The complex was designed, according to Williams, to add value to student education while still providing a home element.

The current 12-month lease term runs from August 21 to July 31, 2015, with rental rates ranging from $785 for a four bedroom and four bathroom apartment to $980 for a two bedroom and two bathroom apartment.

With a monthly $30 cap per person, all amenities include water, sewer, trash, utilities, digital cable, and high-speed internet.

The apartments are also fully furnished including a 42-inch flat screen TV, full-sized Tempur-Pedic mattresses, washer and dryer and a stainless steel kitchen.

Pets are not allowed.

Students have the option to join the roommate matching service that bring together residents according to lifestyle preferences.

Each person must pay their own lease so that if one person decides to leave, the others can continue to live in the same bedroom apartment.

The tower will have community assistants that act like University resident assistants.

Dasia Spriggs, a sophomore biology major, said she is happy with her decision to live in the complex, since she had a positive experience living in another EdR building out-of-state.

“I have experience with EdR elsewhere at the University of Cincinnati in University Park Apartments,” she said. “The staff is just superb.”

However, living at the tower comes out a bit pricier than living in one of the on-campus residences.

Parkview Hall’s rate, for example, is $3,900 per semester for a fully furnished four bedroom apartment with two shared bathrooms.

For some students, the decision to move in across the street was mostly due to the lack of residential space on-campus.

“There was no on-campus housing,” said Spriggs, who limited her options.

According to the University’s 2010-2020 Campus Master Plan’s draft, a major issue is overcrowding at the Modesto Maidique Campus— which is why the University is interested in off-campus developments, he said, to provide housing for incoming students.

In a previous interview with student media, Jim Wassenaar, director of Facilities Planning and Operations, said that off-campus buildings built by private developers will continue to increase.

“We’ve been supportive of private partnerships because we believe the Swettwater community should embrace the University as a full partner,” Wassenaar said.

Another issue for the tower’s residents is parking limitations.

There are only 20-25

SEE TOWER, PAGE 2

The University claims that the beat report, David Neal, who had covered FIU football for about three years, had been interviewing its athletes without consulting media relations, Gonzalez-Levy said.

The Miami Herald reported that their Managing Editor Rick Hirsch sent an email to FIU’s Athletic Director Pete Garcia, asking for evidence of unprofessional treatment.

Garcia did not respond.

After the ban on Neal, the newspaper decided to call out the University for their decision in an article and did not cover the University football season opening game.

“Tennis is unfortunate because the game and our student athletes, they really left their heart out there on the field on Saturday,” said Gonzalez-Levy.

Thus, the game was not covered properly, she said.

According a letter to the editor Gonzalez-Levy wrote to the Miami Herald, the University had brought up concerns about Neal’s “antagonistic interactions” with athletes, coaches and staff.

Gonzalez-Levy said disrespectful coverage of athletes had happened numerous times, and that Neal had an attitude.

Although he was not credentialed, the reporter was allowed access the FIU Stadium as a member of the public, she said.

Later that Tuesday, after the meeting ended, the Miami Herald reported that the University had decided to credential Neal for the remainder of the season.

“The fact is, we never want to go against the ink,” Gonzalez-Levy said. “Who wants to lose the reporters?”

The University, according to the paper, did not feel that Neal was sending a message of encouragement to all its students.

“I have experience in getting the University to retrain for its contributions to the community, according to a Sept. 2 memorandum from University President Mark Rosenberg.

“FIU, as a minority-majority university, has an even more important responsibility in that the nation is going to be looking at us to see what we’re doing to get minorities interested in successfully completing STEM careers,” Becerra-Fernandez said.

Now she is saying goodbye to FIU to continue being as an academic leader at the new Provost and Chief Academic Officer at St. Thomas University, starting Oct. 1.

As a female engineer, Becerra-Fernandez has frequently given talks about women in STEM fields – particularly in computer science. In recent years, she has observed that the percentage of women in computer science and information technology has decreased.

“This is a really alarming issue because we have observed that whenever you have diversity in a field, the field is strengthened,” she said.

As prior Vice Provost of Academic Affairs, Becerra-Fernandez was involved in initiatives to help students succeed in STEM fields. She led a task force that looked at how to improve the success rate of students taking college algebra.

“We observed that the passing rate was about 30 percent, so two of every three students would fail the class,” she said.

