SGC-MMC Senate appoints speakers, chairs

DIANE ARIAS
Asst. News Director

With summer meetings underway, the legislative branch of the Student Government Association at the Modesto Maidique campus confirmed its Speaker of the Senate, Speaker Pro Tempore and the six committee chairs for the 2012-13 academic school year, leaving one position open in the Senate.

Elected Speaker Kristen Robillard is responsible for chairing all Senate meetings and also sits on the University Wide Council. University Wide Budget Committee and MMC Campus Budget Committee.

The challenges she expects the senate to encounter this year deal with the dual role of being a part of SGA and a university student. Speaker Pro Tempore, Alex Castro, is responsible for assisting the Speaker in her duties and serving as Speaker in the Speaker’s absence. The Speaker Pro Tempore also sits on the Council and both budget committees.

Despite reaching the needed attendance to proceed with business in their earlier meetings, the senate now finds itself dealing with attendance issues as addressed by Castro in their July 9 meeting. The senate’s last meeting saw 15 absences out of a total of 30 senators, which failed to meet quorum.

“We have one meeting that quorum was not met. The reason is that it is summer and some senators are out of town,” Robillard said. “We had two meetings where we had issues with quorum.”

The Finance Committee is among the six committees in the Senate and is responsible for allocating funds to organizations not funded by SGC-MMC Senate meetings take place every Monday during the fall and spring semesters in GC 140, the Senate Chambers.

Over the course of the year, Castro expects the Senate to become more involved and accomplish the goals of the Senate.

“The challenge is that everybody’s got elected on a platform, an idea, something unique that set them apart, and I think, individually, they’ll be challenged to get that done because I know for a fact that they’re passionate about it,” Castro said.

SGC-MMC Senate meetings place every other Monday during the summer from 4-6 p.m. and every Monday during the fall and spring semesters in GC 140, the Senate Chambers.

diane.arias@fiusm.com

University acquires local Jewish landmark

KATIA CANETE
Contributing Writer

The recent merging of the University and the Jewish Museum of Florida was a decision that came from many conversations about the vision of both the school’s and museum’s programs.

“Over time, we realized our shared interests gave us the unique opportunity to formalize our collaborations,” Kenneth Furtan, dean of the college of arts and sciences, said.

The museum opened in 1995 and started off as a traveling exhibit known as Mosaic: Jewish Life in Florida, before they had their own permanent facility in Miami Beach.

The museum includes two buildings of a former synagogue — a landmark listed on the National Register of Historic Places.

The merger, which resulted from the museum’s board of directors decision to gift the museum to the University, will make the museum part of the University and will change its name to the Jewish Museum of Florida-FIU.

According to the museum’s website, the mission statement of the Jewish Museum of Florida is “to collect, preserve and interpret the material evidence of the Florida Jewish experience from when Jews came four weeks after the National Register of Historic Places.

They [request] funds for conferences, every-thing that’s really educational-based,” Sippin said.

The challenge is that everybody’s got elected on a platform, an idea, something unique that set them apart, and I think, individually, they’ll be challenged to get that done because I know for a fact that they’re passionate about it,” Castro said.

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The Jewish Museum of Florida-FIU is located in Miami Beach.

COMING UP | At the Bay
Check out our next issue for updated coverage on the EcoAcademy Summer Camp.

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The Radioactive Underground: 88.1 - 95.3 - 96.9
Museum to educate on discrimination

MERGER, PAGE 1

were first allowed to settle in 1763... up to the present and to interpret this history in the context of the American Jewish experience.

The museum’s website explains that, to meet their mission statement, the museum conducts humanities research in “both Florida Jewish history and in the general experience of immigration, acculturation and heritage preservation for all Americans, as reflected in the Jewish experience of Florida.”

Furton said the Jewish Museum of Florida-FIU will become an interdisciplinary education, research and outreach facility focused on the history of the Jewish experience in Florida and the issues of discrimination against all people in Florida, serving as an outlet for education for the public.

