Old University apartments receive face-lift

Diego Saidana-Rojas
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Of students moving into the University Apartments, almost 600 residents will not find the same purple couches they once relied on. The almost 30-year-old apartments received $310,000 in new furniture that includes couches, rolling chairs and dining tables. 50 new refrigerators and 40 new stoves were also replaced in several units.

The new furniture was directly funded by students themselves.

“We budgeted for it last year,” said John Tallon, Assistant Director for Housing Facilities. Studio units received high top dining tables instead of the larger dining tables provided for units meant to house two or four students. The purple couches and heavy wooden chairs that once furnished the rooms were removed from UA, but not thrown away.

According to Tallon, assistant director for housing facilities, three local branches of nonprofit took 400 sets of student furniture.

Goodwill Industries, Habitat for Humanity and the Miami Rescue Mission took one-third of all the furniture that was being taken out.

The furniture that was not taken for donation was thrown into large dumpsters and later hauled away. Furnishings were not the only changes made to the 10 buildings the comprise UA complex over the summer.

Several apartments also received new showers, plumbing and electrical repairs, new lighting fixtures and new coats of interior as well as exterior paint.

All of UA’s studio units were fitted with new Fujitsu mini-split air-conditioning units.

According to Tallon, the new air conditioning units are not only quieter and more energy efficient, but a single unit can provide cool air for four studio rooms.

Reducing waste and cutting down on costs were factors that contributed to the design styles and colors chosen for UA’s new furnishings, he said.

The couches, chairs and tables can all be interchanged and repurposed between University Towers and Parkway.

UA’s summer changes extend beyond living quarters and out into the surrounding buildings’ infrastructure.

About $20,000 dollars were spent on new benches with composite plastic surfaces and trash cans for the apartments’ garden areas.

The housing department stuck to the ideals of reusing and recycling materials. The old wooden benches and trash cans were donated to the Miami Rescue Mission.

According to Tallon, assistant director for Housing Facilities, nonprofits took 400 sofas and 1,200 chairs.

The furniture that was not taken for donation or for donation was thrown into large dumpsters and later hauled away. The white rocks underneath the stairs killed the grass underneath and led to the loosening of dirt which would get kicked up onto the pavement. The white rocks underneath the stair cases would also get kicked up near the entry ways, scratching off paint.

Building A received new LED light poles by it’s entrance and combination lock style mail boxes. The main building’s study and lounge areas received new furnishings similar in style to those found in the resident’s rooms.

Tallon said that there are more proposed developments on the table such as a re-imagining the uses for the front and rear spaces of Building A.

As of now, Tallon says there is only one project scheduled for next summer – roof repairs.

Financial aid opens studying abroad opportunities

Camila Fernandez and Christian Portilla

news@fiusm.com

When Grace Taylor was an FIU undergraduate, she won a scholarship to study abroad at Hikarata, Osaka, Japan as an international exchange student, and said it helped her find independence.

“Getting to know people from different cultures, living in a different environment, speaking in a totally different language – it’s kind of a realization of who you are,” she said.

“Your perspective on the world changes,” Taylor added.

As a coordinator in the office of Study Abroad, Taylor helps students understand the impact that despite the expenses that come with traveling, studying abroad can be affordable.

With possible financial aid from a wide variety of scholarships, grants, and loans, the Office of Study Abroad aims to help students immerse themselves into different cultures and gain independence.

“There are funds available in many places. If you go study abroad, you’re going to get a different experience than if you’re just taking classes here at FIU,” Taylor said.

This summer, University students from different majors went abroad through different programs to gain a more international approach for their prospective careers.

Groups of students traveled to Spain, Australia, Brazil, and France, to name a few.

“The most challenging aspect of my study abroad experience was balancing work and play,” said FIU alum, Nelson Garcia. Garcia studied abroad to Seville, Spain with the School of Journalism and Mass Communication Seville Study Abroad Program.

“I stayed out late, indulged in everything Spain had to offer, and explored every chance I got. When it was time to hit the books, I really had to focus,” said Garcia.