According to Becerra, the findings of the task force were to make an initiative to teach college algebra using a new pedagogical intervention, which involved the math lab – where students go every week and do an online component of

SEE STEM, PAGE 2
Tower offers modern living with uncomfortable parking

TOWER, PAGE 1

parking spots available in the building due to the grounds that were available for construction.

This leaves students parking at PG-S and crossing the street back and forth, at least until the pedestrian bridge is built.

“I assure you that the planned signature FIU pedestrian bridge across SW 8th St. connecting FIU with the City of Sweetwater is on track,” said Vice President of Governmental Relations Steve Sauls.

In the meantime, the CATS shuttle stops in front of the tower 33 times a day, and the Sweetwater trolley is also available for residents.

Of the 542 rooms in 109 Tower, Williams said that they are 99 percent full.

 Owning 67 collegiate buildings across the country, according to the Daily Business Review, EdR paid $43.5 million for the site.

Other Florida schools that have nearby EdR residences include the University of South Florida, University of Florida, University of Central Florida, Florida State University and Florida Agricultural and Mechanical University.

EdR now joins the list, and is the only institution in South Florida that currently offers off-campus living for their students and faculty, Williams said.

STEM role model to leave FIU

STEM, PAGE 1

the class.

After the task force, Becerra and her team noted that the intervention was a success — with an increased passing rate of over 50 percent.

“Teresa has been a leader, a friend and a mentor to many at FIU,” said Rosenberg in the memorandum. “I am grateful to her for the role she has played in ensuring FIU’s place among the nation’s leading community engaged universities.”

Liana Apolos, a senior biology major, said that female mentors have helped her reach her potential in some fields where women tend to be a minority – science, technology, engineering and mathematics.

“It is very inspiring and humbling to see women who are able to fight against the odds to get where they are today and succeed in their careers,” said Apolos. “But it is true that there are very few.”

As Vice President for Engagement, Becerra-Fernandez’s role is to serve as a portal for the community and to put partnerships together.

Among the list of partnerships, Becerra-Fernandez helped create programs to improve academics and rankings at that Miami Northwestern Senior High School, which traditionally had been ranked as a D and F school. Now, with the education initiative, the school earned its first A-ranking last December.

Due to the success in Miami Northwestern, Becerra and her team started the Education Effect initiative in another high school – Booker T. Washington – with a focus on Astronomy and Engineering.

“Each of these Education Effect partnerships have a STEM- personalized focus capitalizing on the assets that the school already has: Agroecology at Miami Northwestern and Astronomy and Engineering at Booker T. Washington,” Becerra said.

She believes that there is a greater need to prepare students for the careers of the future — careers that incorporate science and technology — and that these partnerships are essential to getting more students interested in STEM careers, especially from a younger age.

“Toward to send a message of encouragement to all our students,” she said. “Everybody can do it — you can be successful.”

An earlier version of this article was published on fiusm.com.

University experts highlight crisis of undocumented children

BRYAN PALACIO
Asst. News Director
bryan.palacio@fiusm.com

A little 8-year-old boy stands in a courtroom, alone and in a foreign land.

Juan Carlos Gomez, director of the Immigration and Human Rights Clinic, stands by the boy’s side, representing him as one of the many undocumented children seeking asylum in Miami.

Gomez spoke about first-hand experiences dealing with these children at a University colloquium on Sept. 2 at Modesto Maidique Campus on the topic of the humanitarian crisis at hand with thousands of Central American children at the United States border.

Many of these kids are sent with paid smugglers — known as Coyotes — and face numerous difficult situations.

Violence, drug abuse and rape are just some of the extreme experiences these children encounter on their way to the United States — then they still have to go through the legal system.

Gomez said it is not realistic for these children to understand the law or apply to the Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals program, especially if they are from a different country with another language.

“Toward to see them running through the halls of the immigration building,” said Gomez. “They don’t understand the severity of the situation.”

Once they get through the grueling process of making it to the U.S. and gaining asylum, they still face the daunting task of making a living here, probably without an education.

“Sadly, most of these kids are not given a chance to understand education,” said Gomez.

“In the U.S. there is no right to an education, there is only an equal access right.”

At the University, these undocumented students can apply to the Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals program, and the Florida Legislature recently granted undocumented students in-state nation, giving them especially from a different country a better to be able to afford college.

“If we fail to treat these children the way we would treat our own children to the U.S. He not only has lost the accounts of aship, tragedy, and sacrifice in search of a better life, he’s witnessed them, too.”

