females. If they let girls in for free, many girls will show up. If many girls show up because it’s free, then many men will want to show up as well. Because men know a lot of women will be there, they are willing to pay the cover charge to get into that space.

This means that although the club is not making money from girls entering the club, they are making money from men entering, and possibly paying the amount it would cost for both the girl and the guy.

Ricardo Henriques, a sophomore architecture major, believes that it’s not fair for men to pay a cover charge for clubs when girls get in free.

“Girls get in for free, which brings more guys to the club, but then they have to pay for drinks, entrance fee, etc...” he said.

Is this fair?

Clareily Allende, a junior majoring in criminal justice, sees it a little differently.

“Guys pay for what they want, so they are going to pay regardless,” Allende stated.

I love having the privilege of getting in places for free, but I don’t think we can truly say we live in an equal society if men pay and women don’t enter the exact same place.

‘Girls in free’ is not equality

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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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It was his dream internship at his dream job—a college graduate looking to work in public radio.

And he didn’t get it.

Benjamin Booker had just graduated from the University of Florida and after the rejection letter in 2012, he crossed-off interning at NPR from his list and decided to go with his second option: music. The 22-year-old started playing shows as a solo artist in his hometown of Tampa, Florida.

The next year, a nonprofit job opportunity presented itself in New Orleans, Louisiana and Booker, who was eager to leave Florida, packed his bags. Soon after, he recorded a low fidelity blues-influenced folk-punk bathroom recording on an acoustic guitar. The EP had four songs. He managed to make a name for himself in New Orleans as well, playing shows here and there while promoting his self-produced EP.

The year was going pretty well and his music was taking off. He went back to Tampa and connected with his now drummer, Matt Norton and formed a garage-gospel duo called Booker & Norton. The two were even named 2013’s Best New Band by Creative Loafing in Tampa.

In October of that same year, Jon Saltier of ATO Records visited the two, who were playing a show at Tampa’s New World Brewery. They signed a record deal in a parking lot, according to Booker.

In December of 2013, Booker and his full band, playing under the name Benjamin Booker, were looking at six days to record an album and a year of touring that would include a show at the Newport Folk Festival in Rhode Island, a year of touring that would include a show at Tampa’s New World Brewery. They were looking at six days to record an album and a year of touring that would include a show at the Newport Folk Festival in Rhode Island, a year of touring that would include a show at Tampa’s New World Brewery. They were looking at six days to record an album and a year of touring that would include a show at Tampa’s New World Brewery.

On June 18 in Cambridge, Massachusetts at The Sinclair, Benjamin Booker played a show in support of Australian artist Courtney Barnett. Booker has been playing show extensively since 2012.

The Album

The 1981 movie, “Thief,” was produced by Michael Mann’s first film. While it acts as a smaller precursor for one of his later and more successful films, “Heat,” it is still generally overlooked.

“Thief” stars actor James Caan as a professional diamond thief in Chicago, wanting to do one last big score before retiring and settling down. Based on the novel by Frank Hohimer, “The Home Invaders: Confessions of a Cat Burglar,” the film starred Tuesday Weld (Jessie) in the diner scene, and has been noted as the best the scene in the film; there’s little to no music and the focus is just between the two characters and the blackness outside of the window. What makes the scene so excellent is the performance by Caan and Weld, with the high-light being Frank’s monologue.

Atmosphere is everything in this neo-noir film

The score by Tangerine Dream also sets the mood, complimenting the sights and sounds, becoming one with the environment and characters. The score is not traditional, since it has no real build up or anything; it’s almost completely atmospheric, never trying to get the attention of the audience, but instead becoming one with the film, so that sights and sounds all come together as one.

The acting is excellent, especially by Caan (Frank), who really sells this criminal as someone to empathize with; sure he’s done some things, but he’s also no fool and knows when to quit. The score featuring Tuesday Weld (Jessie) in the diner is, and has been noted as, the best the scene in the film; there’s little to no music and the focus is just between the two characters and the blackness outside of the window. What makes the scene so excellent is the performance by Caan and Weld, with the high-light being Frank’s monologue.

There are many scenes where we simply see Frank go about his life, doing his best to make things stable with Jessie, making sure everything goes smoothly once the final heist is done. These scenes are all great, but the heists themselves are marvellous, helped by the music score mixing with the sounds of the machines used to do the heists. There is also an ever present blue tint throughout, giving the film that grim and urban neo-noir look and feel.

