Facility Senate talks adjuncts, beauty queens

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State performance-based metrics have prompted the University to consider offering some part-time facility a full-time instructor position.

Kathleen Wilson, Facility Senate chairperson, said that making some adjuncts that teach difficult or high-demand courses into full-time instructors would improve student success in these classes, which would therefore improve the University’s graduation and retention rate.

Improving these rates is a priority to keep up with the Board of Governor’s Performance Funding Model metrics. The amount of state money the University receives depends on a high metrics performance.

College of Law ranks fourth place in Florida bar passage rate

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The University’s College of Law ranked lower in bar passage rate for the July administration as compared to the February administration.

Ranked as fourth in the state with a bar passage rate of 78.2 percent, a tie with Stetson University’s law school, the College of Law moved one spot below the third ranking position for the 81.3 percent passage rate it achieved earlier in February, according to the Daily Business Review website.

Ranked first was University of Florida’s Levin College of Law, with a bar passage rate of 90.6 percent. Florida State University and University of Miami law schools ranked second and third with passage rates of 81.8 and 81.2 percent respectively.

For the Florida bar exam administration in July 2013, FIU Law also ranked fourth, according to sunshinetrib.com. In July 2011, FIU Law reached the No. 1 spot with a passage rate of 89.6 percent.

Dean Alexander Acosta doesn’t mind the fluctuations.

“Consistency is what is most important,” said Acosta. “Year after year, we are among the top three or four law schools among the 12 law schools in Florida.”

Despite ranking below the passage rate it achieved in February, FIU Law actually improved in relation to the statewide average, performing better this year than in previous ones, according to Acosta.

“It’s great to be No. 1, but the reality is that there’s statistical noise, and one year we’re No. 1, and one year UF is No. 1,” said Acosta. “As long as we’re in that top grouping, I’m good with that.”

While most law schools don’t offer courses that help students prepare for the bar exam, the College of Law takes a different approach.

In addition to offering a third-year class that emphasizes preparation for the exam, the College offers a first-year course that introduces students to the law school environment in an effort to provide them with different perspectives on how to approach legal matters that may appear in the bar exam.

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[“Studying for the bar really falls on the students to take advantage of the faculty’s expertise,” said Daniel Rock, a third-year law student. “But even with that being said, the professors always include...”]
Students create Seeds of Change Initiative for education

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A student-led initiative at the University wants to bring education and sanitation to the Maasai, a tribe indigenous to the deserts of Loitokitok, Kenya.

The Seeds of Change Initiative was started by two of FIU’s own juniors: Susana Guzman, an international relations major, and Alexandria Canales, an economics major. Escobar says of the initiative’s decision behind teaming up with the Maasai, “They have been active since 2000. Their focus is on children; that’s why we thought we should partner with them.”

Together, they go to use education as a weapon in their fight to put a stop to a common practice for the Maasai people: the circumcision of young girls by removing their clitorises.

For these people, it is a rite of passage for girls that are transitioning into womanhood. It is a painful procedure, done without the use of anesthesia. In addition to this, the surgical blade is often used for most of the circumcisions.

The three students believe that though proper education they can make a breakthrough with the Maasai, ultimately showing them that their custom of circumcision is not one that benefits their girls. “Since they use the same blade that spreads HIV and AIDS,” says Guzman. “These things they don’t even know—simple sanitation.”

Seeds of Change hopes to accomplish their mission of empowering through education without the use of anesthesia. “We’re not targeting the tribe,” says Guzman. “If we bring in water wells, we’ll give the land to build this school.”

If the group is able to accomplish this for the Maasai, only then will they be willing to listen to the group’s message of empowering through education. Overall, the construction of the education center will add up to $10,000, of which they have already raised over $2,000.

Without a school, it’s very unlikely anyone, from the tribe will receive an education because they are cut off from civilization. Loitokitok is approximately 158 miles away from Nairobi, the capital city of Kenya.

The Seeds of Change Initiative isn’t trying to change the culture of these people, but instead trying to provide them education through everything they can.

We’re not targeting the [doctors] that teach the [FIU Herbert Wertheim] College of Medicine and their own private practice. We are looking at the adjuncts that teach several courses and trying to make ends meet.