With both Democrats and Republicans being gridlocked on immigration reform, there isn’t a lot of optimism on solving the issue.

“The changes in the law do not fit the parts of the law that don’t make sense,” Gomez said.
Give mental illnesses the consideration they deserve

GISELLE BERMAN
Staff Writer
gisselle.berman@fiusm.com

Unfortunately, this seems like old news, but here’s something I’ve been thinking about a lot lately: the death of Robin Williams. I’m not going to take this through the typical “He was a part of my childhood” route as much as stress the importance of recognizing mental illness.

I’m tired of the negative way the media portrays mental illness. I’m tired of the audiences that eat it up. It’s not helping anyone.

“You know what I’m talking about—we’ve seen it in “Shutter Island,” Alfred Hitchcock’s “Psycho,” The Perks of Being a Wallflower,” “Wilfred” and the UK Channel 4’s “Skins,” to name a few. Even “Girl, Interrupted” is taken as a glorification, although it is based on a true story. “A Beautiful Mind” would be great if the character’s schizophrenia wasn’t used as a personality trait.

There is one film in particular, based on an autobiography, that I would recommend to those who want to understand what it’s like to live with a mental illness, namely clinical depression. ‘Precaution Nation,’ starring Christina Ricci, closely follows the tantrums, suicidal ideation, self-harm, substance abuse, anxiety and fear that riddle the life of a sufferer.

This isn’t some glorified riddle the life of a sufferer.

It’s time we stop ignoring mental illnesses and put them on par with physical ones.

LETTER TO THE EDITOR: NUTRITION STORE

This editorial is in response to your June 25 article, “FIU to open nutrition store in new parking garage.” Since there is a nationally accredited and highly science-based Dietetics and Nutrition program on campus administered by the Department of Dietetics and Nutrition, we would have liked to have been consulted before EXN Nutrition or any such supplement establishment was allowed to open a store on our campus.

You begin the article addressing the normal, average person who wants to stay in shape by exercising. This is the last person who needs supplements because, by extension of a fitness-leaning lifestyle, he/she most often watches what he/she eats.

Current research is showing a move away from popping pills and concentrating on food with a well-balanced diet and moderation in all aspects of eating. Single (or worse: multiple) supplements— not about how healthy you end anyone teaching one-on-one nutrition therapy or counseling for specific health-related issues is in violation and will be prosecuted.

Any buyer of any product should note that supplement stores have a self-serving interest in selling their products—not about how healthy you end up.

It takes a thorough nutrition history and analysis by a registered dietitian to know what nutrients are low or too high in an individual and how nutritionists can counsel the client on it.

We believe that the University is “selling fish” in allowing this for-profit supplement company to open its doors on campus.

Joaan A. Marn, MS, RDN, LDN
Director
Dietetic Program in Dietetics

and

Tania Rivera, MS, RD, LDN
Director
Coordinated Program in Dietetics

CONTRIBUTING WRITER
KRISCHA CONLY
The Beacon Editorial Board. These views are separate from the editor in chief, management, and the editors of each of the five sections. The Beacon welcomes any letters regarding or in response to its editorials. Send them to opinion@fiusm.com.

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EDITORIALS

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The ALS Ice Bucket Challenge is stupid

KRISSHA CONLY
Contributing Writer
opinion@fiusm.com

Now, before you get all in an uproar, there’s a difference between being against the ice bucket challenge and being against the awareness of a foundation. I’m all for bringing awareness and actually donating to a cause, but I’m against the whole action of throwing buckets of ice water over your head to just do it.

I remember back in early May when this Ice Bucket Challenge started a little buzz amongst friends. The idea was to get the people you nominate to donate $100 to a specific cause. If they accepted your challenge they then only had to donate $10, but also dump a bucket of ice water over their heads. If they did not accept your challenge, then they had to donate the full $100 to that fundraiser.

The challenge had to be done within 24 hours after being nominated. The ice challenge buzz didn’t last too long.

Earlier this August, Oprah Winfrey was challenged by Tyler Perry to do the Ice Bucket Challenge and after that in the world of stardom the ice bucket challenge for ALS took off! Celebrities that did or didn’t accept challenges still donated to the ALS Foundation. But, as usual, once all these celebrities started doing this, everyone watching started doing it.