During a three-week period, SIMC students collaborated with mass communication students in Seville to produce multimedia projects for non-profit organizations and clients. Alumna Mayra Quiroz worked with APISE, a Spanish non-profit organization for clinical research. She was in charge of audiovisual materials and interviewing clients with epilepsy - a brain disorder that causes seizures.

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According to Taylor, the University’s International Student Exchange Program allows students to pay FIU tuition, rather than having to pay tuition from the host country. This makes studying abroad more affordable.

“The best part of my experience abroad has been who I’ve become as a person,” said Wong. “If you want it bad enough, you can make it happen.”
Look at Me Human

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Victim Empowerment
MARTY’S CUBE LEAVES UNIVERSITY AFTER 16 YEARS

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On May 22, Marty’s Cube, as it was titled by sculptor Tony Rosenthal, was lifted from its spot for the past 16 years, outside Deuxieme Maison, and hauled away.

It had been damaged and could have presented a danger to members of the University community by passing it, according to a statement from the University Media Relations Office.

The Margulies Collection Center Katherine Hinds said that over a period of time outdoor sculptures tend to have maintenance needs.

However, once it’s fixed, the cube will not be coming home to FIU.

The cube will be donated to another educational institution in Florida, one that will have the funds to maintain the sculpture, Hinds said.

The real cube sculpture now sits at the Margulies Collection at its warehouse in Miami, where it will undergo any needed maintenance and renovations.

Rhys Williams and Diego Saldivar-Lojas contributed to this report.

FIU HOSTS PRESIDENT OBAMA’S WASHINGTON FELLOWSHIP FOR YOUNG LEADERS

ALYSSA ELSE
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In the middle of June, 25 African fellows excitedly bought their FIU gear and were prepared to work for them, in a diverse manner.

They either people they work for or people who learning to deal with their constituents, gaining some experience in Washington D.C. before returning home to put the fair site.

As previously reported, while the University still does not have the funds to relocate the sculpture, Hinds said.

The real cube sculpture now sits at the Margulies Collection at its warehouse in Miami, where it will undergo any needed maintenance and renovations.

Rhys Williams and Diego Saldivar-Lojas contributed to this report.

WHITE HOUSE ISSUES NEW GUIDELINES TO COMBAT SEXUAL ASSAULT IN UNIVERSITIES

NICOLE MONTERO
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Reactions 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 curtailing sexual assault.

The Bill would only allow those with debilitating diseases to have access to a specific strain of marijuana called Charlotte’s Web.

This strain is high on non-epileptic cannabidiol and low in the high-inducing chemical tetrahydrocannabinol.

Drug Free Florida, a committee of the Florida Coalition, run by Carlton Turner, funded a website making false accusations about medicinal marijuana in hopes of turning away voters from Florida’s Constitutional Amendment 2.

United for care, Florida’s largest organization supporting the legalization of medicinal marijuana, is doing all they can to defend the approval of the Florida Constitutional Amendment 2.

Recently, Florida senators approved a measure that would give children who suffer from seizures to have access to Charlotte’s Web.

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What you missed this summer @fiusm
Florida law grants in-state tuition for undocumented students

Tuition, page 1

While the University became the first public institution in Florida to offer a non-resident tuition waiver to undocumented students during Fall 2013, SB 1400 makes this policy a statewide standard as of July 1, 2014.

Ediberto Róman, professor at the FIU College of Law, says the push for the University to offer the waiver early came not only from the need for education equality in South Florida, but the courage and foresight of university leaders, including former Provost Douglas Wartuck and professor of linguistics Edward Eraso.

While undocumented students previously had to qualify for the Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals program to apply for the tuition waiver at the University, the new law allows all undocumented students to apply, regardless of being "DACAmented."

Starting this fall, undocumented students will only have to pay in-state tuition, which is one-third the cost of out-of-state tuition at the University.

A student who qualifies for in-state tuition at FIU will pay $203.59 per credit this year, which amounts to $6,506.48 total for 30 credits, including annual fees.

