ELECTIONS
FIU Student Media provides cheat sheet to bring students up to date

FAIRGROUNDS
FIUSM STAFF
news@fiusm.com

The University is quickly outgrowing space to build on campus. This institution’s vision in the last 50 years has been growth—in number of students, faculty, programs offered, buildings and housing. FIU is now the second largest institution—despite its population—despite the state, but it has the smallest main campus out of all the institutions in the State University System.

Without room to expand, the University will be forced to decrease the number of admitted.

FIU’s plan to relocate the Miami-Dade County Youth Fair has gained momentum in recent months, and the decision can define the University’s future.

SEE FAIRGROUNDS, PAGE 5

AMENDMENT 2: VOTERS TO DECIDE MEDICAL MARIJUANA CONTROVERSY
FIUSM STAFF
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People will decide on Nov. 4 if Florida will officially allow the use of medical marijuana for patients with debilitating diseases.

The bill that was passed by the Florida Legislature and signed by Governor Rick Scott would only allow access to a specific strain of marijuana called Charlotte’s Web. This strain is high in non-euphoric cannabidiol and low in the high-inducing chemical tetrahydrocannabinol.

The measure defines a “debilitating medical condition” as cancer, multiple sclerosis, glaucoma, hepatitis C, HIV, AIDS, ALS, Crohn’s disease, Parkinson’s disease or other conditions defined a physician’s discretion, according to ballotlanguage.org.

The Florida Department of Health would regulate medical marijuana practices.

SEE MARIJUANA, PAGE 5

SCOTT VS. CRIST: KNOW WHO YOU’RE VOTING FOR
FIUSM STAFF
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In one of the most entertaining, neck-to-neck governor’s races in Florida history, voters will the choice to re-elect the incumbent Republican governor, Rick Scott, or Charlie Crist, the former republican governor who turned democrat.

This year’s race is still too close to call because the candidates may turn out to be the least-liked pair for any governor’s race in the past 10 years, according to recent Quinnipiac University’s polls.

SEE GOVERNOR, PAGE 5

College of Engineering celebrates 30th

With humble beginnings as the School of Technology in 1973, the school eventually became established as the College of Engineering and Applied Sciences. In a previous Student Media interview, Mirmiran said that South Florida did not have an engineering school.

Later in 2005, the School of Computing and Information Sciences joined the CEAS to become what is known now as the College of Engineering and Computing.

The CEAS is also nationally recognized for its one-of-a-kind Wall of Wind, a 12-pano simulator of a category five hurricane. The college is also ranked 42nd by U.S. News & World Report for Online

SEE HOST, PAGE 2

Future not so bright with new changes affecting students

JEFFREY PIERRE
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With the new eligibility requirements for the Florida Bright Futures Scholarship Program, state legislatures and officials are faced with a new problem and unintended consequence: the changes disproportionately limit black and Hispanic students from receiving the award.

An investigation conducted by the U.S. Department of Education’s Office for Civil Rights attempted to address the claim, for the changes.

What we’re doing is we’re talking about need-based aid instead,” said Francisco Valines, the director of Financial Aid. “We understand that the legislature has spoken, and that this is what the Bright Futures Program should be about. But we have a large cohort of needy students whose needs aren’t being met.” A report by the Miami Herald found that nearly half of Hispanic freshmen and two-thirds of black freshmen who would have qualified in past years have lost eligibility.

SEE BRIGHT FUTURES, PAGE 2

THE FIGHT FOR THE FAIRGROUNDS
President Mark B. Rosenberg discusses what is at stake for the University this midterm election.

SEE FAIRGROUNDS, PAGE 5

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A Forum for Free Student Expression at Florida International University

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Jeffrey Pierre
Staff Writer
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College of Engineering celebrates 30th
Brazilian president wins re-election in close election

Brazilian President Dilma Rousseff on Sunday won a second term as the leader of the world’s fourth-largest democracy in the nation’s closest presidential election in more than two decades. Her triumph came despite a sluggish economy, corruption allegations, discontent over the quality of public services and anger over the government’s handling of two major international sporting events last summer’s World Cup and the 2016 Summer Olympics. Still, the victory will put Rousseff’s leftist Workers’ Party in power for 16 consecutive years, an unprecedented stint at the helm of Latin America’s largest economy.

With 98 percent of the voted counted, Rousseff, 66, an economist who became Brazil’s first female president in 2010, had won 51.45 percent.

