Faculty Senate talks adjuncts, beauty queens

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

Kathleen Wilson, Faculty 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.

Changing part-time staff into full-time is a significant investment, Wilson said, and the adjuncts with priority are those that teach multiple courses and don’t have another full-time job.

Elizabeth Béjar, vice president of Academic Affairs, said that the University is trying to internally distinguish between the adjuncts and evaluate who should be offered a full-time position.

“We’re not targeting the [adjuncts] that teach at the [FIU Herbert Wertheim] College of Medicine and have their own private practice.”

College of Law ranks fourth place in Florida bar passage rate

ADRIAN SUAREZ AVILA
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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.

Despite ranking below the February administration, ranked as fourth in the state with a bar passage rate of 90.6 percent, the University’s College of Law moved one spot second and third with bar 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 sun/ethics.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.”

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.

“[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...”
Controversial professor Steven Salaita, who lost his job offer from the University of Illinois after criticizing Israel on social media, landed at out- university administrators Monday for overreaching in their decision not to hire him. Salaita, in a wide-ranging, 40-minute speech at Northwestern University, focused on academic freedom and the recent conflict in the Middle East. He made comparisons between his own situation and the subject of colonialism that he studies, saying that the university was suppressing a minority position. “Watching my own firing happen publicly on the Internet was surreal, but not just for me,” he told a largely supportive crowd that fill-off a 100-seat lecture hall. “Anyone who tuned in could see how the corporatization of academic functions in real time.”

Mexico confronts reports that police helped massacre 43 students

President Enrique Pena Nieto sought Monday to confront a growing human rights nightmare, declaring an investigation into reports that police had rounded up 43 student-teachers last month, then worked with gangsters to have them killed and their bodies dumped in mass graves. The horrific massacre near Iguala in Mexi- co’s Guerrero state on the Pacific coast appears likely to become one of the bloodiest slaughters since Pena Nieto came to office in December 2012, pledging a savvier battle against drug cartels than that of his prede- cessor, whose six-year term left more than 60,000 dead and many more thousands officially missing. It’s the second time in just over three months that Mexican police or soldiers have been implicated in a mass execution. Jose Miguel Vivanco, the head of the Americas division of Human Rights Watch, said Mexico faced “a national situation and the subject of colonialism that he studies, saying that the university was suppressing a minority position. “Watching my own firing happen publicly on the Internet was surreal, but not just for me,” he told a largely supportive crowd that fill-off a 100-seat lecture hall. “Anyone who tuned in could see how the corporatization of academic functions in real time.”

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**NEW CHALLENGE**

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

**OPINION**

**Fan forums reveal unspoken rules of band shirts**

**STEPHANIE PIEDRAHITA**
Staff Writer
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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 wearing a band T-shirt.

A search here and there led me to some similar posts, most of which agreed on one thing: never wear a band’s shirt to their concert. It’s just lame and redundant, it seems. Everyone knows you’re there to see said band, so why wear their gear? And whatever you do, make sure to never wear the shirt to the concert as soon as you buy it from the merchants. Hold it all night for the sake of staying cool.

Alternatives on what to wear to a concert were thankfully provided. One suggestion was to wear the gear of another band. Like this you can show just how far your taste in music goes.

While highly entertaining to read, the philosophy baffles me. For a rock’n’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.

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Have something on your mind? Send your thoughts (400 words maximum) to opinion@fiusm.com or drop by our offices at either GC 210 or WWC 124. With your letter, be sure to include your name, major, year, and copy of your student ID. The Beacon will only run one letter a month from any individual.

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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.

Juan Neira
Junior
Art and Art History Major

Ferguson, Missouri may seem like a distant memory. Ebola and ISIS have resurfaced as headlines 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.

Students may seem to have forgotten the policing issues at hand and some will take on an offensive tone on social media without being truly informed. Police militarization. He specifically cited the University Police Department’s acquisition of 50 M16 rifles and an armored vehicle.

"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 happened. The issue in 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.

“Police see blacks as criminals 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.”

"For those of 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.

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

Juan Neira, an art and art history junior, showcases his first professional installment titled “Eris” on Oct 3. The subject of his work focuses on the goddess Eris, and the chaos and disorder that defines her myth.

"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."

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

The police see blacks as criminals before they see them as innocent.

Donna Weis-Soley
Associate Professor
Department of English

"What happens with this goddess is that she can control everything because she was able to control nothing," Neira said. "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."

Juan Neira shows his refined depiction of life’s turmoil.