An out-of-state student will pay $616.89 per credit, or a total of $18,905.48 for 30 credits.

"When we got out of high school, our counselors told us we couldn’t go to school or get financial aid—it made me feel like I couldn’t do anything. I was afraid to even try to go to school," said Francis Tume, a sophomore international business major and SWER’s treasurer. "But the new law will make it easier for people to go to school and achieve their dreams."

Along with their political efforts, SWER offers a variety of services to undocumented students on campus.

With the help of Law Professor Juan Gomez, the University’s chapter holds clinics to help students apply to become DACAmented. The organization also offers retreats where students in the group learn leadership skills, politics, and share their stories with one another.

"One of our plans now is to give workshops to help students apply for the tuition waiver," says Jorge Tume, a sophomore majoring in film production at Miami-Dade College and chair of SWER’s board of directors.

Before the law passed this summer, members of SWER travelled to Tallahassee and Washington, D.C., multiple times to advocate for immigration reform at both the state and federal level.

In the wake of their victory with SB 1400, members of SWER at the University feel it is time to pursue a federal law guaranteeing in-state tuition for undocumented students wherever.

"The time is right, but there is only so much citizen action can do," Róman said. "This is a classic D.C. stalemate that’s been going on for decades. Now we must ask senators like Marco Rubio to push for comprehensive immigration reform."
HOT WHEELS

Five reasons to cycle in South Florida

SOFIA GALIANO
Staff Writer sofia.galiano@fiusm.com

1. Less costly

While riding bike on a trail or in a bike lane, you have the ease of peddling at your own pace and can maneuver around traffic congestion and roadblocks.

Although Florida’s bike law states cyclists must adhere to the same traffic laws as people driving in cars, cyclists will never have to suffer another traffic jam on Biscayne Boulevard due to a cat accident, rush hour or the innumerable people texting while driving.

2. Better for you

Frustrated with your morning commute? It’s summer; it’s hot and it’s a perfect day to ride a bike. I started cycling earlier this month after my parents bought me a powder blue, 700c Schwinn Admiral Hybrid as a gift for my 21st birthday.

Since then, I have discovered a number of benefits from riding. Here are my top five reasons biking beats driving in Miami.

3. Better for the environment

We spend all day sitting down at work or school, then sit in our cars to grab lunch—where we also sit—and again at home either on a sofa or at a desktop for the remainder of the day. All that sitting is incredibly bad for your health and well-being. Yes, you are still sitting down while riding bike smart ass, but you are also increasing blood flow, producing sweat, exercising muscles and burning calories—which are all things people in today’s tech-savvy society do not get enough of.

4. Better for the environment

You have all heard this speech way too many times, so I will keep it short. Go green.

5. Embrace nature

Riding outside under blue skies, while passing butterflies, birds and palm trees—occasional road kill—is one of the luxuries we have in living South Florida.

Many FIU students and Miami natives treasure fond memories of the Fair. It means work for builders, engineers, architects and companies predict whether you will buy or not, and that could make a decisive factor in your insurance rate?

Alesxis Calatayud, President

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LIFE!

Welcome Back: New Semester, Still No Parking

By partnering with various student organizations on campus, Campus Life accommodates the vast and diverse interest of students looking to get involved on campus.

“Student groups want to make sure that students are aware of what they do as well as recruit,” Borgmann said.

WOW: Students look forward to an eventful week

Students during a tailgate party poke fun of the University’s infamous issues with the unavailability of parking. Students might come across the same issue this first week of fall.

GISELLE CANCIO
Staff Writer
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All but two of the United States Presidents since 1825 have been Fraternity Members.

The overall fraternity and sorority GPA is higher than the overall college GPA. Of North America’s 50 largest cooperatives, 47 are led by Greeks.

These numbers are astounding, yet only 4.5% of the population at FIU is currently a Greek, but after Greek BBQ, I went home, started becoming much more comfortable with women, but once they opened up to me I wasn’t intimidated to speak to all of the affiliated organizations.

“Sororities were so much more than stereotypes.”