Scholarship changes affect black and Hispanic students

BRIGHT FUTURES, PAGE 1

years, did not receive an award last year.

According to Valines, the state allocates just under $8 million to the University to be used for need-based aid. This translates into approximately 4,000 students receiving the award. “But there’s another 5,000 students who are eligible for [Florida Student Assistance Grant] who we don’t have any money for,” Valines adds.

The FSAG Program is a need-based grant program available to degree-seeking undergraduate students who demonstrate substantial financial need and are enrolled in participating postsecondary institutions.

FIU has also “joined a partnership” with the University of South Florida and the University of Central Florida, two universities that like FIU, serve large urban areas. The three institutions are working to send one message to the Florida Board of Governors: we have students who especially need financial assistance.

“That’s been our focus — lets talk to the Board of Governors about that and let’s talk to legislatures about need-based aid,” Valines said.

The Florida Board of Governors is a 17-member board that serves as the governing body for the State University System of Florida, a system of twelve public universities in the state.

Scholarships can see the effort these students are putting in.” Engineering and Computing students also look forward to the Nov. 4 ballots. One of the wishes that the University has is to expand the Engineering Center with the acquisition of the fairgrounds.

For some, having to travel between the Modesto A. Maidique Campus and the Engineering Center is an issue.

“Having the engineering campus separate gives the students a type of exclusivity,” said Irvine. “But expanding to main campus would be beneficial because we won’t have to go to the engineering campus.”

Maria Paula Ariza, a junior electrical engineering major, agrees that the expansion would be beneficial.

“There’s a lot of students in each classroom, so if the campus does expand, hopefully there will be more classes,” said Ariza.

CEC celebrates three decades

Program lives on after 25

WRITING, PAGE 8

“I always tell my students that like FIU, serve large urban areas. The three institutions are working to send one message to the Florida Board of Governors: we have students who especially need financial assistance.

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“I always tell my students...
Media epidemic creates fear, not education

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The 2014 Ebola outbreak is the largest recorded epidemic of the disease in history. The exact genesis point of the outbreak is still being researched, but it is well accepted at this point that it originated from the West African region, in the countries of Liberia, Sierra Leone and Guinea.

Due to the elusive nature of the disease during the beginning stages, transmission is fairly subtle. Ebola goes passed by with the bodily fluids of an infected person. This cycle repeats, as is the case in any epidemic. Ebola, however, garnered much more news coverage than originally expected when the disease made its way into the United States and has become very well known across many channels.

As is the case with modern media, once the United States becomes affected by something, it must become global news. The news outlets of America made it a point to scare the general population by exacerbating Ebola, making it seem not as controlled as it actually is.

The Center for Disease Control and Prevention has actually done a fantastic job in containment within the states; the states affected have actually done an even better job at providing overseas help. The problem

News outlets, in my opinion, take advantage of this kind of situation in an effort to increase the viewing numbers.

with containing this disease overseas falls under our inability to adequately protect international borders. It is through this reason that I find the media to hype this story. Ebola, much like H1N1, is affecting the global community at a faster rate than our own country. The United States possesses one of the finest medical facilities in the modern world, so for a disease which we know how to treat to have this much of a psychological effect on the general population is astounding.

One particular point that I find to be the fear in our society over Ebola is just how little information the public is receiving on this disease. All it takes is one person with some form of credibility to incite terror in a target audience. News outlets, in my opinion, take advantage of this kind of situation in an effort to increase the viewing numbers.

Not many people actually care about real humanitarians overseas, but throw a little bug from Africa in there, make it come to the United States and essentially kill someone with it and now we have hysteria. Thomas Duncan, the unexpected martyr of our tale, and thus far the only confirmed death in the Ebola epidemic in the U.S., managed to show us one thing: We are still afraid of what we don’t understand, and the media does little to actually educate the public.

The chances of one actually acquiring and subsequently developing the Ebola virus are incredibly slim. However, the real problem lies in the mortality rate for Ebola, which currently stands at roughly 50 percent, but can vary between 25 to 90 percent.

What the media should begin doing, rather than create fear, is educate. Tell the people the reassuring statistics of the disease that seem to be ignored constantly and how even in Africa there are containment practices already in place to control the outbreak even more. The global community deserves to know that they are safe, more so than knowing they’re at risk.