The celebration of its opening was part of a larger event that was titled “Hands up, Don’t Shoot,” branded as an open forum made to keep the memory of the recent protests in Ferguson, Missouri over the Seniors and president of the African Student Union found the wrong.

"What makes a successful artist is someone that really works hard, as simple as that seems," he says.

As for Hunter, one of the reasons he placed the 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.

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Hijab-A-Thon gives opportunity for awareness and understanding

Samman HERRERA
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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 343.

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, says 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 headdress 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. 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,” Shabazz said.

“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 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,” Samma said.

Samma later mentions this aspect as being one of the main purposes for planning the celebrations.

“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 men 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 hijabs,’ — 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 sense,” 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.”

Latin Grammy winning artists team up with FIU for a Spanish Songwriters Workshop

Samantha DAVIS
Staff Writer
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The College of Architecture + The Arts has partnered with the New York, Los Angeles, and Miami offices of the American Society of Composers, Authors, and Publishers (ASCAP) to provide all currently enrolled students with the opportunity to participate in a free bilingual songwriting workshop.

ASCAP is a membership association of more than 500,000 U.S. composers, songwriters, lyricists and music publishers of every kind of music. It is the only US performing rights organization created and controlled by composers, songwriters and music publishers, with a Board of Directors elected by and from members.

ASCAP has helped thousands of artists achieve success in their music careers including Duke Ellington, Leonard Bernstein, Jay-Z, Katy Perry, Marc Anthony, Beyoncé and Alan Jackson.

This workshop will give students the chance to work with Latin Grammy winners Yoel Henriquez and Fernando Osorio, along with Jorge Luis Piloto, who is another of Miami’s leading bilingual songwriters.

ASCAP Associate Director Karl Avanzini, a veteran in the music industry, will be facilitating the workshop at the Miami Beach Urban Studios Gallery on Nov. 3 and 4.

Avanzini has been the Director of Creative Affairs, Latin Membership East Coast at ASCAP for over a decade. He is responsible for signing most of ASCAP’s successful songwriters and has served as panelist, creator and educator in the music industry.

He is well-known for his artist showcases during the Billboard Latin Awards including Enrique Iglesias, Kany Garcia, LENA, Debi Nova, Nahuel, Daniel Santacruz, Victor Manuelle and many others.

This workshop 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 behind it.”

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 Education Karen Fuller and Director of the Jazz Vocal Program Lisanne Lyons.

This 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.

After students submit their songs, the panel of judges will decide as a team which six students will be a part of the workshop. Those six students will then be notified of their acceptance and invited to Miami Urban Beach Studios Gallery on Nov. 3 and 4.

“We’re giving students an opportunity. That’s what this is all about,” Vires said.

Pretty in Pink

Jasmine Rizo / The Beacon

Johnny Moe, major in recreation and sports management and a member of Phi Beta Sigma, wears a bra while dancing with other fraternity members to highlight breast cancer awareness.
Panthers trek north for two-game weekend

James Profetto
Staff Writer

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 Chestnutt and his girl's 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 the No. 13 spot. UAB has not seen a win since Sept. 28, which gives them an eXo trinsic amount of 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 history 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 Nicki 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 Liney'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 unfamiliar to Chestnutt 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 on the season. This is what many would call a "trap game," meaning the team may be too focused 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 Sham and redhead 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.

Panthers travel to face off against conference foe Charlotte 49ers

Caesar Alva
Contributing Writer

After taking on their third conference opponent in South Carolina, the Panthers are packing their bags and preparing to play against the No. 4 ranked North Carolina Charlotte 49ers.

While the Panthers have struggled with consistency throughout the season, the 49ers have been a model of it. Charlotte has been playing with discipline and consistency the last few games. In fact, the 49ers have been able to defeat six of their last seven opponents by a minimal margin of two goals per game. The 49ers have been extremely dominant with their opponents.

While Charlotte is led by their only veteran Langan on the same page, this season for the 49ers is bound to be a successful one.

David vs. Goliath

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. After losing senior midfielder Nelson Milsaint, due to red card in their New Mexico game, the Panthers hope to have his shoes filled by any of the great bench players available.

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.

Volleyball

Arielle Aguirre
Contributing Writer

After getting their first win in Conference USA play this past Sunday and their first win since Sept. 6, the volleyball team is going to play two road games this weekend. Their first matchup is against the Charlotte 49ers on Friday, Oct. 10, and the second match against Louisiana Tech is Sunday, Oct. 12.