Multicultural education through exhibitions, public programs and historical collections are just some of the ways the museum has educated their community for nearly two decades.

“The addition of the museum, with its exhibits and archival materials, will help enhance Judaic studies,” said Furton. The expansion is meant to target students in other programs and expand their global learning experience.

Due to the merger, the University will be able to utilize the facilities and collections to implement an academic plan designed to educate students and the community on the challenges of the immigrant experiences shared by all ethnicities in Florida.

Jo Ann Arnowitz, the museum’s executive director, said that awareness and expansion are the main goals of the merger.

The other goals include engaging the community and having people come together because they both want the same thing,” said Hannah Snitzer, a University student in the Jewish community.

The address of the Jewish Museum of Florida is 301 Washington Ave., Miami Beach. The cost of admission is $6 for adults, $5 for students and seniors, free for children up to six years of age and free for everyone on Saturdays.

The hours of operation are 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Tuesday-Sunday; the museum is closed on Mondays and civil and Jewish holidays.

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Lunsford promoted on interim basis

VPSA, PAGE 1

committee from the office of the Provost held their fourth open forum with potential candi- dates for the VPSA position, one of which was Lunsford.

Instead, Lunsford was promoted on an interim basis, yet according to Wartzok, this does not limit his power while in the position.

"Let's just say that the individual has the authority to act as vice president and I expect them to implement the initiatives required and actions required and not just be a holder and," Wartzok said.

"He has brought a great deal to the position and I have placed a lot of confidence in him by making him the vice president but or the long haul I wanted to bring somebody that could bring in new ideas, that had experience at other universities [and] that would provide a greater perspective for what we usually get with just experience at FIU."

Lunsford said this appointment is a “welcomed opportunity to prove that I can do the job.”

“We have a new president completing his third year, and so he is taking the University to the next level,” Lunsford said. “They wanted to make sure that the best person out there that they could attract would take Student Affairs to the next level.”

The Office of the Provost will continue the search for a permanent Vice President of Student Affairs under the leadership of Elizabeth Bejar, vice provost for Academic Affairs.

Jones has held the position of VPSA since 2004 and will retire Aug. 17.

“She has the complete confidence and trust of not only the administration, but also the faculty and the students,” Wartzok said. “She will be very difficult to replace and I really thank her immensely for her fine work over the years.”

The Vice President of the Division of Student Affairs is responsible for overseeing the division, which deals with student recruitment, retention, learning and involvement.

“I hope to be a student advocate because we are the Division of Student Affairs,” Lunsford said. “I also hope to be a major part of the University’s mission... and particularly in assisting the University with student retention and graduation. I want to be a challenge and appreciate the opportunity.”
Driving through FIU during the summer, students and staff may have noticed a few inconveniences for students and faculty, and administration.

One of the largest projects is the new Science Classroom Complex, which is being built right across from Parking Garage 5. The complex will be used as a research facility as well as classrooms and a study area for students. However, the construction has caused quite a few problems for nearby classrooms. If you were a student during the spring 2012 semester, and now during the summer, there is a good chance one of your courses was near the construction zone for the Science Classroom Complex.

There’s also a chance that you didn’t hear anything about this because I was on account of the drilling, sawing, or jack hammering happening next door. Thankfully, the noise will be over soon as the building is said to be ready for fall 2012. Aside from the noise, another issue is the restricted sidewalk in front of the new complex. Although the issue may only go on for no more than 7 to 10 feet, it has been testing our patience. On a good day, the sidewalk is open. On a bad day, sawdust falls over your head as a man in a hard hat poorly directs traffic, causing near-accidents between students and cars.

Once we move on from this distraction site, the new residence hall and parking garage will be ready for fall 2012. The new residence hall and parking garage, which are being built across from the FIU stadium, will house over 600 beds and 300 cars, respectively.

PANTHER PATROL, AN ‘INANE SUGGESTION’

I am a fan of sarcasm, but the July 11 editorial on the enforcement of smoking and skateboarding bans failed to use it effectively because I came away unsure of what the actual editorial board was actually endorsing.