Send Us Your Letters

Have something on your mind? Send your thoughts (400 words maximum) to opinion@fiusm.com or drop by our offices at either GC 210 or WVC 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.

Every four years, after the hype over presidential elections settle, pundits ask why Americans place so much importance in presidential races—and the belief that presidential policy affects us directly in our daily lives—but consistently neglect local races.

Voter turnout regularly drops during midterm elections. According to a 2010 study by the Pew Research Center, midterm election voter turnout fell to 37 percent following 2008, where 57 percent of registered voters came to the polls—making it the highest presidential voter turnout in years.

For millennials, turnout is especially low in these off-year elections. In 2008, it wasn’t uncommon to see 20- and 30-year-olds take to the streets campaigning for Barack Obama, a young and socially liberal candidate they believed represented their ideals, values and embodied the progressive course the country should take.

That same year, Dwight Bullard, a 31-year-old candidate who supported and emulated the soon-to-be president in many ways, won the 118th District in the House, uncontested, but relying solely on the support and votes of his elders.

Instead of exploring the answer behind why young people don’t see the power local policy makers have, it’s important to understand how those powers affect us everyday.

Midterm elections happen, state by state, every two-years, electing state and federal congressional representatives, governors and local municipal officials. Each state is different as to which specific offices are up for election each midterm cycle—some state officials serve a four-year term, while other states have two-year terms.

Starting in Washington, any proposed federal mandate and law that will be eventually sent to states to implement, must first be voted in by the Congressional representatives elected during off-year elections. Many argue that these legislatures hold the “true” power since collectively, laws live or die in the chambers of Congress. The same can be said regarding state congressional representatives.

The constitutional powers given to the president in the legislative process lies only in being able to approve or veto a bill, not propose. Locally, we feel the effects of county and municipal leaders everyday from the schools we attend, the roads we drive on, the water we drink and to the police who protect us.

Attendance during city council meetings, a place where residents can voice their grievances and demand change, is generally low, extremely low.

Right now, the president and democrats in Washington are rallying behind a movement to federally raise the national minimum wage. This would undoubtedly put money into the pockets of Americans. Some argue that reducing state taxes—property taxes, income taxes, etc.— can have a similar effect to raising the minimum wage, and may even be a fiscally smarter course of action.

The college student unthrift with things like high tuition rates should look no further than to the Florida Board of Governors, a 17-member governing board appointed by the state’s governor who regulates the 12 public universities in the State University System.

Last year, the BOG developed a new funding model for universities based entirely on the institution’s performance—the good schools are rewarded with new funds, while the poorly performing schools could lose money.

This was an obvious problem for the smaller and less established schools in the SUS, but many officials — on both sides of the aisle— question whether the model would survive under a democratic governor, Charlie Crist.

To the students attending the universities who performed poorly, and potentially face the quality education being affected because of budgetary cuts, voting in the November election is the best way to restructure the model.

This year’s midterm elections will determine the future of Florida. The legalization of medical marijuana could be the first step in a path leading up to its decriminalization, and the state can begin taking action and exploring how we will tackle South Florida’s rising waters.

The question for many has always been, “what can I do?” The answer is simple: vote. Moreover, vote where it matters most.
Florida’s gubernatorial election has become the entertaining, neck-to-neck, mud-slinging race political pundits dreamed it was going to be, and it all culminated with a debate that was more notable for a fan than for its political correctness.

Incumbent Republican Governor Rick Scott is fighting off former Democratic Governor Charlie Crist and both have spent millions in negative ads against each other. Crist was governor in 2006 as a Republican and former congressman opting to run for Senate, a race he lost to current Senator, Marco Rubio. Scott won the 2010 election.

This year’s race — on pace to become the nation’s most expensive campaign, already surpassing $50 million, according to The Miami Herald — is still too close to call with both Scott and Crist having held minute leads.

Part of the reason the race is so close is because the candidates may turn out to be the least-liked pair for any governor’s race in the past 10 years. Both have polled more unfavorable than favorable in recent Quinnipiac University’s polls.

In what was predicted to be among the most heated battles happening this fall across the country, it would be no surprise if students were struggling to make a choice between candidates when the general population of the state seems to be just as split.

Student government leaders at Biscayne Bay Campus have been hosting events on campus to raise awareness about the elections and the importance of voting.