Elizabeth Bejar
Vice President
Academic Affairs

We need some kind of procedure and not have it be a done deal by the time we hear about it,” said Joan Baker, associate professor in the Department of English.

“I’m very anxious about how we are involving this—I feel very helpless that our image is being impinged on their likelihood of passing the bar.”

“Although it is an opportunity to show FIU around the world, I’ve heard comments from many of [faculty members] that believe it doesn’t project an image of serious scholarship,” Wilson said.

“Faculty complained to Wilson that they were neither consulted nor involved in this decision and that there is a certain hypocrisy since the University turned down a substantial gift from the World Erotic Art Museum.”

“For these people, it is a national crisis,” he told a crowd of about 150 people at the meeting. “It is a very inappropriate event; this is an insult to all our female students and faculty.”

“Are we going to portray this university as a school where dehumanizing women,” she said. “It is an insult to all our female students and faculty. It’s embarrassing.”

Bejar, who admitted she was just as surprised by the pageant announcement, said she would take these concerns to Rosenberg.

“There is no concrete action yet, but Bejar agreed that at a minimum, there should be a conversation between the faculty and the administration about the risks and the benefits of hosting this event.

“We will work with what we have and leverage the best opportunities for our students,” she said.

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NEW CHALLENGE

Take action in your local community, don’t just share photos

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As someone who likes reading up on music news, I sometimes browse several fan website forums of bands I like. In one particular instance, while looking through a Nine Inch Nails forum, I came across a post where fans were debating concert etiquette. A topic that specifically peaked my interest were the guidelines for concert attire, which were free of any rules and just enjoying the roll culture so enthralled with the idea of being free of any rules and just enjoying the music, it is quite interesting to see any sort of guidelines for concert attire, serious or not.

Yes, it might be redundant to wear a band’s T-shirt to their concert, but who cares? The reason you bought the shirt in the first place was to wear it, regardless of where you wear it.

In the words of Jeremy Piven in “PCU,” “don’t be that guy.” Piven says it in terms of not being the guy that wears the shirt of the band you’re going to see. I’m saying it in terms of not being the guy who cares about what other people think.

Wear the damn shirt if it so pleases you, or don’t. It’s your choice.

Fan forums reveal unspoken rules of band shirts
Juan Neira has given in to the chaos, but he’s not complaining. The junior art and art history major says he was compelled by a Greek goddess who shared Neira’s interpretation in seeking to control the uncontrollable. His art — mostly sculptures, film photography and abstract paintings — is modern-day adaptation of what Eris, the goddess of discord and chaos, represents.

“Chaos is this brand that we don’t understand, so we don’t accept. But, by her being able to accept it, she was able to control chaos.”

Neira, the traffic and training director of the University’s student radio station, is also host of a Wednesday folk, lo-fi radio show called “Meet Us in Montauk,” a reference to the cult classic film “ Eternal Sunshine of the Spotless Mind.”

“Eris,” the title of his exhibition, was Neira’s first professional art installation.

Neira says the University has aided his growth in art—both through its symbolism and actual craft. As an art history major, Neira was able to delve deep into Greek Mythology.

“I read a lot,” Neira said. “Mythology is a straight depiction of what is humanity. Humanity was transformed to tales so that people could refer to them and help each other to pretty much set up values and norms in their society. The thing about Eris is that [she] and my artwork are a straight reflection of society.”

“That’s how art works. Good art is a direct reflection of society.”

Neira says he doesn’t limit himself to just one specific medium for his art. He uses film photography, sculpture and abstract painting to utilize his creativity.

Becoming a full-time artist wasn’t always the plan. After graduating from Felix Varela High School, his first major at FIU was business. He admits he, like most individuals, thought that this was the only way to become successful after college.

Neira has thus taken a different approach on how to achieve success.

“What makes a successful artist is someone that really works hard, as simple as that seems,” he says. “I’m sure you’ve heard, ‘I wanted to be an artist when I was young, but when I grew up I realized I had to get a real job.’ These people didn’t realize that they needed a real job. But if they realized is that being an artist is in fact a very tough job. You have to sacrifice yourself to your art.”