They forgot the whole point behind it—which was to donate to a foundation. My Facebook was filled with friends nominating other friends just to get them wet. A lot of people were doing it just to gain popularity.

I rarely hear people say, “If you don’t accept this challenge, you have to donate! You’ve got 24 hours.” Every once in a blue moon, someone that’s very community-oriented mentioned something about donating to a foundation.

Another problem I had with the Ice Bucket Challenge was that we all know of the issues going on in Ferguson and Gaza. There are thousands of other foundations that need donations.

I think most of the celebrities would have brought awareness to other foundations or to current national and world wide issues by doing the Ice Bucket Challenge.

Celebrities know that they are looked at in the public eye constantly and we look to them to figure out what’s “in” or what’s next. I hope these celebrities can take the world by storm with another challenge and bring awareness to several foundations and current issues.

So please do not nominate me. I’m not going to do it. I rather donate to whoever I please and dump a bucket of ice over my head whenever I please. Thank you.

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Have something on your mind? Send your thoughts (400 words maximum) to opinion@fiusm.com. Include your name and major in your submission. If you need your letter to be signature, 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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GOOD TIMES AHEAD
The Electronic Dance Music duo kicks off tour at Grand Central

VINCENT RIVES
Staff Writer
vincent.rives@fiusm.com

The Miami native disk jockey duo Good Times Ahead kicked off the start of their Good Times Ahead Tour at Grand Central on Sunday, Aug. 31.

It was your standard electronic dance music/rave night in the city—neon strobe lights, "Kandi" masks, dance floor poppin’ and that one dude who pre-gamed a little too hard passed out in the corner.

Yet, GTA lived up to their mantra of “Death to Genres” and mixed bass heavy trap and hip-hop, with Moombahton, Electro house, and even some 90’s rhythm and blues. The duo doesn’t believe in being classified in a single “genre” but rather focuses on good music.

GTA’s members, JWLS aka Julio Mejia and Matt Toth were introduced to each other virtually, through a mutual friend on Facebook back in 2008. Since then, they’ve released festival anthems like “Booty Bounce” and “Turn It Up” through some of the biggest labels in electronic dance music: A-Trak’s Fool’s Gold, Calvin Harris’ Fly Eye Records, Diplo’s Mad Decent, Laidback Luke’s Mixmash Records and Tiesto’s Musical Freedom.

The local DJs toured extensively over the past few years. GTA has no plans of slowing down. After opening 87 shows on Rihanna’s Diamonds World Tour and playing at Philadelphia’s Made In America Festival; California’s The Coachella Valley Music and Arts Annual Festival; Electric Daisy Carnival in Las Vegas; and our very own Ultra Music Festival, the duo can expect “good times ahead.”

Panthers to celebrate National Hispanic Heritage Month with Noche Latina on-campus

GISELLE CANCIO
Staff Writer
giselle.cancio@fiusm.com

National Hispanic Heritage Month is celebrated Sept. 15 to Oct. 15 and the Student Programming Council has already begun to put together their trademark event: Noche Latina.

“It’s the most anticipated event for me because it’s a great way to incorporate so many different students at FIU,” Matt Atkins, junior majoring in Psychology and director of SPC, said. “It usually turns into a big party with lots of food, dancing and other fun activities.”

The Student Programming Council is an organization funded by the Student Government Association. They host different events throughout the semester, including Movie Fridays, holiday-themed pit events, general pit events, concerts, comedy shows and lectures. Events are always free and involve multiple giveaways.

Noche Latina will take place 6 p.m., Wednesday, Sept. 24 in the Graham Center Ballrooms. The ballrooms will be set up as stations, each representing a different country.

“It will be similar to Disney’s EPCOT, and students will be able to do an activity at each country,” Atkins said. “The activity will include anything from tasting food from the culture, a dance to learn or a novelty giveaway.”

SPC hopes to improve this event from years past by making it a more interactive experience stations, each representing a different country.

SEE NIGHT, PAGE 5

Above are Florida International University students celebrating diversity during last year’s Noche Latina celebration.
REBEKAH KEIDA
Contributing Writer
life@fiusm.com

Summer—although known for vacations, summertime doesn’t mean that everyone is on holiday. This is especially true for the music scene.

Albums are being cranked out daily—it’s nearly impossible to keep up. Thankfully, we kept an eye out for some of the most-hear album releases of summer 2014. Disco, dance, denim and delightful, there’s something for everyone.