The inane suggestion of a Panther Patrol was clearly not meant to show that having no enforcement is just as ridiculous as students armed with whistles. The editorial starts that these regulations “are in desperate need of enforcement,” suggesting that administration should enforce them, but goes on to say that “enforcement that will tax the manpower of UPD is a bad idea as well.”

DirectV, a model for customer service

If you were watching “The Colbert Report” or “The Daily Show with Jon Stewart” on the nights of July 9 and 10 then you couldn’t avoid it. If you were watching “The Colbert Report” or “The Daily Show with Jon Stewart” on the nights of July 9 and 10 then you couldn’t avoid it.

Both comedians were bashing Viacom, the company that controls the channels I enjoy, I’m forced to watch FitTV instead of “It’s Always Sunny in Philadelphia.” It is our opinion that this should mean for the conclusion to the summer, there is a good chance one of your courses was near the construction zone for the Science Classroom Complex.

The Beacon strongly feels that the ‘Interim’ tag is an unnecessary one given that, after months of a costly national search for other viable alternatives, Lunsford has been at the top of the list for quite a few problems for nearby classrooms. If you were a student during the spring 2012 semester, and now during the summer, there is a good chance one of your courses was near the construction zone for the Science Classroom Complex.

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Summer hit shows to watch

While we expect summertime to constantly be filled with beach trips, sunny days and perfect tans, that is not always the case. However, there is one thing we can count on during the summer, and that’s television. Summertime brings us some of the best shows, both new and returning, allowing us to enjoy our summer inside the house, as much as we do outside.

Channel Surfing

- **True Blood**, Sundays @ 9 p.m. on HBO.
- **The Newsroom**, Sundays @ 10 p.m. on TNT.
- **Pretty Little Liars**, Tuesdays @ 8 p.m. on ABC Family.

Returning Shows

- **Veep**, Catch it on hbogo.com or On Demand.
- **The Newsroom**, Sundays @ 10 p.m. on HBO.

True Blood, Sundays @ 9 p.m. on HBO

Our favorite blood-sucking, promiscuous, supernatural show is back for season five of this shock-afflicting series. This season not only transforms the natural into the supernatural, but it also reworks multiple character relationships. Additionally, it finally introduces the multi-talented “Vampire Authority,” the ultimate power over all vampires. If that’s not enough to choke you down, notorious vampire psychopath Russell Edginton is on the loose once again. So if you enjoy the thrill of walking in the dark, then this show is for you, as it leaves off every episode with a new question to be answered.

Pretty Little Liars, Tuesdays @ 8 p.m. on ABC Family.

After finally revealing “A” in season two, season threelocks a whole new batch of questions for these “pretty little liars” as it’s discovered that there’s another “A” out there, vindictive as ever. Season three shoots off with the disappearance of Alan DiLacentis’s remainders, and no trace of the thief! So if you enjoy the thrill of walking in the dark, then this show is for you, as it leaves off every episode with a new question to be answered.

Falling Skies, Sundays @ 9 p.m. on TNT.

After an unexpected alien invasion of Earth that wiped out 80 percent of the population, survivors band together to fight against the alien race. In season one, Tom Mason searches for his son who has been captured by the aliens. The season left off with Mason’s surrender to the aliens in exchange for his son’s safety. Now, season two begins three months later, where Mason returns and recollects his memory of the past three months. If you’re a sci-fi enthusiast, tune into this action-thriller about “citizen soldiers” against an alien force.

The Newsroom, Sundays @ 10 p.m. on HBO.

On Aug. 6, 2012, Jamaica celebrates its 50th anniversary of independence. As a way to commemorate this anniversary and bring awareness to Jamaica’s art and culture, The Patricia and Phillip Frost Art Museum is currently hosting an exhibition entirely put together by the students of the Graduate Certificate of the Museum Studies program as part of their annual event. They started this event last year to give the students hands-on experience with the field and to provide them with a wider understanding of what it takes to curate an art exhibition. They plan on focusing on a different cultural group every year. This year, Jamaica is the chosen group. The exhibition has been up and running since April 25 and will continue until Sept. 16, thus including the date of the independence anniversary.