“I found myself asking more questions as the night went on and was so interested in being a part of something that would benefit and enrich my college experience.”

All four councils will be represented, and hundreds of both affiliated and nonaffiliated members are expected to attend. There will be free food, free refreshments and an opportunity for those interested in Greek life to ask any and all the questions they would like.

“This year, the FIU Sorority and Fraternity Life Welcome BBQ will take place on August 26 at 7 p.m. in the Betty Chapman Plaza.

A national organization, the Panhellenic Council, The Multicultural Greek council, the National Pan-Hellenic Council and the Interfraternity Council. Each of which will host its own recruitment week in the Fall semester to welcome potential new members into the organization(s). For some college students, going Greek was never a question, but for others like Andrea Gallardo, events prior to recruitment were a factor in her decision making.

“At first I was overwhelmed and kind of intimidated to speak to all of the affiliated women, but once they opened up to me I started becoming much more comfortable and way more interested in Greek life than ever before,” Gallardo said.

“I was convinced I would never go Greek but after Greek BBQ, I went home, signed myself up and I’m so thankful I made that decision.”

This year, the FIU Sorority and Fraternity Life Welcome BBQ will take place on Monday Aug 25 where students can come out and meet FIU’s Greek Community plus enjoy free food, music and giveaways.

Greek Life hosting BBQ to Welcome Back Students

Students during a tailgate party poke fun of the University’s infamous issues with the unavailability of parking. Students might come across the same issue this first week of fall.

By partnering with various student organizations on campus, Campus Life accommodates the vast and diverse interest of students looking to get involved on campus.

“Student groups want to make sure that students are aware of what they do as well as recruit,” Borgmann said.

WOW kicked off on Saturday, Aug. 23 with the Splash Pool Party in the Housing Quad. The event was sponsored by ARAMARK, IFC, RHA, and SPC. On Sunday, President Rosenberg along with FIU college deans and faculty hosted the Freshman Convocation, a formal induction to welcome all freshmen and their families to mark the beginning of a brand new journey and their college career. The event took place at the U.S. Century Bank Arena.

The National Panhellenic Council Yard Show will take place on Monday in the Graham Center Ballrooms at 7:30 p.m.

Students can get a front row experience of the NPBC’s Divine Nine as they perform their signature strolls—the Alpha Phi Alpha fraternity’s famous Ape Walk and the notorious men of Kappa Alpha Psi will show off their best shiny.

For students interested in all things Greek, FIU Sorority and Fraternity Life will be throwing a Welcome BBQ on Monday Aug 25 where students can come out and meet FIU’s Greek Community plus enjoy free food, music and giveaways.

On Wednesday, the Student Programming Council Comedy show will be featuring Erik Griffin from Comedy Central’s popular hit TV show “Workaholics.” Hypnotist extraordinnaire Sailesh will be SPC’s featured entertainer on Thursday night where the audience can look forward to enjoying an outstanding performance from one of the best entertainers in the world. Sailesh is no stranger to FIU and has become a favorite regularly requested by the Panther Community.

BSU’s Open Mic Night will take place on Friday in GC Ballroom at 7 p.m. while doors open at 6 p.m.

Week Of Welcome will come to an end on Saturday Aug. 30 with the kick off and official start of the 2014-15 football season. FIU’s first home game opponent will be Bethune Cookman University coming from Daytona Beach. The game starts at 7 p.m. and students can expect free food, giveaways and great music as they cheer our Panthers to victory.
It’s never too early to plan Finals Week

GISELLE CANCIO
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Something that won’t cross a student’s mind for a minimum of 14 weeks, is one of the most anticipated events for the Student Government Association.

“Recharge for Finals,” or, better known as “Cram Jam,” is an ongoing event during finals week that gives students a chance to recenter.

“As soon as one Cram Jam comes to an end, the next one is already being planned,” said Mary Corbin, chief of staff for SGA at MMC and junior studying Political Science and Broadcast Journalism. “We try to collaborate with as many departments as possible to make sure we provide a relaxing week for the students.”

Recharge for Finals happens the official week of finals designated by the students.”