Ultimately, “Thief” is a film that thrives on mood and an excellent gangster tale of a man who cannot escape the life he’s in. Even on a technical level, the film is worth recommending, but it’s the neo-noir story and atmosphere, excellent performances and immaculate score that make it a must-watch movie.
‘Up All Night’ helps you feel like an alien

When I’m driving alone for more than 48 minutes, I enjoy putting the windows down and b l a n k n g music that makes me nostalgic for the days I’d pretend I was an alien in a cardboard spaceship. Sounds of dark synthesizers with psychedelic undertones are existentially chilling yet alluring.

Los Angeles pop-electronic trio, Cannons, released their first extended play album, “Up All Night EP,” on the site Bandcamp in August. It’s now available on iTunes and Spotify. Why nu-disco junkies haven’t latched on to the “future boogie” sound played by drums and keys player Paul Davis, guitarist Ryan Clapham and lead vocalist Michelle Joy is beyond my comprehension.

The EP starts with “Touch;” a track evidently influenced by 80s electronic dance music. Using Joy’s sensual vocals, Cannons’ lyrics describe a “do or die” relationship. The song encompasses the electrifying sensation and goose bumps you can’t shake off your skin when you touch the person you’re swooning over.

The theme bleeds into the next track, “Temporary Romance.” Joy whispers, “Love you’ll love you,” as a funky guitar melody is plucked. The song retains its icy feel despite a tempo change. The title track, “Up All Night,” is by far the grooviest song on the album. It’s fitting for a late night slow cruise through a roller rink as neon lights flash and a disco ball reflects on your nylon shorts. American Apparel leotard and a disco ball reflects on your.

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The Black Dhalia Murder are selling.

Followign them the day after is Beartooth, who will be playing the Culture Room. Their concert will be the cheapest with the general admission ticket price and fees totaling a low $19.35.

Attila will be stopping by Revolution Live on Nov. 14 while on the “Monster Energy Outbreak Tour.” With them will be Crown the Empire, Like Moths to Flames and Sworn.

Meanwhile, The Black Dhalia Murder will be paying a visit to metal fans on Oct. 13 at Revolution Live. Accompanied by Suicide Silence, Chelsea Grin and Afterheaven, you can bet it will be a memorable show. The average ticket cost will be a little cheaper at $21, plus fees.

Alongside them will be Crown the Empire, Like Moths to Flames and Sworn.

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**Soccer**

**Panthers look to hang up the Hatters**

**James Profetto**
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A big two-game weekend is upon the Panthers and bleachers are expected to be filled. It’s Family Weekend in Miami, from Sept. 19 to Sept. 21.

The Panthers will first face off against Stetson University Hatters on Friday, Sept. 19 at 5 p.m. The series history is extensive, as both teams have met a total of 19 times, with the Panthers’ record at 14-4-1 against the Hatters. Stetson is extensive, as both teams have met a total of 19 times, with the Panthers’ record at 14-4-1 against the Hatters.

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Senior forward Chelsea Leiva talked to the referee after receiving a yellow card for hauling the Oregon State goalie-keeper on Sept. 12. Leiva went on to score the winning goal against the visiting team. The FIU women’s team will play Stetson University on Sept. 19.

Through six games, SU has been outscored 22-6, with their largest margin of defeat coming at the hands of Minnesota on Aug. 22 (10-0).

In 2013, the Panthers won 2-0 on the road against the Hatters, and Head Coach Thomas Chestnutt’s team was not "whole." Now, Chestnutt can feel even better about his team’s chances with a more complete roster. Even with the absence of sophomore midfielder Talia McMurrin and backup goal-keeper Ashley Westberry, the depth of the University helps to compensate for the short-term injuries.

With a stout defensive performance against Oregon State University on Sept. 12, the iron core of the Panther team is going to find no trouble trickling onto Stetson. A testa-ment to the defense is found in the University’s Conference USA-best four shutouts on the year.

An aspect of the game that differs from the last match is the goal-scoring for the Hatters coming from more than two players. There have been five different scorers, with Hatter midfielder Eduarda Pavao finding two goals. Regardless, the Panthers will look to play a close game, as they have been all season. Chestnutt and his team proved they can win against a team they "should," be so Stetson is no exception.

Game two on Parents’ Weekend will be against Long Beach State University (3-2-2), who recently had their five-game unbeaten streak snapped by Brigham Young University in a 2-0 loss. Notice how it’s an “unbeaten” streak and not a “winning” streak. That’s because, during the five-game span before BYU, Long Beach won only three games. Not unimpressive, seeing as they are looking for their fourth win against an unfamiliar team. The Panthers have zero history with the California-based team. With a 1 p.m. start on Sept. 21, the brutal sunshine will surely favor the Miami team.