“So many people tell me, ‘Hey, I was trying, but things weren’t really happening with it, so I stopped.’ I haven’t stopped. I had to sacrifice a lot of my free time, my relationships, my friends, my money— everything goes to my art, and that’s what, I guess, makes someone successful, how they’re willing to sacrifice themselves for something more important.”

Neira’s work will be on display until Tuesday, Oct. 21.

‘Hands up, don’t shoot:’ students discuss policing issues

Ferguson, Missouri may seem like a distant memory. Ebola and ISIS have resurfaced as headline news on major cable networks. Look on the list of trending Twitter topics and as of 2:50 p.m. on Wednesday Oct. 8, Ferguson is nowhere on there.

But this past Friday, several students made a firm decision to keep the memory alive. Neira has thus taken a different approach on how to achieve success.

“I figured few students would show up to an event titled ‘Hands up, Don’t shoot,’ branded as an open forum discussing police brutality, militarization and race — I was wrong.”

Esi Fynn-Ongb, a communication arts and sociology senior and president of the African Student Union found the need for a discussion on the topic necessary, especially in light of the recent protests in Ferguson, Missouri over the shooting death of unarmed black teenager, Michael Brown.

“We’ve seen a trend of police brutality and a confrontation trend of people of color being gunned down. I want to provide kids a platform to speak about these issues,” said Fynn-Ongb.

She feels a lot of students don’t understand the severity of the policing issues at hand and some will take on an offensive tone on social media without being truly informed.

“Can you go and fight something and you don’t even feel like you’re fighting? They need to find out why it’s an important issue in the first place,” said Fynn-Ongb.

In organizing the event, Fynn-Ongb reached out to Florida Student Union member Gordon Kingston and Senior English major, Eric Hunter, president of Fostering Better Communities and Sigma Tau Delta, and international honor society for English majors.

Kingston says the student union is “against police brutality and against racism,” as part of the reason for their participation.

As for Hunter, one of the reasons he placed the English honor society as an event sponsor was to combat the idea that English majors are not civically engaged.

“There is a misconception that English majors, all they talk about is literature and poetry in a vacuum. Our professors place great emphasis in class about social issues and how they weave into the texts we analyze,” said Hunter.

It was through Hunter’s position that he was able to easily reach out to University English professor Donna Wein-Soley.

Looking on her pages of notes, the University English professor gave a brief U.S. history lesson and in the process informed everyone that we’re all part of a large structure that created and embraced institutional racism.

One of the peaks of her speech went directly towards criticizing the police. According to her, it’s not her fault that the police will presumably see blacks as perpetrators.

“The police see blacks as criminal before they see them as innocent. They assume that they are criminal. Sometimes they fabricate reasons to make them criminal when they realize they are not because then they [the police] are already in trouble. How could they not see them that way that that is the way we have been structured to think in this country — that’s history.”

Although race, history and class were the focus of the evening discussions, police militarization was given it’s fair mention.

“From my fellow students and I at the Florida Student Union, we find these weapons troubling and call for more transparency into why the campus police have this equipment. It is our fear that these weapons will be used against us students,” said Kingston.

Kingston also addressed the audience and focused on police militarization. He specifically cited the University Police Department’s acquisition of 50 M16 rifles and an armored vehicle.

Despite the other panelists speaking, it seemed that all questions went directly to Lieutenant Ricardo Torres of the University Police Department, one of the panelists invited to speak.

The 21 year UPD veteran began by stepping on a chair to show the audience all the equipment on his waistband. The purpose of this exercise it seems, was to create sympathy from the audience. He kept referring to how much he did not want to have more equipment added to his already heavy belt.

After introducing himself, he dived immediately into discussing Ferguson and it’s policing failure.

“[Ferguson] was a total and complete failure — failure, by everybody in that community. Everyone there should have come together way before this had happened. The issue my department should have gone there way before. By the time Eric Holder got there, it was already too late.”

Torres promised that the M16s and armored vehicle on campus were for extreme uses only.

“I can guarantee we will never unleash one of these weapons on the students, that’s not how we operate,” he said.