"Students need to know that their vote counts and their voices deserve to be heard," said Canille Williams, senior journalism major and vice president of Student Government Council at BCC.

But there is more to this race than sound policies — this is also about who can rekindle the flame in voters’ hearts.

"This is part of the reason why we have our ‘Know Your Vote’ campaign," said Williams. "We want to encourage students to become knowledgeable and aware of the ballot language and people that may be governing our generation.”

The debates touched on the three most important topics to Florida residents: education, language and people that may be governing our state, and their voices deserve to be heard,” said Calatayud. “It doesn’t just impact our lives in more direct ways than a race for the Congresswoman or even a president will, because these people decide the things we feel.”

For K-12 education, Scott supports high-stakes testing and Crist wants to reduce.

Scott raised the budget for education passing the Florida Families First Budget which increased the spending for all education in the state, including performance based funding for state universities. This funding is based on a university’s success in helping students graduate on time and obtain high paying jobs affordably.

The budget also increases funding for Early Education, K-12, financial aid, and Public Education Capital Outlay maintenance funding. But even with the raise in the budget, Crist still holds the record for under-student funding.

Originally a Republican, Crist left the party and became an Independent in route to his second unsuccessful attempt for U.S. Senate. He would eventually join the Democratic party, endorsing President Obama in his 2012 re-election. Consequently, he has flipped on a few topics including Obamacare, the economic stimulus and abortion.

Other important topics include: Same-sex marriage, Scott against and Crist for; Crist supporting corporations be in control of their medical coverage — including denying women birth control, as well as supporting mandatory ultrasounds and restrictions on abortion; while Crist supports the decision be made by a woman and her doctor, not her employer. Medicinal marijuana, Scott against and Crist for; and, minimum wage increase to $10.10, Scott against and Crist for.

Scott won his previous election by only by around 68,000 votes, or 1.29 percent, meaning students have the opportunity to make an impact.

"This election is really important because, for some of us, it’s the first time we’re ever voting," said Alexis Calatayud, president of the student government council at the Modesto A. Maidique Campus. “State government affects our lives in more direct ways than a race for congressman or even a president will, because these people decide the things we feel.”

To help students do their research on the candidates, student government council has held events throughout the semester to inform students. Coming up, the council at BCC will be hosting their ‘Know Your Vote’ campaign including an event this Wednesday, Oct. 29.

"If you want a say in what happens in our day-to-day life, voting in this election is really important," said Calatayud. “It doesn’t just affect us today; these people will shape what South Florida looks like when we’re trying to find a job.”

The University’s growth and future in the hands of voters

Rebecca Piccardo
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There’s a lot on the line for the University with this election. Voting yes on the ballot means it gets to move in to 64 of the 86 adjacent acres land to continue expanding programs, classroom space, housing and parking.

Voting no, however, means President Mark B. Rosenberg will have to limit access and slow enrollment.

Currently, FIU has the second highest enrollment and the smallest campus. With over 54,000 students, the University has many spaces issues for the upcoming fall semester.

So, one of our goals is for the University to acquire the acres of land it will need to fulfill the University’s growth and future needs.

The Miami-Dade County Fair and Exposition will help raise awareness around campus and register students for the Reform of Marijuana Laws initiative that is up for vote on the November ballot.

Christopher Fleitas, a third-year FIU law student and executive director of the National Organization for the Reform of Marijuana Laws thinks the engagement of students will make all the difference.

“It’s always important for people to be aware of what’s going on because they’re in a position where they can make a positive impact,” Fleitas said.

“Each vote counts and you can pretty much carry out your destiny by going to the polling place.”

Fleitas has first-hand experience with medicinal marijuana patients and saw the negative effects that prohibition raised. According to him, the only option available to patients are killing them.

“There are a whole bunch of different illnesses right now — like AIDS, cancer, multiple sclerosis and Lou Gehrig’s disease,” he said. “All they get is opiates and they don’t have the opportunity to choose something less harmful because of the legislative landscape of the state.”

Amendment 2, the Florida Right to Medicinal Marijuana Initiative, would guarantee that medicinal use of marijuana by qualifying patient or caregiver and the smallest.
HANGING IN THE BALANCE

University’s growth and future in the hands of voters

The Miami-Dade County Fair and Exposition would become part of the University, should Resolution 7 win.

The United for Care bus tour came to the University on Oct. 9 for an open format town hall discussion and rally about medical marijuana and the fairness of the ballot.