At the exhibit, titled, “Jamaican Intrusive Art,” is made up of a collection of artwork donated by a group of self-taught artists, through which they depict what the nation is about, other than what it’s popularly known for. Those artists have not had any sort of academic training, so they focus mostly on the content of their work. Not having any rules to follow, the artists have the freedom to use the canvas how they wish. They are known as “Intrusive,” and through their artistic careers they have developed their own styles to tell their stories, what they see around them and what they feel within. Their work refers back to ancient African traditions as they work at a spiritual level, and more are results of intense personal visions.

Attendees get to contemplate these painted and sculpted stories about Jamaica’s history, people, culture and what the nation is based on. The artwork is arranged to represent the colors of Jamaica’s flag: black for strength, green for resources and gold for wealth. This exhibition is not only a great way for viewers to learn about Jamaica, but it also helps the students who organized it. “They learn the complexity of teamwork and the responsibility it takes to put together an art show,” said Annette B. Fromm, program coordinator.

Student media sits with Tony Lucca

The University was host to an array of artists this past Tuesday, July 17, for Summer Fest. Among them is Tony Lucca, musician most famous for appearing on “The Voice.” Student Media got a chance to interview Lucca, revealing a lot about this soulful rock musician.

Q: How did you get into the music industry?
A: I come from a real big music making family, sort of by osmosis. I had an interest in it from an early age; it’s just what I wanted to do.

Q: How was working on the famous show, “The Mickey Mouse Club,” when you were younger?
A: It was cool; it was a daily kids show, singing, dancing and acting. It was kind of like going to the same high school. I spent my high school years on that show. I got really close to the cast. That was the coolest part about it.

Q: I know you’ve collaborated with a lot of artists. Who has been your favorite to work with?
A: I got a chance to open up for Sara Bareilles. She is just one of my favorite people in life. She would invite me out each night to do an encore with her and that was really special.

Q: You’ve also had a career

The Frost

Jamaican me artsy

‘Students learn complexity of teamwork’
“FREAKS OF NATURE”

Kaskade gives Miami something to dance about

 VANESSA PAREDES  Life Editor

Miami was electrified this past Saturday, July 14. Kaskade and guest DJs took the stage at the Klipsch Amphitheater in Bayfront Park. FIU students, among others, gathered to forget inhibitions and go wild.

Freshman communications major Andrea Ochoa was experiencing her first ever EDM concert. She went in a black tube top, dramatic high-waisted shorts, red heart shaped sunglasses and hot red lips to match.

“My preparation of my outfit was based on what I was told: to go very outrageous. I thought I successfully did so,” said Ochoa.

Everything, from bright colored bathing suits to nipple pasties with tight black panties and furbonot stockings, was seen at this event. People really have no limits when it comes to dressing up for EDM shows. The crazier and more ostentatious, the better. That is usually the rule of thumb. Ochoa, among many others, described it as “very provocative.”

The colorful crowd was bopping to the music blasting upon them from beginning to end. No matter the DJ, no matter the heat, no matter the 10,000 or so people around, everyone was in the zone. A tireless energy and good attitude was prominent throughout. “People were happy, smiling and enjoying themselves with no care in the world,” said junior Daniel Castro, hospitality major.

All the DJs had the crowd jumping, but when Alvin Risk, the act right before Kaskade, took the stage, people went from excited to wild. “That was the first time I had ever heard him and thoroughly enjoyed his change from dubstep to some high speed electric throughout his performance. In other words, his shit was on point,” said Castro.

Risk began his set with the most energy and charisma yet to be seen. He brought originality to the stage, with the most eclectic mix of beats, sounds and genres. Once Risk finished up, the audience started squealing with excitement to see the person they came for to begin with: Kaskade.