“From the other one thing he did promise — there will be more "Fergusons.""
University Muslims are looking to both spread breast cancer awareness, and raise cultural sensitivity.

On Thursday, Oct. 23 from 8 a.m. to 2 p.m., the Muslim Student Association is planning to host their third annual “Hijab-A-Thon” at Graham Center room 347.

The event, adapted from ideas received by a northern university, will allow non-Muslim women to select a hijab to wear throughout the day in order to help them experience a special part of Islamic culture.

“The event will take place in the GC Faculty Lounge from 7 p.m. to 10 p.m. that same day.

Honoring breast cancer awareness month, Nandee Shabazz, a junior majoring in political science and international relations, said the group’s plans simply: From the garments to the decorations, everything will be pink.

This will also serve as a way to promote unity, according to senior Adnan Samma, majoring in economics and international relations.

“Breast Cancer is a disease in society which needs a lot of attention,” Samma said. “I’m glad that there are foundations that are willing to devote entire months to breast cancer awareness, and if they can do so, why can’t we?”

Shabazz describes hijabs as the “Islamic headress for Muslim women.” However, both she and Samma emphasize that this tradition is much more than just a piece of clothing — it’s a way of life.

“Islam has designated certain private parts of the body for the woman; it’s the entire body except the face and the hands.” Shabazz said. “The hijab is more than that. The hijab is a sense of modesty, and it’s a character, and a state of mind that you have to put yourself in.”

“It has to go in line with your character: being modest, being shy, but not reserved...the hijab fulfills that,” Shabazz added.

The Muslim Student Association is planning to have both the Hillcrest and National Organization for Women are working together to help emphasize these values and ultimately, allow non-Muslims to get a taste of what this way of life means to them.

“Besides the religious point of view, people see me differently than they see other girls,” Shabazz said. Samma later mentions this aspect as being one of the main purposes for planning the celebration.

“When we try to convince other women to wear it for a day, we want to let them know how it feels to be in (Muslim women’s) shoes,” Samma said. “How it feels to be clinging to [what is] actually a divine tradition for us.”

He further outlines the difficulty of this practice.

“What happens is that society evolves to a point where this doesn’t hold any significance. We still practice [Islam] as it was practiced 14,000 years ago, Samma said. “You’re living in a modern society that is evolving so quickly. You have norms and customs transitioning, changing all the time. Modern society changes, so the perception of religion also changes — but we stick to it.”

Although men are not to wear the garment, the Hijab-A-Thon is not only geared towards the women on campus. In fact, Samma mentions that Muslims must cover their bodies as well.

“Our entire body is a private part,” Samma said. Shabazz said that with the help of the event, more people will be able to come to the understanding of what wearing a hijab means and gain a greater respect for it.

“I really just want people to learn from the event. Everything that you see in the media about Muslim women — especially everyone that has this perception that, ‘oh, they’re oppressed because they’re forced to wear the hijab,’ — and I want people to see that it’s not what they think, and basically to open their eyes to what things really are,” Shabazz said.

Samma said that, “men cannot understand what it means to wear a woman’s version of a hijab. They will never understand the pain that she goes through when people look at her like that.”

While men and non-Muslims have their ideas of what this life would be like, no one knows it better than the wearer herself, and the perspective she takes on it is truly inspiring.

“It’s part of my religion, and I’m required to wear it, so of course, I wear it. But it’s also something I feel...protects me in a way,” Shabazz said.

“You know when everyone talks about guys catcalling girls and stuff like that, that never happens to me. And the few times that it did, they’re always like ‘oh I just want to let you know you look really beautiful today.’”

It’s harder for them to see what’s on the outside, and so when they get to know you, they’re seeing you for what’s inside. And I feel like that’s really special.”

The event will engage students as they work alongside successful and distinguished songwriters, composers and producers.

“We have all these talented students,” Vires said. “We need to explore that talent and help them get ahead.”

Although the workshop is open to all students regardless of major, only six will be chosen by a panel of artist-faculty from the School of Music which includes Director of Music Business and Music Management Programs Karen Fuller and Director of the Jazz Vocal Program Lisanne Lyons.