Ana Tomas, junior hospitality and management major, is one of them. "The amendment doesn’t really give specifics so we can’t let this bill pass because we don’t know what the regulations will be," she said. One of Tomas’ fears is that the regulations will allow children and teens to legally purchase marijuana without the parents’ consent, as the amendment does not specify age. "The amendment also has a drug dealer loophole because these so-called caregivers, the people who are assigned to get the drug for the ‘debilitating’ patient, don’t need any medical training," she said. Emilio Morra, senior information technology major, is also opposed to the bill. He believes that the drug alters your state of being and, like Tomas, thinks that the amendment has too many loopholes. "The reality is that the amendment doesn’t require a doctor’s prescription to get the pot," he said. Morra also thinks the bill is too broad and that doctors would prescribe the drug for any condition. "Anyone who wants pot will get it because there’s absolutely no way to moderate it," he said. "It will be chaotic and people who really need it could abuse it and give it to those who don’t." The bill will appear on the Nov. 4 ballot as an initiated constitutional amendment. If the bill passes, the Florida Department of Health would be responsible for regulating it.

OK medical marijuana, others worry about loopholes

If voting yes:

1) Medical use of marijuana by a qualifying patient or personal caregiver is not subject to criminal or civil liability or sanctions under state law.

2) A licensed physician is not subject to criminal or civil liability or sanctions for issuing medical marijuana to a person diagnosed with a "debilitating medical condition" under state law.

3) Registered medical marijuana treatment centers are not subject to any government agency or authority to reimburse any person for expenses related to the medical use of marijuana.

Six limitations on the constitutional amendment:

1) The amendment does not "affect laws relating to non-medical use, possession, production or sale of marijuana."

2) The amendment does not authorize "the use of medical marijuana by anyone other than a qualifying patient."

3) The amendment does not allow for the "operation of a motor vehicle, boat, or aircraft while under the influence of marijuana."

4) The amendment does not require accommodations for medical marijuana use "in any place of education or employment, or of smoking medical marijuana in any public place."

5) The amendment does not require "any health insurance provider or any government agency or authority to reimburse any person for expenses related to the medical use of marijuana."

6) The amendment does not require "the violation of federal law or purports to give immunity under federal law."

The agreement with the County sets March 2015 as the deadline for the County and the University to present an alternative site for the Fair.

Once they can pinpoint the site, the University will have a better estimate of the costs they are responsible for. "The DNA of this University is not to settle. The DNA of this University is to push when people say no," Rosenberg said. "We want to know, ‘why not?’"
Track and Field getting into the swing of things

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For the throwers on the track and field team this season, the expectations are record-breaking.

Head Coach Ryan Heberling sets the bar high for his team. To encourage success, he gives each freshman a certain distance to surpass in his or her first year of track and field. These distances just so happen to be the school records in these categories. “The reason for setting high expectations is that we get better athletes, they push those marks further and further, and what used to be the best here is now normal,” Heberling said.

Throws and the type of athletes that participate in them are different from the other events in track and field. For example, sprinters can refine their speed, but most of them possess speed when they come in.

Hurling a javelin or tossing a hammer properly takes a combination of mostly strength and technique, both of which can be improved through the course of a college career.

Graduate student Chandra Fulwood is a prime example of this transition. She was a cheerleader who had never considered track and field until two years ago.

Fulwood had the typical thrower build though, so she was recruited and trained to the women’s team. Soon she found herself competing in shot put, javelin, discus and hammer throws.

“She is, a year and a half into her training, and she is really coming along nicely,” Heberling said.

Even as a head coach now, Heberling still works closely with the team. He coached the throwers for five years until he was given the opportunity to coach the collective team this season.

When Heberling was a student of the University, he started throwing the hammer and the javelin in his freshman year. His experience as both a thrower and a student of the University have been imperative in coaching up his men and women.

The women have a mix of experienced and freshmen throwers.

Junior Tiffani Hernandez is the women’s top athlete in the javelin throw. She won first place in the javelin at the 3rd Annual South Florida Multi-Cultural Games last season.

Some multi event athletes also excel in throws. Freshman Bejaja Fray is a multi athlete who excels at shot put and the javelin. She was an all-state athlete in the shot put in high school.