For SGA, the ultimate goal is help the students succeed, especially when they are free,” said Steven Gonzalez, junior majoring in Marketing and Public Relations. “It’s a nice way to end the semester on a high note.

Save the date, because Recharge for Finals is happening Dec. 8 - 12, 2014.

“Closer to the date, a website will be launched with all the information of the extended hours on campus and the free services being offered,” Corbin said. “The ultimate goal is help the students succeed, as we know it may be a stressful week for them.”

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Week of Welcome
Fall 2014 | August 24th - 30th

SUNDAY, AUGUST 24TH
Freshman Convocation - 2 pm | MMC - US Century Bank Arena
BBC Library Bus pickup times: BBC to MMC - 12:30 pm & MMC to BBC - 5 pm
President’s Welcome Reception - 3 pm | MMC - US Century Bank Arena Plaza

MONDAY, AUGUST 25TH
Ask me Info Tables - 9 AM to 4 PM | AC1 Atrium & Campus Life Hallway
Welcome BBQ: Food, Fun & Entertainment - 11 AM to 2 PM | Panther Square

TUESDAY, AUGUST 26TH
Ask me Info Tables - 9 AM to 4 PM | AC1 Atrium & Campus Life Hallway
Blue & Gold Breakfast - 9 AM to 11:30 AM | Panther Square

WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 27TH
Restaurant & Business Fair - 12 pm to 2 pm | WUC Ballrooms

THURSDAY, AUGUST 28TH
Panther LUAU (formerly known as Freshman Fest) - 11:30 AM to 2 PM | WUC Ballrooms

FRIDAY, AUGUST 29TH
Panther Packed Fridays - 10 AM to 11 AM | WUC Courtyard
BBC Panther Plaza & Sculpture Unveiling - 12 PM to 2 PM | Panther Square & Panther Plaza

SATURDAY, AUGUST 30TH
WoW Retro Series Triathlon - 7:30 AM | BBC Aquatic Center

Panther LUAU
BBC’s Polynesian Kingdom!

THURSDAY, AUGUST 28, 2014
11:30 AM TO 2:00 PM
WUC BALLROOMS | FIU - BBC

HAWAIIAN DANCERS & POLYNESIAN FOOD & GIVEAWAYS & LIVE MUSIC

Presented by the Office of Campus Life and the Vice Provost Office at Biscayne Bay, Division of Student Affairs, FIU/BBC. Funded by SGA. Qualified individuals with a disability requesting an accommodation to attend an event must make the request no less than five working days in advance by calling 305.919.5804 or TTY via FRB 1.800.555.8771. FOOD IS BASED ON FIRST COME, FIRST SERVED. For additional event information please call 305.919.5804 or visit WUC 141.
Welcome Back Panthers

Stop by our office (WUC 301) to find out more about SGA-BBC

#fiusgabbc

Panther Sculpture Unveiling

August 29, 2014
12pm-2pm
Panther Plaza
Biscayne Bay Campus

August 29, 2014
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• Visa Debit Card purchase rewards turn everyday purchases into cash with TFCU’s Online Banking and Visa Debit Card

*TFCU membership required with $5 savings account deposit. $25 minimum deposit to open Gen Next Checking.**Based on your data plan, additional fees from your service provider may apply.***No ATM fee charged by TFCU for using a TFCU ATM or other bank or financial institution’s ATM. Other banks or financial institutions may charge a fee for using their ATM.****Offer applies to debit transactions made for a period of six months from the date account was opened. For every five debit transactions $1 will be credited to your TFCU checking account, not to exceed $5 per month and will be paid for the previous month’s purchases by the 5th of the following month. The maximum bonus payment is $30.00. This offer is only valid for new checking accounts. The amount of the cash bonus credited to your TFCU checking account will be reported to the IRS as interest for the year in which it is paid. The promotional offer is subject to change or may be withdrawn without notice.