The workshop will be held from 10 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. at Miami Beach Urban Studios Gallery on Nov. 3 and 4.

The top six participants will be chosen by a panel of artist-faculty from the School of Music which includes Director of Music Business and Music Management Programs Karen Fuller and Director of the Jazz Vocal Program Lisanne Lyons.

The workshop will function similarly to a music business seminar. Vires mentioned that the workshop will teach students how to market themselves and their music.

In addition to learning about music marketing, students will get to showcase their talent for Piloto, Henriquez and Osorio.

“They get to perform in front of these people and be critiqued by them. That’s amazing,” Vires said.

Students are interested in being a part of this workshop can submit a short biography which should include their Panther I.D., address, phone number and email address. Students also need to submit MP3s of two original songs in Spanish with lyric sheets. All of this should be submitted electronically to music@fiu.edu. The subject line in the email must say “ASCAP Songwriting Workshop.” The deadline for submissions is Oct. 15.
Panthers trek north for two-game weekend

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A weekend with some of Conference USA’s best and worst are coming up for the Panthers. Beginning on Friday, Oct. 10, and ending Sunday, Oct. 12, Head Coach Thomas Chestnut and his girls soccer team will see two good opportunities to move up the ranks in the C-USA standings. The University of Alabama at Birmingham is the first match and Middle Tennessee State University caps off the weekend.

UAB, while currently sitting one game below .500 (5-6-1), benefits from a good conference record (2-1-1) that has propelled them to the No. 3 spot among the 14 C-USA teams.

Their success lies at home, undefeated in games played in Birmingham, Alabama. The Blazers’ most recent loss came at the hands of Louisiana Tech University, a team left behind in the conference at No. 13. Spot. UAB has not seen a win since Sept. 28, which gives them an excuse for motivation when facing the Panthers. The Miamia-based team should have no problem creating their motivation as well. With a win, the Panthers would have the golden chance to move into the top five in C-USA (currently seventh), due in large part to their overall record (6-5-1, 1-1-1).

The series has been one that would make anyone bite their nails, as the last meeting on Oct. 13, 2013, provided a 3-2 overtime victory for the Panthers. With the help of redshirt junior Nikki Rios and Sara Stewart, senior Marie Egan and the rest of the iron-core Panther defense, their strong play as of late will help stifle the attack of UAB’s Johanna Lainey’s six goals this season, a team-high for the Blazers.

The final match of the weekend takes the Panthers north to Murfreesboro, Tennessee, to face MTSU on Sunday at 1 p.m. Traveling to different stadiums in one weekend is not unfamilial to Chestnut and his team, as last season resulted in a 2-2 conference record away from home with only one day of rest in between.

MTSU is on the lower end of the C-USA feeding chain, as they currently sit at No. 10 overall (4-6-2, 1-2-1). Struggling with conference opponents, the Blue Raiders can’t seem to find their identity. Their recent game against the statistically worst team in C-USA, Southern Mississippi University, resulted in a 2-2 tie. MTSU’s home record is a mere 2-3-1, while being outscored 18-10 in the season. This is what many would call a “trap game,” meaning the team may be bad on paper, but any given game-day can provide a surprise win for the lesser team. The Panthers are not phased by “trap games,” as their win against Old Dominion University held similar standards.

Senior forward Ashleigh Shim and midfielder senior Chelsea Leiva will have a field day in Tennessee, as the Blue Raiders are allowing 76 shots on goal and a .113 percent shooting percentage to opponents. The opportunities seen by the Panthers against Florida Atlantic University on Oct. 5 will surely be rewarded if they are found again against MTSU.

For the first time in a while, the Panthers will head to an away conference opponent. In South Carolina, the Panthers are packing their bags and preparing to play against the No. 4 ranked North Carolina Charlotte 49ers.

With an 8-1 record, the Charlottes 49ers have been able to defeat six of their last seven opponents by a minimal margin of two goals per game. The 49er’s have been extremely dominant with their opponents.