The entire set design was altered, uncovering vast neon screens and a large high up podium from where Kaskade greeted his fans with the warmest of welcomes. Happy to see the intense crowd before him, Kaskade started off strong with one of his most famous hits, “Fire.” From beginning to the end of the time, fans were dancing non-stop, yelling along to the lyrics and even crying.

“I enjoyed everything about it, especially the way the music gave me the chills,” said Ochoa. “He [Kaskade] was the man of the night and gave all of Miami’s ‘freaks’ exactly what they wanted, an unforgettable night.”

Just as Kaskade was playing his last song of the night, a light drizzle sprinkled the crowd, adding a refreshing and magical touch and ending the night on the strongest of notes.

“As if he commanded the sky, rain began to fall. It gave a firm sense of revitalization, allowing everyone around me to bend with a bang. It was the perfect addition to the perfect night that was the ‘Freaks of Nature’ tour,” said Castro.

vanessaparedes@fiusm.com

Q&A with Tony Lucca

LUCCA, PAGE 4

as an actor; how was that? Do you wish to continue doing it?

A. The acting thing is cool. I really enjoy that process. It’s a grind as far trying to make a career of it, you know, with auditioning and all the sort of rejection that comes with it; it’s not fun. It’s a very cool thing, cool outlet and something I would gladly return to if what I did basically paved the way for someone who wanted to work with me.

Q. You were a contestant on the hit reality talent show, “The Voice.” How did that come about?

A: I auditioned in Chicago last July, maybe a year ago now, and it was kind of a wild ride. It was cool because I was never really much into “American Idol.” I was kind of had a pretty compelling story: it was hard to sit on the sideline and watch another season of that show going, “What would happen if I auditioned for it?”

Q. Did you learn from it? Would you do it again?

A: I don’t regret it, I don’t know that I would do it again, but I learned a lot. Working with Adam Levine was really incredible; he taught me how to take calculated risks and when it’s the right time to take those kinds of risks. It provided a creative boost that my career was certainly in need of.

Q: Who or what inspires you the most?

A: The most inspiring to me is travel. Traveling and observing life in different environments and seeing other people’s stories unfold.

Q: How do you feel when you perform on stage?

A: I feel really blessed and fortunate. I’ve been blessed with the skill set to get up and express myself musically and connect with people through music. There really is nothing quite like it. Every chance I get to get on stage and share music with people, it’s a really great gift.

Q: You are coming to perform at FIU for Summer Fest. What can the University students expect?

A: I’m bringing my band with me, and we’re going to rock it a little bit. It’s a fun show, integrating a bit of storytelling, playing songs and playing songs from the show [The Voice] as well.

Q&A with Tony Lucca for summer fest

vanessa.paredes@fiusm.com

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**FOOTBALL**

**FIU picked to finish first in last year with Sun Belt**

**LUIS D. GUTIERREZ**
**Contributing Writer**

In its last season as an official member of the Sun Belt Conference, FIU football is expected to go out with a bang. In a poll conducted by all 10 conference head coaches and select media members during media day on July 16, the Panthers were picked to finish atop the preseason conference rankings for the second consecutive year.

FIU received five first-place votes, while last season’s Sun Belt champion Arkansas State and runner-up Louisiana-Lafayette received two first-place votes apiece. Western Kentucky also received one first-place vote.

The Panthers also placed a program-record seven players on the all-conference team including running back Kedrick Rhodes, offensive lineman Winston Fraser, defensive linemen Isame Faciane and Rupert Bryan, linebacker Winston Fraser and defensive back Jonathan Cyprien being those recognized.

Williams garnered recognition from coaches and select media members, being tabbed as the preseason conference defensive player of the year. He is the second Panther to be awarded the prestigious honor as T.Y. Hilton was named the preseason conference co-offensive player of the year in 2011.

The upcoming senior is currently in position to finish his career as FIU’s leader in sacks, just behind leader Antwan Barnes (21.5), and is rated the Sun Belt’s number one NFL Prospect, according to Lindy’s magazine.

Cyprien broadened the program’s horizons last week being named to the Jim Thorpe award watch list. The prestigious award is given each year college football’s most outstanding defensive back.