“LP1” by FKA Twigs

Erupting from relative obscurity in 2012, Tallah Debrett Barnett—better known as “FKA Twigs”—is a London based singer-songwriter. Originally a dancer, FKA Twigs self-released her first album on bandcamp and buzz quickly generated around her YouTube music video channel. Her first real studio album, titled “LP1” and released on the Young Turks record label on Aug. 6, was spotlighted by fellow musician Ellie Goulding on her British Broadcasting Corporation radio show.

FKA Twigs has the swag of M.I.A., but the slow dreamlike melodies of The Weeknd. Her sexy vocals and explosive mix of trip hop and dream pop beats will keep you coming back for more. Listening to the single “Two Weeks” will make you wonder about the one you love.

“The Golden Echo” by Kimbra

Best known as the vocalist from Gotye’s grammy winning song “Somebody That I Used To Know,” New Zealand born Kimbra Lee Johnson, 24, is unadulterated—in a good way. Besides Gotye, Johnson has collaborated with indie rock singer Mark Foster of the band Foster the People and disc jockey A-Trak. She lists modern progressive metal bands as a source of inspiration.

Released this August, her new album, “The Golden Echo,” is electric, jazzy and soulful. If you are looking to rock out with your convertible top down, the single to check out is “90s music;” with its interesting synthesizer sounds, youth inspired lyrics and infectious beat, it is definitely a great summer anthem.

Kimbra is one to watch.

“Lost in the Dream” by The War on Drugs

Frontman Adam Granduciel, of the indie rock band The War on Drugs, is one of those musicians who does it all: vocals, guitar, piano, bass guitar, harmonics, keyboard and synthesizer.

All of this is present on the band’s third album, “Lost in the Dream,” released on the label Secretly Canadian this past March. The album is heavily influenced by Granduciel’s post-tour loneliness and musings. The psychedelic guitar delay and western harmonica are reminiscent of a lonely cowboy sitting in a saloon.

Turn on “Lost in the Dream” while looking out the window during a summer road trip.

“Pilátə” by Freddie Gibbs and Madlib

Looking for some fresh lyrics peppered atop eclectic beats? Look no further than Madlib Invazion’s “Pilátə.” This album is a collaborative effort between Indiana based rapper Freddie Gibbs and the California king of beats, Madlib.

Three years in the making, this album is more than music. It’s a story. Polar opposites both physically and mentally, Madlib and Freddie Gibbs recorded this album separately. It is the result of two very different and independent individuals trusting the talent of one another.

Madlib spent hours upon hours of beats to Gibbs, and Gibbs had the freedom to choose what sounds spoke to him. When inspired, he would write and rap lyrics on top of them. During that time, Gibbs drew away from drugs and street life. This album captures that transformation with sophisticated beats and heartfelt lyrics.

Turn on “Pilátə” for a tune so catchy that you can’t help but hit replay.

“Nikki Nack” by tUnE-yArDs

The U.K.’s Merrill Garbus is the female version of Darwin Deez mixed with the theatrics of Empire of the Sun. Her vocals are raspy, but her delivery is captivating and unique.

Bright colors and Jean-Michel Basquiat- at-style symbols make tUnE-yArDs seem 80’s, but the second album “Nikki Nack” by the electro-world-pop group is anything but dated. The single “Water Fountain” is party music with a message.

Garbus loves deviating from the norm and made a point to do so by immersing herself in “non-western musical tradition” in Haiti during her creative process.

Both uplifting and entertaining, tUnE-yArDs makes music that you can’t quite put your finger on, but you can’t help but move your body and mind to.

SUMMERTIME ALBUMS OF 2014 TO NOTE

Noche Latina

to come for FIU students

and representing all Hispanic countries, instead of the most publicized ones. Each country’s activity will relate to what the country is known for, in order to give the event an educational aspect.

“The purpose of Noche Latina is to educate students about Hispanic Heritage month,” Atkins said. “This is one of our signature events of the Hispanic Heritage Series, and of course it also serves to give the students a fun outlet during a stressful semester.”

SPC’s Hispanic Heritage Series outside of Noche Latina includes a Graham Center Pit event on Sept. 23, a movie on Sept. 26 and a comedy show on Oct. 1.

“I can’t wait to attend the events SPC puts on this year,” Stephanie Castellano, sophomore biology major, said. “They always allow the students to create items—from bears to bulletin boards — and I always look forward to the next thing I can add to my room.”