Open your account ONLINE today!
Inside the city: Wynwood’s best places

NADINE RODRIGUEZ
Staff Writer
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Wynwood, Miami’s hipster haven, is home to several venues, bars and galleries that provide a platform for the arts. Nicole Zummar/The Beacon

REGULATED parking is scheduled to go into effect on October 1, and despite locals who say the changes will limit neighborhood’s growth, Wynwood still stands as one of the city’s trendiest areas. With the Fall semester commencing, students from all over are returning to the University—some just beginning—looking to explore Miami’s social scene.

Although some may want to stay closer to FIU, venturing to bars and lounges a few minutes away, Wynwood, located north of Downtown Miami, has a few places that are well worth the drive.

Wynwood contains over 70 art galleries, museums and art collections, and hosts “Art Walk,” a monthly art festival held every second Saturday. During this event, art galleries open their doors to the public for viewing. The neighborhood has a lot to offer. Here then, are five places worth visiting:

Wynwood Kitchen & Bar is located on 2550 NW 2nd Ave. This location serves dishes that can be considered works of art, while offering an extensive list of beers and wines. They offer discounts on different days and times of the week, on Mondays-Fridays from 5:30 p.m.-7:30 p.m. — 30% off all house liquor, wine and beer.

Wood Tavern, located on 2531 NW 2nd Ave, has an indoor and outdoor bar. The open spaces allow patrons to enjoy craft beers, cocktails and a menu of tacos (free every Tuesday evening for Taco Tuesdays), burgers or quesadillas. Even better, Wood Tavern is open into the late hours of the night. With cheap prices and a friendly staff, it’s definitely a go to for college students who want to have a night of drinks and discussion.

Another bar that received phenomenal reviews and ratings is Gramps. This bar serves multiple types of cocktails and craft beers, but what makes it truly memorable and special are its two stages where both local and touring bands and artist can play a setlist of songs.

To students looking for something a little calmer, they should venture over to SUGARCANE, Raw Bar Grill. Here, friends can indulge in a delicious menu, ranging from raw clams to cooked and delicious chicken meatballs, all while enjoying savory cocktails and wines. SUGARCANE, Raw Bar Grill also has a happy hour that can be useful when student’s pockets are aching but they still want to go out.

Last but not least, the Electric Pickle. The Electric Pickle is a lounge/club that resembles a ’90s South Beach, electronic music and booming bass serving as its welcoming committee for attendees. Although they serve excellent cocktails and drinks, one may want to check if an international DJ has made a reservation for the night to avoid crowds, and head down to a lesser known bar.

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Turner hopes change of culture can bring wins

James Profetto
Staff Writer
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Putting last season in the rear-view mirror is one of the many goals for this team, but perhaps the most important goal is improving their defense. During Wednesday’s early morning practice, Head Coach Thomas Chestnutt ran many set piece drills and emphasized attacking the ball, and putting an exciting team on the field that’s gonna play hard, play physical and score some points.

“If we win and you score, people get excited,” said Turner. “Win,” said Turner. ‘Win.”

Throughout practice, the team looked locked in, anticipating the match-up against Arizona, who scored 38 goals last season, the second most in Pac-12 Conference play.

When asked what Ashley Shim, senior forward, was looking for in Friday’s match, she didn’t mention Arizona’s ability to score goals. Instead, she laid out her team’s expectations.

“We’re going to win. Well, we expect to win. We’re going to [focus] on defense,” said Shim.

One of the most important storylines for this season will be redshirt senior Chelsea Leiva’s return to the field after missing last season due to an injury. Being a player who scored a team-high 11 goals in her junior year, Leiva is anxious to get back to action.

“I definitely miss the field a lot after being out a full year. I’m excited, and I’ve said this before; this team has a lot of potential,” said Leiva.

After sitting back and hearing what others have said of her, Leiva made it a point to address that she doesn’t pay attention to what the outside crowd expects from her.

“I just want to stick to my plan,” said Leiva. Nevena Stojakovic, international goalkeeper from Serbia and a recruit from this past offseason, participated in a full practice Wednesday. Her aggressiveness was on full display, especially during one corner kick into the box.