Cyprien has 33 career starts under his belt, three all-conference selections to his name, and is 30 tackles shy of becoming FIU’s career-leading tackler. Head coach Mario Cristo-\n
tobal describes him as more than just a football player.

“He’s a better leader than he is a football player,” Cristo-\ntobal said in an interview with ESPN on media day.

In addition, Haupt-\n
mann who has notched 25 starts over the past two seasons, was named to the Outland Trophy preseason watch list, which is given to the nation’s top interior lineman. The Californ-\n
ian is recovering from a shoulder injury sustained last season.

Kicker Jack Griffin was also named to the Lou Groza award watch list, given to the nation’s most outstanding placekicker.

The accolades have come in droves for FIU over the past week, usually the case for each team picked to finish first in its’ conference. However with the 2012 campaign approaching, head coach Mario Cristo-\ntobal and the Panthers certainly look to win on Saturdays as much as they have won on paper.

Looking for his third straight bowl appearance, Cristo-\ntobal stresses a winning season as a priority.

“We need to make it three (bowl games) in a row,” Cristo-\ntobal said. “We certainly have the tough, relentless players to do it.”

**PRESEASON COACHES POLL**

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<tr>
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<th>Points Voted</th>
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<tr>
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**FIU ATHLETES TO MAKE ALL-SUN BELT**

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<td>Winston Fraser</td>
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<td>DB</td>
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**--voted Defensive Player of the Year.**

**VOLLEYBALL**

Theroulde sets schedule to start with 12-match road trip

**JONATHAN JACOBSKIIND**
**Staff Writer**

Head coach Trevor Theroulde was not joking when he declared that the Panthers must defeat the top dogs in Florida if the program begs to withstand a chance on the national landscape. With the 2012 schedule announced on July 13, the newly appointed head coach will have a chance to back his words. In what is shaping up to be one of the toughest seasons yet, FIU squares off against Florida State, University of Florida and University of Central Florida.

“The tournaments that we chose have teams [ranked] in the top 50 or the top 20,” Theroulde commented. “We want to set a high standard for what we are trying to achieve.”

The Panthers look to make a sincere statement against some fierce in-state competition as FIU attempts to out-duel the Gators on Aug. 24 in the Campus USA Credit Union Invitational. The Gators reached the Elite Eight in the 2011 NCAA Tournament.

“University of Florida will always be one of the top teams in the SEC. So if we could knock off one of these top teams in the SEC and as they win in the SEC, we look better as a team,” Theroulde said. The Panthers wrap up the invitational against Florida Gulf Coast and Florida A&M on Aug. 25-26.

The Panthers then partake in the Florida State Volleyball Invitational on Aug. 31 that features an even more stiffing in-state road test against the Florida State Seminoles. The Notes were on the cusp of reaching the final in 2011 NCAA Tournament after faltering in the semi-finals. Theroulde is not fazed by FSU’s talent and is confident that FIU has the skill to go toe to toe with the Seminoles.

“We are very skilled in key areas and really strong in all facets of the game,” Theroulde stated. “We are trying to improve our passing and our setting around the court. We are trying to improve our passing and our setting around the court. We are trying to improve our passing and our setting around the court. We are trying to improve our passing and our setting around the court. With the 2012 schedule being released, it’s a challenge for us to improve our passing and our setting around the court.”

In September, the Panthers head west to participate in the Rams Volleyball Classic where they’ll face off against a pair of 2011 NCAA Tournament contest-\n
ants in Colorado State and Pepperdine University. Despite an early season gauntlet against champion-\n
ship caliber competition, Theroulde remains optimistic about his squad’s chances versus some of the nation’s top tier volleyball programs believing in early team chemistry.

“Some of the girls have decided to stay for summer school and put in that extra work necessary so they can improve that cohesiveness within the team to start building team chemistry,” Theroulde said.

After a grueling 12-match road stretch to start the season, FIU fans will catch a glimpse of the 2012 squad as they inaugurate conference play within the friendly confines of the U.S. Century Bank Arena against University ofArkansas at Little Rock on Sep. 21.