SPC has over 50 general members that help put on the events throughout the academic year. They continuously provide cultural, educational, recreational and social programs aimed at building unity and pride among all students.

Black Student Union presents artists from The Strivers Row at the Graham Center Ballrooms Friday, Aug. 29. The event showcased various performers demonstrating the art of spoken word poetry and music. Alyssa Harris (bottom right) of the Strivers Row performed a spoken word piece, while panthers Noel Rose (bottom left) and Jefferson Joseph (top) play a song on the acoustic guitar and the bass respectively.
Panthers fall to Santa Clara Broncos 1-0

**JAMES PROFETTO**
Staff Writer
james.proffetto@fiusm.com

The No. 15-ranked Santa Clara Broncos proved their worth Friday night, handing the Panthers their second loss of the season.

For 75 minutes, both teams werevacant in the scoring column, but one could only play defense all night long. There were late-game heroics in front of a crowd of 329 by Santa Clara University’s senior forward Sabrina Stefanoff. She scored the game-winner at the last minute against a Panther defense that looked indispensable.

The Panthers had a wonderful first half. They seemingly controlled the tempo and how they wanted to facilitate their shot selections; four shots, three of which were on goal, no small task.

Midfielders Johanna Volz and Alyssa Robinson, an interesting early substitute by Head Coach Thomas Chestnutt, both had three combined shots on goal from Robinson, through the first 32 minutes.

Santa Clara was on their heels early. There was pressure on the opposition end, but they came the second half.

Keep in mind that the Broncos were not exactly quiet in the first half, eight shots to FIU’s four, and they continued their loud shooting streak from that point onward.

Santa Clara struck early and often after halftime ended, but Panther goalkeeper Nevena Stojakovic held her own for a considerable amount of time. She finished the night with three saves, an impressive stat that continues to grow for the freshman.

After chipping away at a Panther defense that held down the fort for so long, a late goal was eventually conceded. It came off of a cross by Santa Clara’s Kat McMilluff from just outside the box that found its home at the feet of Huerta.

Unfortunately for Chestnutt and his team, there needs to be a fair amount of both defensive and offensive thought played on any given night. The third-game road trip is a learning curve that needs to be continued. Coming into the Aug. 31 match, both Panthers and the Pacific Tigers were 1-2 on the season, looking to reach 500 for the first time in 2014.

Before coming home, Panthers had some unfinished business to handle: a win.

"In the main areas that we care about, we feel we did a good job — a solid job — for this time in the season," said Chestnutt.

"Not only has the offense found its way, but the defense is also a cohesive unit, standing tall against teams like no. 15 Santa Clara. Arizona is the only team that has scored multiple goals against the Panthers, meaning something has changed in their defensive scheme."

"I think [the defense] is way [more] organized," said senior defender Marie Egan. "They’re better equipped for balls through and over-the-top."

For the past couple of years, this FIU team has stuck to its game plan, according to senior Caroline Hernandez, who has found her role on defense with a powerful boost of confidence for the team and, more specifically, for a certain redshirt senior.

"The team’s goal is to win seven in a row," said Chestnutt. "And that starts Wednesday night with Florida Gulf Coast."

The practice concluded with senior Johanna Volz, a redshirt who enters her career game winners.

"We’re gonna play how we usually do get around the outside, look up, play [the ball] down, and everything will work out fine."

This is the first of seven straight games here at home for FIU. Just how important is this home stand?

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The practice concluded with senior Johanna Volz, a redshirt who enters her career game winners.
Alex McGough arrived at FIU early this summer. In just a few short months, he’s gone from a no-name freshman to the quarterback of the offense set up. I think it fits me to my abilities," said McGough. "I love coach [Ron] Turner and the way he has the team would pay the visiting team $500,000. The two schools have not played a football game against each other since 2007, but that number if they hope beat Wagner. The Panthers look to capitalize on this opportunity to get their first win. Their next two games are against Pittsburgh (1-0) and Louisville (1-0), two tough ACC opponents. When asked about how he would prepare for what could be his first collegiate start, McGough said he wouldn’t change much of his routine. "I’m gonna do the same thing I did last week," said McGough. "Last week I prepared like I was a starter. That’s what the coaches told me. Now you know you’re gonna go in. I’m just gonna be in the film study and get to know Wagner as much as I can."
University announces partnership with Museum of Science

REBECA PICCARDO
News Director
rebecca.piccardo@fiusm.com

A partnership between the University and a science museum is to bring a new environmental building for the crowd at Biscayne Bay Campus.