While Charlotte is led by their only veteran player, senior midfielder Thomas Robby, the 49ers have a mature roster and are ready to bounce back, regardless of situation. Head Coach Scott Calabrese, but they expect to face the new energy in a new lineup to today's game … I'm making gameplay changes for one of the team captains, Lucia Buck-Crockett placed three freshmen in the starting lineup and of their last five games, they have lost four. The Panthers, however, are coming off a win and with a lot of optimism since they snapped a 1-2 loss succeeding.

Although the Panthers are no strangers to taking on powerful opponents, this will probably be their toughest game of the season. Being on the road and pitted against another highly ranked opponent, expecting a victory isn’t an easy task to accomplish— but the Panthers expect nothing but excellence of themselves.

Coming up short in the last two Conference games is a sore spot for the team and Head Coach Scott Calabrese, but they expect to bounce back, regardless of situation. While they may be one key player down, on the road and placed against a powerhouse, the Panthers expect to leave everything they have on the field — win or go home.

Following this game, the Panthers will head home to face the University of Central Florida Oct. 15.
Panthers ride win streak into San Antonio

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The Panthers head west on Oct. 11 to take on the Roadrunners of University of Texas at San Antonio. Game time is set for 7 p.m. It will be the first meeting between the two schools.

The Panthers enter the game 3-3 and are riding a two game Conference USA win streak. They are 2-6 in conference play and currently sit in second place in the east division behind the University of Middle Tennessee.

“The attitude around here is good,” said Head Coach Ron Turner. “Hopefully, they’re still hungry and they’ve still got an edge about them. We’ve had two really good days of practice.”

On Thursday, Oct. 2, the Panthers defeated the Florida Atlantic University Owls in a primetime Shula Bowl showdown. The Owls were fresh off a 41-37 victory against the Roadrunners. Despite their impressive effort against the Owls, the Panthers still enter Saturday’s game as a 13-point underdog.

The Roadrunners will limp into Saturday’s matchup. After opening the season with a 27-7 victory at the University of Houston, the Roadrunners dropped their next four games. The 1-4 record is not indicative of UTSA’s talent. They have lost some close games to elite opponents, including a 26-23 loss to now number 10 Arizona.

To prepare for the Panthers against the Roadrunners, will be containing a very big and experienced offense.

“They do a lot shifting and a lot of motion,” said Turner. “They’re a veteran team. They’ve got 36 seniors with a few young guys sprinkled in. You can tell they spent a couple of years before they play in the weight room. They must’ve lifted, like, seven days a week. They are big and strong. They’re also extremely well-coached.”

The Roadrunners are coached by Larry Coker. South Florida fans may remember Coker from his days coaching the University of Miami. He led them to a National Championship in 2001.

The Panthers defense is used to stopping strong offenses. They visited a University of Alabama at Birmingham team two weeks ago that was averaging a 40 game and held them to only 20. Their 21 takeaways lead all of college football.

Freshman quarterback Alex McGough is coming off a good performance against FAU. He threw for 160 yards and ran for a touchdown. He will have to continue to play well if the Panthers hope to have their best game.

Saturday’s game will be played in the Alamodome. The multi-purpose facility is used for football, basketball and baseball. The San Antonio Spurs played there from 1993-2002.

To prepare for the noise, the Panthers practiced all week with crowd noise blasting through the speakers in The Cage.

“We always do that when we play on the road if there’s a chance there’s gonna be a lot of crowd noise,” said Turner. “During certain periods we make it loud so they have to communicate through it. We have music playing all the time in practice but we just turned it up a lot...”

If the Panthers win on Saturday and Marshall beats Middle Tennessee, they will be atop the Conference USA East division for the first time in school history.

Cross Country gears up for Disney Classic

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The Panthers continued their preparation for the 19th Annual Disney Cross Country Classic with a strong performance at the Florida Runners Invitational. Freshman Ronny Greenup added another first place finish to his 2014 campaign and the team took a step towards success in Orlando this weekend.

The upcoming Disney Cross Country Classic will be the biggest event the Panthers have competed in so far. Thousands of runners from across the nation will travel to ESPN Wide World of Sports to compete.

In addition to an 8,000-meter race for the men and a 5,000-meter race for the women, the promoters of the event encourage the participants and their families to enjoy Orlando’s theme parks and a large pregame pasta meal arranged for the runners.