As the season winds down, the Panthers start playing a lot of consecutive home games, a strength of theirs. In the last five years, the Panthers are a remark-\n
able 47-9 at home.

“The girls are comfortable playing at home with the presence of home fans, they are loud and they are very
As of July 12, Martinez is batting .263 with two home runs and 10 RBI for the Greeneville Astros.

Martinez realizes life-long dream, joins Astros

KEVIN CASTANEDA
Contributing Writer

After the first two days of the Major League Baseball First-Year draft passed and Martinez’s name had still not been called, frustration overcame him.

But on June 6, on his way to McDonald’s, the FIU sluggerrceived the call of a lifetime to become a member of the Houston Astros as the first pick of the 36th round.

“I was with my girlfriend Eva in the car and I broke down. It was all the dreams I’ve ever had coming true. It was the happiest moment of my life,” Martinez said. “She was just as happy as I was. She has been there for the entire ride and it was just as emotional for her as it was for me.”

Mike and Eva were not the only one to feel the magnitude of the situation.

“My siblings are very supportive so they were also very happy. When they heard my name called they kept saying, ‘You earned the shot, now go make the most of it,’” Martinez said.

Throughout his baseball career, Martinez has shown that he has the tools to make sure he leaves his stamp on the big leagues as evidence by the trail of accolades he leaves behind at every level.

At Miami Killian Senior High, Martinez was named the team’s most valuable player in his senior year. Miami Herald First Team All-Dade selection, and Florida Athletic Coaches Association South Region Player of the Year.

Upon reaching FIU, his success did not stop. He was named the Louisville Slugger Freshman All-American his first year.

He followed his freshman performance by being named the American Baseball Coaches Association South Central All-Region Second Team and Second Team All-Sun Belt. In his junior year, he led the team with 15 home runs, 60 RBIs and slugged at a .488 percentage.

He joined fellow teammates and close friends, Mason McCoy (San Francisco Giants), Rudy Flores (Arizona Diamondbacks) and Jabari Henry (Seattle Mariners) as Panthers that were drafted in 2012.

Pablo Bermudez, one of Martinez’s best friends and the 2011 SBC Player of the Year, was not drafted after posting a stellar 2012 campaign.

“You know, the draft is something I have never understood and I doubt I will ever will,” Martinez said. “He may not have gotten picked up in the draft, but any team would be lucky to have a guy like that. Not only is he incredibly talented, he is an amazing person as well.”

Martinez made his professional debut with the Astros’ rookie minor league affiliate, the Greeneville Astros. He went 0-for-4 with one strikeout.

“I would be lying if I said I wasn’t nervous,” Martinez said. “I had a terrible game mostly because I was so focused on soaking up the whole thing. It was still surreal to me.”

As of July 11, Martinez is hitting .268 with two home runs and 10 RBIs.

Along with the transition of aluminum to wooden bats, Martinez pointed out that the biggest adjustment for him has been playing everyday, as opposed to 3-4 times a week.

Playing every day has not stopped Martinez from keeping in contact with his family who has supported him to capture his dream. He admits he had been playing on the technology curve and bought an iphone to use Skype with his family.

“I’m not going to lie and say being away from my family is easy, because it’s not. It’s not something you get used to, but I know back home my parents have the Marlins game on mute and are listening to my game,” Martinez said. “Some- times my dad will say, ‘Hey that one hit sounded good, did you get all of it?’ and it makes me laugh because I know he would kill to watch it.”

Despite the new wear-and-tear of the third baseman will encounter with playing everyday, he’s not going to grumble about it.

“TheTx Ranger”

WRESTLING

Determination defines FIU wrestling

LUIS D. GUTIERREZ
Contributing Writer

Alexio Rodriguez is no stranger to heartbreak.

As a 14-year-old, he suffered a broken left femur as a result of a jet ski-riding accident and was given the worst possible diagnosis.