Something Long Beach State brings that could create a tougher game is their ability to outscore and keep games against their opponents close. LBS is outscoring teams 7-6. A player that is going to be key in on is freshman forward Ashley Gonzales and her four goals on the season, which leads all players in the Big West Conference. Sara Stewart, Nikki Rios and the rest of the Panthers defense have had no trouble in marking big time scorers during games, so this is just another challenge in the face of these seasoned defenders.

Long Beach is sitting comfortably at the number two spot in the Big West compared to Stetson sitting in the bottom-tier of the Atlantic Sun Conference. A name expected to be found in the scoring column this weekend is Ashley Westberry. The senior forward who has found the back of the goal twice. Shim has been itching for a goal during their home-stretch, and when her name is called, she’s shown the ability to be ready. As always, midfield play is so crucial to the Panthers’ success and, if the tale of the tape holds true, opportunities will be created by the likes of Scarlet Montoya, Courtney Phillips and Johanna Volz (two goals on the season).

With these two matches coming before the first confer-ence game of the year against Old Dominion on Sept. 26, they should serve as confidence builders in the light of tougher competition.

**Volleyball**

**Panthers facing tough opponents in the Crimson-White Tournament at Alabama**

**Alejandro Aguirre**
Contributing Writer

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Following the home opener on Wednesday Sept. 17, the volleyball team will head out to Tuscaloosa, Alabama to play three matches at the Crimson-White Tournament. There they will play against University of Alabama, San Diego State University and Clemson University.

The margin for error has to be minimal for the Panthers if they want to make it out of there on a high note and get their record closer to the .500 mark. This will not be an easy task because all three of their opponents have a record of .500 or better. Their “easiest” opponent on paper is San Diego State with a 3-3 record but you can’t take any game for granted. If the team leaves the tournament with a winning record, this will be such a boost for them because they have been struggling as of late.

The Panthers first opponent is the host of the tournament, the University of Alabama. This is a tough way to start off the tourna-ment because Alabama is coming in scorching from their last tour-nament, winning three straight matches and putting their record at 8-2. Compared to FIU’s 3-7 record this seems to be a David and Goliath type of battle but still nothing is guaranteed in sports until it is all said and done.

If the Panthers want to come out with a win against Alabama, expect co-captains, junior Lucia Castro and Gloria Levorin to set the tone and be huge impact players for the University.

Some matches like this can give the University the win but against this tough Alabama team they are going to need help from their supporting cast of soph-omore Anabela Saturic and freshman Lea Montavon and Jennifer Ene. One of the heavily relied upon Alabama players, sophomore Kristin Rivers, will make the match difficult for the Panther’s defense as she leads her team in kills by a very large margin. Expect Castro and Rivers to go back and forth exchanging points.

The second opponent Panthers will face is Clemson. Clemson is another team the Panthers will play against coming in with a lot of momentum winning their last two matches. This season their team record is a remarkable 9-1.

If the Panthers think Alabama will be a tough competitor, then they are going to have to match up against FIU’s top players. Before, the team can’t take this match for granted. As always, midfield play is so crucial to the Panthers’ success and, if the tale of the tape holds true, opportunities will be created by the likes of Scarlet Montoya, Courtney Phillips and Johanna Volz (two goals on the season).

The Panther women rounds out the off-season against the easiest of three opponents, San Diego State. If FIU can’t come away with a win against Arizona or Clemson then this a match that’s a must win for the Panthers. The last thing the team needs is losing all three matches in back-to-back tournaments. This is going to be a match where FIU needs to capitalize. San Diego State has not been overpowering at all when it comes to scoring as they only have outscored their opponents 279 to 270.

This shows that they do not really have a stand out player to match up against FIU’s top players. Still, as mentioned before, the team can’t take this match for granted. As always, midfield play is so crucial to the Panthers’ success and, if the tale of the tape holds true, opportunities will be created by the likes of Scarlet Montoya, Courtney Phillips and Johanna Volz (two goals on the season).