The University Board of Trustees approved a new partnership with the Patricia and Phillip Frost Museum of Science three months ago to build a new facility on campus. Here, animals will be cared for when not on display at the museum downtown.

“FIU is a great partner for us,” said museum President and CEO Gillian Thomas.

The museum received a $5 million donation from the Batchelor Foundation to build the on-campus center, the Batchelor Environmental Center at FIU.

Operation and maintenance costs will be covered by the museum, while any academic programming will be financed by the University.

The structure will take up 75,000 square feet of the north side of campus, according to Provost Emeritus Douglas Warzok.

The museum will consider FIU its primary academic partner, with the chance of applying for joint research grants, offering internships to FIU students and coordinating classes for students at the BBC facility and the new downtown Miami location, scheduled to open 2016.

The museum intends to use the proposed two-story facility to care for their animals as they rotate them between exhibits. It will house large fish tanks and hold hawks, falcons, owls and vultures for their Falcon Batchelor Bird of Prey Center there.

The Bird of Prey Center, Thomas said, is where museum staff rehabilitate rare predatory birds that are ill or injured, and then release them back into the wild.

Michael Heithaus, executive director of the College of Arts and Sciences, said he thinks this will be a unique facility to have at a college campus and will make BBC an exciting place for students.

With access to “exotic animals that are rarely available on college campuses,” according to the contract, the University hopes to attract students interested in veterinary studies.

The contract grants the museum four parking spaces and museum staff can buy an administrative decal from the Department of Parking and Transportation. If the project site includes the construction of new parking spaces, these would be exclusive to the museum.

The contract also outlines possible programs between the University and the museum at both locations.

One plan mentioned is the use of a 24-seat classroom for undergraduate lab courses, for science and nonscience majors at the BBC facility.

Another possibility is to enroll 20 undergraduate students in an animal care intern program.

The University also plans for 20 undergraduate students to intern at the museum downtown, with half interacting with museum visitors as science communication interns and the other half placed in other departments of the museum.

The museum can use the on-campus facility for 30 years, and may renew their contract.

In the long term, the University intends to use this partnership to create new professional science master’s programs at the School of Environment, Art and Society and a professional master’s in science communication program in the School of Journalism and Mass Communication.

“It’s an open canvas for collaboration,” Thomas said. “We are looking to have as many crossovers as we can.”

Panthers to dash through obstacles for cash

SOFIA GALIANO
BBC Managing Editor
sofia.galiano@fiusm.com

Mud, zombies and obstacles are making an appearance at the University next month as well as a chance for Panthers to win some cash.

FIU’s Biscayne Bay Campus Recreation and the Benjamin Dash will host their first running event as partners on Saturday, Oct. 4. The first wave of runners starts at 8 a.m.

Christina Reddick, assistant director of Student Affairs and coordinator of the event, said people are excited about the event, particularly rec center faculty who have already formed teams.

The Benjamin Dash held their first run at Amelia Earhart Park a year ago, with roughly 1,000 attendees sprinting, hurling and scavenging for flags that were exchanged for cash after the course was completed.

This year the group decided to bring the Benjamins to FIU, not only to use the unique landscape of BBC, but also to give students a chance to give back to the community.

Reddick said students have the option of donating their winnings to student clubs and organizations, although participants may also keep their earnings for themselves.

The course will be about three miles long and will have ten obstacles, including 4-foot wall climbs, quarter pipes, traverse walls, tilted walls, mud pits, tire flips, and even a water obstacle—all of which are optional.

“We put them there because a lot of people like the challenge,” said Frank Samper, Benjamin Dash operation manager.

However, there will be several color and zombie zones, charity warriors and water balloons some runners may not be able to escape.

Students not only win money at the event, but they also save money when registering. University students can participate at a discounted price when registering at: http://bit.ly/1tu6Uya.

All other participants can register on the Benjamin Dash website and may use the promo code “DASH4CASH” to receive a 10 percent discount.

The start and finish of the run will be behind the Biscayne Bay Aquatic Center, where an after party with vendors, music and giveaways will take place.

Prospective participants can visit the Benjamin Dash site or contact Christina Reddick at Reddickc@fiu.edu for details about packet pickup, volunteering opportunities and more.