The men also feature some experience in throws. Senior Luka Mustafic and sophomore Sean Pratt of the men’s side will also look to beat their previous best distances. Pratt scored a 40.56-meter hammer throw at the Multi-Cultural Games last season - good for second place in the competition.

The men and women throwers are primed for a strong year. They have an experienced coach, a group of experienced veterans and an influx of talented youth. They will continue to prepare for indoor season until they hit the track in November.
Senior class takes the spotlight against Marshall for final home game

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On the eve of the last home game, seniors will take the time to bask in their achievements, as they deserve the spotlight. It’s Senior Night on Thursday, Oct. 30 versus Marshall University.

Five seniors will be celebrated: redshirt senior forward Chelsea Leiva, senior forward Ashleigh Shim, senior midfielder Johanna Volz and senior defenders Marie Egan and Caroline Hernandez.

At the time of press, the Panthers’ Leiva and Shim have combined for 41 career goals. Leiva is fifth all-time for goals scored here at the University with 33 (would need four more to tie for fourth). Shim is tenth overall all-time with 17 goals. These have been two top ten athletes that have proven their worth throughout the season, drawing attention from plenty of defenders each game.

Volz has been an orchestrator of the midfield during her four year tenure. Volz has started 69 of her 78 games played, gathering 13 goals and amassing 3,203 minutes on the field. This season, she is shooting a crisp 56 percent on-goal.

Stout defenders Egan and Hernandez have left their mark in Miami. Egan, a Colorado native, found her place defending the back line of the Panthers. In 58 games played, she has started all but two. On more than one occasion, she’s found herself in position to save potential goals, halt opposing teams’ breaks towards goal and mix a bit of aggressive, but smart, tackling.

Hernandez, hailing from Marietta, Georgia, is known as the enforcer of the team. Recruited as a forward, she’s been switched to defender, thanks to her strong leg and no-nonsense attitude. She scored her first career goal against the University of Texas at San Antonio Friday, Oct. 24. Teammates feed off of her energy and marvel at the ability she has to not get beat late into games.

The seniors will need to be at full strength come Thursday, Oct. 30, against a sixth-place Marshall team. The Thundering Herd will be fighting to keep their playoff spot in tact after dropping a 2-1 result versus Louisiana Tech University on Sunday, Oct. 26.

The Panthers have only seen the Herd once with a 1-0 loss as the result. This season is one for upsets, though, as Head Coach Thomas Chestnutt has proven to tweak his formation to best suit the game at hand.

Freshman midfielder Paula Quintero has seen starts in two straight games versus North Texas University and Rice University, both very tough teams. A late-season blossom is sure to form within the core group of youngsters this Panthers team has, due to the improved play of freshmen midfielder Courtney Phillips and goalkeeper Nevena Stojakovic. A player that has subbed in for defense regularly throughout this last leg of the regular season is freshman defender Gabriella Bovo.

Marshall is a respectable 4-3-1 when playing away. The Panthers are a perfect 5-5 at home, looking to finish the season one game above .500 compared to last season’s 3-6 record. The Culicerto sisters, Kristine and Kelly, are the duo for Marshall with 16 goals combined that will try to rival the Panthers’ Leiva and Shim (10 goals).

After a split weekend (win against UTSA and loss against UTEP), the Panthers must now win both of their last two games, or tie/win. A loss would make matters difficult as they now sit at 10th overall in Conference-USA (top eight teams advance to the C-USA Tournament). The two teams above the Panthers are Old Dominion University and Charlotte University. An advantage Chestnutt and his team have, though, are two games remaining on their schedule versus only one for both ODU and Charlotte.

The “iron-core” of the Panthers’ defense has to stop both sisters for a full 90 minutes. When one sister scores, the Thundering Herd have won more than five games on the year, a formula for their success.

The Panthers (8-8-1, 3-4-1) face the Herd (7-6-4, 4-3-2) Thursday, Oct. 30, at 7 p.m. here in Miami.

Don't wait until the last minute!  
Check out our Pre-Black Friday prices,  
Thursday, October 30th at  
FIU Panther TECH

Authorized Campus Store  
panthertech.fiu.edu • GC 165  
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Teachers’ pets are directly responsible for miseducation

Are you a teacher’s pet? Everyone has either been a favorite in a classroom or has dealt with one. I have been on both sides and it has its pros and cons.