The Panthers are coming off an impressive effort at the Florida Runners Invitational, which featured a 5,000-meter run for the men and women’s teams.

Greensup and the men’s team are the measuring stick for the team.

Cross Country will run this weekend.

In addition to Greensup, the team will be moving up to the larger-scale Disney Cross Country Classic. Greensup continues to make big strides in his successful freshman campaign. He ran the 5,000-meter in 15:45.26 at Florida Runners Invitational. This time beat the rest of the competition, and was his third first place finish this season and his first in the 5,000-meter.

Junior Brandon Ballard made his 2014 cross country debut at the Florida Runners Invitational with a time of 19:21.70. He placed 15th among participating men.

Despite being listed as a sprinter, Ballard is not new to cross country; in fact, his career best time for the 8,000-meter was at last year’s edition of the Disney Cross Country Classic (27:13.10).

But it is not clear if he or junior Daniel Puentes, who didn’t run in either the Florida Runners Invitational, will travel to Orlando this weekend.

Unlike the men, the women typically run the 5,000-meter, so the Florida Runners Invite was a good measuring stick for the team. Senior Catherine Ventura led the women’s squad with a 20:37.07. Despite this being the women’s best time for the event, Ventura’s times at the University of South Florida Invitational, the University of Central Florida Country Classic as an opportunity to have fun and compete hard at a premiere event. This stage, the season will be bigger than ever before as runners from all around the nation flock to Orlando.

Coverage begins at 7:30 a.m. Oct. 11, from ESPN Wide World of Sports and can be followed on Watch ESPN.

Panthers on the prowl for fifth victory

VOLLEYBALL, PAGE 6

Hopefully she is right and can lead this team to get back to .500.

One of the players the Panthers need to hold their own against is Charlotte freshman outside hitter Irem Asci. She is already leading the team in scoring and recorded kills. She is also second on her team in kills with 243. This unique blend of offense and defense could give the Panthers some trouble.

Overall, the new players in the starting lineup need to step up like they did against UAB and Lucia Castro needs to get more involved in offense, as somebody needs to go toe-to-toe with Asci.

To go up against Redgen, the Panthers have senior outside hitter Martyna Gluchowicz. She is coming off a great match against UAB in which she recorded eight kills, nine digs and four blocks. Gluchowicz has the capability to shut down defenses to protect the back row and still supply the offense needed to get the win against Louisiana Tech.

Hopefully, after this weekend, the volleyball team can get their much needed wins and then Conference USA record back to 2-0 to stay in the hunt for a top seed.

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The unveiling of a one-stop-shop for students to access needed assistance and resources is happening this month.

The Glenn Hubert Library will officially welcome the Academic Skills and Knowledge Center on Thursday, Oct. 30, located on the second floor. The ASK! Center will provide students with tutoring services, tech support and library assistance all in one place.

“As an incoming freshman, you get sent around to a lot of places and students don’t have that kind of time anymore,” said Gustavo Arauz, criminal justice senior and office manager of the library. “By having everything in one location, we can try to avoid that.”

The newly renovated area will offer quiet study spaces for students, and will provide all of the assistance needed for class assignments, projects and the like.

In addition, the ASK! Center will feature state-of-the-art Windows and Apple computers, cell phone charging stations, numerous outlets and energy-efficient lighting.

“Libraries are changing, they’re becoming more digital,” Arauz said, “We want to make it easier for students to spend their day here.”

Bryan Cooper, associate dean of technology and digital services at the library, said the new center will help students interact with others and will provide a chance for students to get exposed to new resources.

It was a highly collaborative process and the University is committed to students’ success,” said Cooper, who hopes that the changing library scene will be a trend sustained in the future. “This is an important start to revitalize the larger spaces in the library. The ASK! Center will feature artwork from the winners of the International Student Photo Contest over the past eight years. Students can also expect new furniture at which to use reference books.

University forming global citizens through celebration of National Coming Out Day

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Edwin Serrano, graduate assistant for Lesbian Bisexual Transgender Queer and Allies initiative, said the gay community is making history.