Stojakovic estimated her timing correctly as she charged off her line to make a sweeping grab at a ball that would’ve landed right at the feet of an opposing teammate.

With Ashley Westberry, a 5 foot 3 inch freshman goalkeeper out of Jacksonville, FL, and Stojakovic, 5 foot 9 inches, a starting goalkeeper will be tough to choose as both bring the tenacity needed.

“I think [Ashley and Nevena] have really come along and developed throughout the preseason. I’m anxious to get them out there for their first college match,” said Schroeder.

After practice, Leiva mentioned her and Shim’s friendship on and off the field, which allows them to be a more dynamic duo, and no duo goes without common interests.

Leiva’s pregame routine, which involves her praying highlights one of her common rituals.

Leiva’s friendship on and off the field, which Shim. “We have to win every home game.”

We want to win every home game,” said Turner. “Win.”

Coach Turner and the Panthers open up the season on Aug. 30 against the Bethune-Cookman Wildcats. Kickoff is at 7 p.m. on Ocean Bank Field at FIU Stadium.

Women’s soccer forms new defense for new season

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Coach Turner and the Panthers open up the season on Aug. 30 against the Bethune-Cookman Wildcats. Kickoff is at 7 p.m. on Ocean Bank Field at FIU Stadium.
The football team has to make an almost impossible climb out of the depths of mediocrity from their 2013 season that produced a 1-11 record.

The only win was gained against Southern Miss, who had a combined 1-23 record from their last two seasons. Saying that Head Coach Ron Turner has an uphill battle in his second year as FIU’s man in charge is an understatement.

Any time you replace a successful head coach as he did when FIU parted ways with former Head Coach Mario Cristobal, it’s hard to instill your philosophy with guys you did not recruit. 

One of the players that is set to make a big impact with this new era of Golden Panther football is junior Ya’keem Griner.

Griner is a 6’5” 235 lbs tight end from Starke, Florida. He attended Bradford High School where he was a star athlete on the football and basketball teams.

Football was his first love; Griner began playing around seven years old and hasn’t stopped since. For Griner, sports is the greatest teacher of life because one nevers get through it well.” said Griner.

“Sports was a big part of my life in high school, it kept me out of trouble and helped my time management skills,” Griner said.

After starring in football throughout high school and a great senior year at Bradford, Griner was earned the attention of many Sun Belt Conference schools. He ultimately chose FIU after his visit in the spring.

“First off, it was in Florida. I didn’t want to play basketball at a small school or play football at a school up north, that’s not my environment. Also FIU had a great season in 2010 which helped my decision as well,” said Griner.

Cristobal brought in Griner just before he was relieved of his duties. Griner was excited to play and learn under Cristobal but the relationship was short lived.

“Man, it was tough but I understand that college football is a business and I have no say in what goes on with coaches,” Griner said.

Fast forward to last season, the first with Turner as head coach and the implementation of the pro style offense, which was a new adventure for most of the guys on the team since Cristobal ran a spread offense.

The learning curve was steep and the record showed it. Only winning one game all year, it can be very easy for players to lose focus on the goal.

“It’s not about the losses, last year Turner taught us to be better people. Yes we lost, but we took a lot away from the losses, we became stronger as a unit,” Griner said.

Turner brought in an entirely new coaching staff with him after the transition; Griner had nothing but great things to say about all of the coaches, including the tight end coach Kort Shankweiler.

“I like Coach Shankweiler a lot. I look up to him. He teaches me how to be a better person. It isn’t all about football, the whole coaching staff is preparing us for life after football.” Griner said.

The season is closer than many realize, and now that they hear his name called in the draft of his respective sport.

“Even if I don’t get my named called, I’m still going to work out for NFL teams.” Griner said. Look out for Griner and all of the panther football team this season, hoping to elevate from the 1-11 hole that they were in last year, as they try to shock the world and get back to another bowl game.

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With another year of the pro style offense under everyone’s belt and Turner executing his philosophy and game plan with guys he recruited, the team seems to be in store for an improvement in their record.