College students think favoritism can benefit them and it seems to be what many college students strive for. It doesn’t matter what you study, being the favorite can be convenient. Students, rather than gaining knowledge in college, becoming a productive member of society and learning for the sake of not being ignorant, prefer to be lazy.

Competitiveness gets lost and the favorites don’t push themselves anymore. This creates an environment that decreases the quality of their college education.

Being the favorite in college is beneficial for those who don’t want to work much for their grade. However, in the long run, it will have a negative effect if they always rely on being “the favorite.”

I have found myself in that position, but morally it didn’t feel right because I was raised with values that contradicted that. It also didn’t feel good after I noticed that my classmates became gradually more distant and upset at me throughout the semester.

Is this the student’s fault? Yes and no. The professor makes the choice of having a favorite, even though teachers should be objective and neutral toward their students. Each student should be able to have the same opportunities. It is unfair if a professor shows favoritism toward one student more than toward the rest of the class.

When I noticed I was my teacher’s favorite, it didn’t take long to realize that my peers were very upset about how much freedom I had as far as turning in assignments.

Once, at the very beginning of my college studies, I became one of my teacher’s favorite students. It felt weird, but empowering, as if I were better than the others because the teacher preferred me. I had more opportunities to turn in assignments late, when others immediately got an F. I worked hard in that class, but not half as much as the rest of my classmates.

I missed my chance to better my public speaking skills. I also didn’t appreciate having deadlines, stressing over homework and exams would have made me more competitive – which is always a potential employers look for. Favoritism made me lazy in that class and it made me feel as if I was wasting my parent’s hard-earned money. My parents taught me better, so I changed.

After behaving like the “queen of the world” in that class, I decided to focus on my future courses and take advantage of this great opportunity to study, educate myself and gain valuable skills.

I cared a lot about my educational experience in college. Now that I’m attending the Biscayne Bay Campus, things have changed and I have not experienced favoritism anymore – I’m thankful for that.

College isn’t easy and life doesn’t get easier the older I get. But the journey I experience on my way to graduation is worth every deadline I have to meet.

To stress over homework, projects, midterms and finals may not sound fun to most college students, but things aren’t precious or even important to us if we don’t have to work for them. That is why college and the daily struggles teach us many valuable lessons for our future lives.

Studying at FIU has taught me to have a clear and realistic goal for each course. Professors have mostly been treating me just like the rest of the class. Having to prove myself in every class is a great practice for me to be able to succeed after college life, which is great as I am planning to graduate next year.

Creative writing lives on, hits 25

Creative writing turns 25 at the 50-year-old University this year. Come November, the University will host a celebration event at the Coral Gables Congregational Church for the 25th anniversary of the Master’s of Fine Arts in Creative Writing program.

“I can’t believe it’s been 25 years,” said Richard Blanco, a University alumni. “I’ve maintained contact with the people in the program and kept lifelong friends and connections.”

Blanco will be the guest speaker at the event on Saturday, Nov. 1 at 8 p.m. Beginning in his mid-20s, Blanco always wanted to do something creative and continued to achieve his goals in writing.

“I wrote a lot in my engineering office, actually,” Blanco said. “It is amazing to have been a part of a program that makes language come alive in such a beautiful way.”

He will read from his work, “The Prince of Los Cucuyos: A Miami Childhood,” as well as conduct a book signing. This memoir explores his coming-of-age as the child of Cuban immigrants as he attempted to figure out his place in America as well as his experiences throughout his childhood and adolescence.

“I will be sharing my latest book and talking about how important this program has been in my life and has supported me since graduate school,” he said.

Les Standiford, program founder and director, is amazed by the success the University’s Creative Writing program has had over the years.

“I could never have predicted the kind of success we have had,” Stan- diford said. “With about 100 books published to date by our alumni.”

Of all the alumni, Standiford picked Blanco because of his recent honor as an inaugural poet. Blanco became the first Latino inaugural poet in 2013, marking the fifth person to ever read at a president of the United States’ inauguration.

“As director of the Creative Writing program, I thought it would be perfect to have our alumnus Richard Blanco, the most recent inaugural poet, come back to Miami as keynote speaker for our celebration,” Standiford said.

Writers on the Bay, the creative writing team involved with conducting this event, consists of Graduate Student Coordinator Dawn Tryrell, a group of ten graduate students and the English Department Administrative Coordinators Terese Campbell and Marta Lee.

See Writing, Page 2