Expect Castro and Levorin to make quick work of this match as a win in this match can put the Panthers on the right path. Because back to back games to the volleyball team as this is going to be a true test of what this team is made of in the early part of this season.
Men’s soccer hopes to conquer their first home win against Aztecs

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The Panthers (1-2-1 as of Sept. 15) will play in the Johnie Imes Invitational in September, the first tournament of the season for the team. The Panthers will be seeking their first regular season home win against San Diego State University two weeks ago. The matchup between the Panthers and the Aztecs will be the first of three straight home games for the University after returning home from a two game road trip that saw them draw against Elon University and face off against Stetson University two weeks ago. The match between the Panthers and the Aztecs will be the first of three straight home games for the University after returning home from a two game road trip that saw them draw against Elon University and face off against Stetson University two weeks ago. The match between the Panthers and the Aztecs will be the first of three straight home games for the University after returning home from a two game road trip that saw them draw against Elon University and face off against Stetson University two weeks ago. The match between the Panthers and the Aztecs will be the first of three straight home games for the University after returning home from a two game road trip. The Aztecs also have two very impressive wins over two ranked opponents, #25 Clemson University and #19 University of Denver, both home games played in San Diego. These wins for SDSU prove that they will not be an easy test for the Panthers, and the team will have to bring their best soccer to the pitch Friday night in order to top the Aztecs who will be coming into the Panthers Soccer Stadium on a five game winning streak. Despite the tough opposition ahead for the Panthers, a win Friday night will really give this team the confidence they need, not only because it will be their first home win of the season and the first win for Head Coach Calabrese at home, but it would also start their three game home stand strong and the right way.

After the match up with the Aztecs, Panthers will host in state rival FGCU on Sept. 24th and then finish up their home stand with a match up against the Blazers of UAB, Sept. 27th.

Women’s golf starts season in top 5 fashion

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The women’s golf team started their season this past weekend at the Mary Fossum Invitational. The team was led by senior golfer Meghan MacLaren. She entered the weekend as the team’s number one golfer and she did not disappoint in any way. In last year’s tournament as the team’s number two golfer. She started out rough by shooting a third round 78. It was good enough to place her third overall on the Par 4s which was tied for third best in the entire tournament.

The team finished tied for fifth which was an improvement from last year’s eighth place finish. The team was led by senior golfer Meghan MacLaren. She entered the weekend as the team’s number one golfer and she did not disappoint in any way. In last year’s tournament as the team’s number two golfer. She started out rough by shooting a third round 78. It was good enough to place her third overall on the Par 4s which was tied for third best in the entire tournament.

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The tennis courts surrounded by mangroves are sporting an after-school program for kids and the coach wants University students to get involved.

The Biscayne Bay Tennis Campus, adjacent to the Chaplin School of Hospitality and Tourism Management building, and located near Tim Fowkes Tennis Fitness Camp.

Tim Fowkes, coach and creator of the program, gives tennis lessons to grade schoolers during the week and offers free lessons to children on Sundays.

“We’re just trying to have fun and build a community,” says Fowkes.

Fowkes and five other coaches held free clinics for about 30 kids, in addition to a round robin tournament at BBC last late summer.

This season, lessons for grade schoolers began in August and will run until Dec. 20.

Programs are divided into three categories: “Pee Wee Tennis,” for children under 6 years old; “Stars lite,” for kids over 7 years old that have beginner or intermediate skills; and “Tournament Bound” for children over 10 years old with advanced skills.

“It develops them physically, emotionally and academically,” says Neil Hanson, parent of two sons in the to-do more with people under a community.

However, the Recreation Center hosted an event next month for University members who wish to compete.

On Saturday, Oct. 4, the BBC Rec Open Tennis event will take place at the BBC tennis courts between 10 a.m. and 2 p.m., providing a doubles tournament for FIU students and faculty, starting at $10 a session.

“Right now we’re trying to introduce ourselves to the community and get the knowledge and students and staff,” says Fowkes.

BBC Campus Recreation recently renovated three of its tennis courts.

The courts were painted electric blue and light green, matching the official Miami Open Tennis courts, and a pantherized “FIU Campus Recreation” net was placed around the fences.

Elissa Bardawil, director of BBC Campus Recreation, says an order has been placed to renovate the remaining courts, which will take about six weeks to be completed.

The courts are open every day for University students to use for free, as well as others in the community.

“It’s a game that you can play even when you’re eight or 80,” Fowkes says. “Tennis teaches you life lessons through competition.”

Participants will get a chance to meet other players who may be interested in forming a tennis club.

Eventually, Fowkes says he wants to form a club and register to compete in the United States Tennis Association.

“The school is trying to build a world-class facility and we’re trying to build a world-class program,” said Fowkes.