“My gut feeling is that we’re going to have a pretty good season this year. What we do in the weight room, the staff works us hard and everyone is working hard together and putting in maximum effort.” Griner said.

Griner gave his prediction for the upcoming season, whether it be stats or what the team can do as a whole.

“I think we’re going to improve from what we did last season, I think we’ll have more than six wins,” Griner said.

Griner hopes that life after football isn’t coming too soon, as a college athlete he wants to hear his name called in the draft of his respective sport.

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The ‘n-word’ up for discussion this fall

I don’t want this [event] to be a lecture where you have an older person shaking their finger at people.

Jeffrey McNamee, Associate Director
Multicultural Programs & Services

The event will be held in WUC 253 on the Biscayne Bay Campus.

The event is expected to last an hour, but because of the nature of open meetings and discussions, it may last a little bit longer.

McNamee warns that the n-word will be used throughout the discussion and advises those uncomfortable with the word to be aware; however, McNamee says, “I think this is a discussion that has not happened at FIU,” and despite its touchiness, is long overdue.

The MPAS office has more diverse events coming up this Fall: The LGBTQA Panthers Suite at 4pm and on the 4th on the BBC in WUC 153 at 4pm.

Tuesday, September 30th they will be having an event for the people that like to put stuff off till the last minute called Conquering Procrastination.

That will be on the Modesto A. Maidique Campus in GC 216 at 1pm. There will also be a Diversity Day that Tuesday on the BBC in the Wolfe University Center which is going to be held all day.

There is a racial revolution being shown in Ferguson with the killing of Mike Brown. Mike Brown was a young African American man who had just graduated high school and was confronted by a Caucasian police officer and as accused of a robbery that happened moments before their encounter.

During their contact the police officer shot Mike Brown 6 times; Mike Brown was unarmed. Ferguson, Missouri is also to be known as one of the most segregated cities in Missouri.

The event will be held in WUC 253 on the Biscayne Bay Campus.

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New program allows students to rent bikes

A speedy commute across campus in the form of a recreational sport will be offered in a bicycle sharing program this semester, allowing students to rent bikes and safety gear for free.

Biscayne Bay Campus Recreation is launching the Bike Share Program this fall. The bikes come equipped with a water bottle cage, bell, cargo rack and a self-powered bike light which students can use during their rides from sun up, until sundown. To rent a bike, students will first provide their FIU OneCard at the front desk. Then they will complete a waiver and additional paperwork stating students will be liable for any broken or missing items.

Finally, they will visit an electronic key box before receiving a bike and all necessary equipment. “What I like is we provide you with everything,” said Coordinator of the Adventure X programs Jonathan "JT" Torrey.

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Later this semester, the rec center plans to host safety workshops for students who hope to rent a bike. Bardawil and Torrey said expanding the program by re-fencing the area under the Aquatic Center to house additional bicycles will be assessed a year after the program launches.

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Tuesday, September 23 at noon, FIU’s Multicultural Programs and Services office will be hosting a discussion called “The N-Word Discussion.” MPAS’s Associate Director Jeffrey McNamee will host the talks. This discussion will not be like any other lecture series in that there will not be a key speaker coming in and giving their thoughts and feelings on this very controversial topic, but rather, the key speakers will be the students, public and faculty — those who would like to hear each other’s reasoning behind using or not using the n-word.

“I didn’t want this [event] to be a lecture where you have an older person shaking their finger at people,” McNamee said. “This discussion is set to be informal, because the n-word is a current issue that needs to be spoken about amongst all people, especially among blacks African-Americans. Today, the n-word is thrown around generously in the hip-hop community and used almost colloquially among blacks and even non-blacks. Young people have taken ownership of the n-word and are using it in a different way from the way older people did. Jeffrey McNamee says he wants students to be verbal about their perspective on the word and why they may feel it’s usage is acceptable.

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BULL RIDING AT BBC PICNIC

Mydel Clozin, left, an electrical engineering junior, and Sabrina O’Keefe, right, assistant director of the women’s center, rode a mechanical bull at the BBC summer picnic on July 31.