To celebrate the community’s achievements, the Office of Multicultural Programs and Services will host an annual National Coming Out Day event today, Oct. 10 from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. at the Biscayne Bay Campus in the International Student Photo Contest.

Likewise, the day will be celebrated at the Moderna A. Muñiz Campus in the Grijalva Center Pet from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. It will encourage and praise people openly declaring their sexual orientation, as well as LGBTQA legal victories.

“We want people to come see what the hype is all about,” said Serrano. Last year, the Federal Supreme Court removed a section of the 1996 Defense of Marriage Act, which denied federal benefits to same-sex couples.

This year, the Florida’s gay community and civil rights activists fought for transgender rights in the workplace, and judges are ruling the marriage ban unconstitutional.

Kathleen Hernandez, a public relations freshman and student ambassador for LGBTQA, is surprised by the level of support and activism in Miami.

“It’s cool – there’s so much going on that I didn’t know about in my backyard,” Hernandez said.

Serrano said people expect to be more open about their sexual orientation now that it’s legally accepted. However, he doesn’t want to focus on politics on this day. One of the highlights this year is a surprise lip-sync performance, according to Serrano, who hopes will attract a larger crowd.

Serrano said he wants the event to be centered on the lives of LGBTQA students and hopes that more international students participate.

According to FBI student population data from 2013, Hispanic, Black, Asian and minority students made up 87 percent of the University’s student population.

Serrano said due to their conservative background, international students don’t come to these events much.

“It’s really rare to receive international students coming and asking for support,” said Serrano, who said that if they end up attending an event, they think its only for gays.

He said the day is for everyone to come together and accept each other’s differences.

Testimonials from different LGBTQA members will be shared as a way to help educate those in the gay community.

There is a darker tone to this day according to Serrano. Some attendees have been bullied into admitting their sexual orientation, while others experienced rejection and neglect from close relatives and the public.

Yet, Serrano said lessons can be learned from these negative stories. He said the event will benefit both straight and LGBTQA students, as it will help them become more aware of their surroundings.

“LGBTQA is also open to straight folks who are our allies and supporting their friends,” Serrano said. “By exposing them to progressive thinking and an open society, it does let them learn a little about being a global citizen.”

Man died on Carnival cruise trying to see sunrise

MCT STAFF

Police identified the man who fell to his death from a cruise ship mast earlier this week and are continuing the investigation into his death, which appears so far to be accidental.

Miami-Dade police named Kendall Wernet, 20, as the man who climbed the forward mast of the Carnival Ecstasy at PortMiami and fell about 20 feet onto the deck. No foul play is suspected, according to police.

“Everything points to it being an accident,” said Miami-Dade police Detective Alvaro Zabaleta.

The mast area is restricted and has signs warning passengers not to enter, said Carnival spokeswoman Jennifer de la Cruz.

Wernet, a Clemson University student, was on the cruise, along with 130 of his colleagues, as a reward for being among the top achievers of the painting company he worked for, Steve Acorn, the owner of Student Painters, told WYFF.

Acorn told the news station that Wernet, who he has known for three years, was not drinking at the time of the fall. According to Acorn, Wernet and four others wanted to climb the mast. While everyone was lying down on the platform atop the mast, Wernet was standing or sitting up when a radar dish suddenly started to rotate, knocking him off.

Wernet suffered a severe head injury and lost consciousness after falling onto the running track on the deck, Acorn told WYFF.

“We were always laying down on the platform atop the mast, Wernet was standing or sitting up when a radar dish suddenly started to rotate, knocking him off. Wernet suffered a severe head injury and lost consciousness after falling onto the running track on the deck, Acorn told WYFF.

The Ecstasy had just returned to Miami from a voyage to the Caribbean on Monday morning when Wernet plunged to his death. The ship left port again Monday afternoon on its next trip, which is a normal turnaround time for Carnival ships, de la Cruz said.

“We are deeply saddened to learn of the tragic death of Clemson student Kendall Wernet, a junior management major from Arden, N.C.,” said Shannon Finning, Clemson University dean of students, in a statement. “Our heartfelt condolences go out to his family and friends, and we stand ready to help them through this difficult time.”