For the first time in a while, the Panthers will head to an opposing home floor with winning momentum. This past weekend Head Coach Rita Buck-Crockett made changes to the starting lineup which lead to a win over UAB. Expect to see the same starting lineup and rotation for this weekend’s games.

The changes seemed like an odd or gutsy move for some, as Buck-Crockett placed three freshmen in the starting lineup and made gameplay changes for one of the team captains, Lucia Castro.

Her response to this change in the rotation was, “This past week we finally found what wasn’t working and we were able to bring the new energy in a new lineup to today’s game… I’m also in a funk right now, so I am trying to not hurt the team, and if I am not hitting well, I just have to focus on other things to try to get the point.”

With this lineup move, more offense is brought to the team, something lacking in the past. Expect the same energy brought for the UAB match to transfer when playing Charlotte and Louisiana Tech.

Coming into the match, Charlotte has an overall record of 12-9 and a record of 1-3 in conference play. Even though the 49ers have a winning record, they are coming into the Panthers match after losing their last two games, 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 10-game losing streak.

This optimism was on display when Castro was asked what to expect from the team for the rest of the season.

“Well, today we finally saw again how it felt to win and we are definitely going to use that and just keep winning from here on out,” Castro said.

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**FOOTBALL**

**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 2-0 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 prime-time 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 lump 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.

“ 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 played in the weight room. They must’ve lifted, like, seven days a week. They are big and strong and physical. 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 Panther 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, the Panthers will be atop the Conference USA East division for the first time in school history.

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**CROSS COUNTRY**

**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.

Greenup and the men’s and women’s teams will need to carry that momentum into the weekend to place high in the larger-scale Disney Cross Country Classic.

Greenup 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 fifth 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 16th 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 did not run in 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 time of 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 Cross Country Invitational and the Mountain Dew Invitational were faster.

She will need to have a good showing at the Disney Cross Country Classic if she hopes to improve her career best time of 18:41.30, which she ran at the USF Invitational last year.

The rest of the women ran solid times last weekend, but did not produce a swag like they did at the Mountain Dew Invitational.

Sophomore Sheri Menna, who is normally identified as a thrower, saw her first cross country action of the year and ran a 3:42.00.

Both teams should look forward to the Disney Cross Country Classic as an opportunity to have fun and compete hard at a premiere event. This season, the stage 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.

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**VOLLEYBALL**

**Panthers on the prowl for fifth victory**

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 digs 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 play lock down defense 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 these two much-needed wins and then Conference USA record back to 300 to stay in the hunt for a top seed.

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**JOIN OUR STAFF!**

Freshman outside hitter/right side hitter Lea Montavon waits for a serve against the Western Kentucky University Hilltoppers.

**Brian Trujillo/The Beacon**

Carl-FrederiCk FranCois/The BeaCon

Junior wide receiver T. Lowder tries to run through FAU defenders on Oct. 2, where the Panthers won 38-10. FIU will play at the University of Texas at San Antonio on Oct. 11.

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**SPORTS**

The Beacon – Friday, October 10, 2014
New library space to officially open later this month

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The unveiling of a one-stop shop for students to get the assistance needed for class assignments, projects and the like is happening this month.

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

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.

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

said Cooper, who hopes that the changing library scene will be a trend sustained in the future. “This is an important start to revitalizing 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.

Ashley Kearns, public relations junior, thinks the new center will give students better access to research tools, but could also make the library more crowded.

“I like to get in the zone when I study, but by attracting more students, there will be more traffic,” Kearns said.

Other students believe the new center is conducive to students’ academic success.

“Any time the University increases capacity, they increase student efficiency and recruitment,” said B.J. Chizae, a grad student studying public administration.

“The new center is just one piece in a comprehensive strategy to take this school to the next level.”

University forming global citizens through celebration of National Coming Out Day

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Edwin Serrano, graduate assistant for Lesbian Gay 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 its annual National Coming Out Day event today, Oct. 10 from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. at the Biscayne Bay Campus in the Graham Center.

Likewise, the day will be celebrated at the Modesto A. Maidique Campus in the Graham Center.

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

Serrano said the event will be centered on the lives of LGBTQIA students and hopes that more international students participate.

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

Serrano said the event will be centered on the lives of LGBTQIA students and hopes that more international students participate.

Serrano 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 LGBTQIA 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 LGBTQIA students, as it will help them become more aware of their surroundings.

“LGBTQIA 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.

“He was the kind of guy, that if you had a daughter, you’d want him to marry her,” Acorn told the news station.

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.”