“You will never be able to play sports again,” his doctor said. “Never” is a strong word. It carries a tremendous amount of weight, especially at the age of 14 when the rest of your life is still ahead of you. But it didn’t mean that Rodriguez, the seventh-grade wrestler, was prepared to accept it.

“Watch me,” he responded to his doctor. “There is nothing stopping me.”

Rodriguez went on to recover from the broken femur in due time and ultimately returned to the mats once again. He acknowledges wrestling as the source of determination, motivation and strength that allowed him to back his promise.

“Those who’ve done wrestling, there is nothing you cannot accomplish,” he says. “If you can do wrestling and maintain that level of discipline, there is nothing that you cannot overcome.”

Now the head coach of FIU’s wrestling club, Rodriguezeran a team that included his own wrestlers. It’s this discipline that separates wrestling from all other forms of combat.

“Wrestling is one of the hardest sports out there when it comes to combat,” Rodriguez states. “It’s you and your opponent, there is no team, and it’s all technique.”

The club practices three times a week, where Rodriguez utilizes two of the practices to master proper technique on the mats at FIU’s recreation center. The third practice is used to polish conditioning and is held off-campus under the direction of assistant coach Peter Aleman, a fitness expert. Rodriguez emphasizes the importance of Aleman’s conditioning program, depicting wrestling as a “balanced sport,” a survival of the fittest and strongest.

The team also competes annually in such tournaments like the Seahorse open, held during Thanksgiving weekend and recently competed in the 2012 Florida Amateur Wrestling Championships last February. In addition, the squad will begin competing in select NCAA tournaments later this year, facing the likes of Florida Gulf Coast, Florida, and Penn State.

Rodriguez believes it is essential to have the right team captain in place, one who shows heart and demonstrates a strong desire to win, but one who also has the knowledge and discipline to properly guide his team to victory. He placed that responsibility in the hands of former U.S. Army Soldier Adrian Arcentales.

“My teammates can talk to me both on the mat and off the mat,” Arcentales said. “A lot of them surpass me in strength and weight. But I strive to work just as hard or even harder than my teammates, in order for them to develop a feeling of respect and confidence in their captain.”

“His army background, where he has all this discipline helps out a lot,” Rodriguez says. “His teammates see him working hard and they become equally motivated to work just as hard.”

One of those teammates is Kevin Trujillo, who enjoys the challenges brought upon by the sport.

“Wrestling challenges you when it comes to integrity, determination and diligence,” Trujillo said. “It requires the discipline that will lead you towards the path in the right direction of life and I look at my life as a mission to accomplish the impossible. But, wrestling and its challenges aren’t fit for everyone.”

“When we begin practicing, we always start out with big crowds of people,” Rodriguez said. “But, as soon as me and Coach Aleman start working the wrestlers, a lot of them begin dropping. It doesn’t make them less of a man, the fact remains the sport is not for everybody.”

Rodriguez continues to guide the squad through each practice and match, with the words of his doctor firmly in his mind. “Never” continues to be a strong word now as it was during the diagnosis. It still carries the same weight. It can still leave you shattered emotionally. It is still devastating to the athlete’s eye.

But for Rodriguez and the Panthers’ wrestling squad, “never” is just that, a word.

Volleyball

Team looks to average less in postseason

VOLLEYBALL, PAGE 6

supportive,” Therold said. “This year we are trying to approach every venue like it is FIU. We have to win on the road to be champions. We have to send a strong message that we are here to win championships.”

The Panthers look to average a 3-0 sweep in the 2011 SBC tournament semi-finals at the hands of WKU in October, on the 12th and the 26th of that month.

FIU concludes the regular season as it plays hosts to five of six opponents in Miami. The SBC Tournament will be held in Bowling Green, Kentucky and is slated for November 15-17. It all leads up to the season finale against Central Florida (Nov. 24) on the road.

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**STEFAN USECHE** Staff Writer

It isn’t just jumping in the water, “breathing bubbles” and looking at fish. “It’s really the environmental appreciation and awareness,” said Robert Weisman, dive and boat safety officer.

The University gives scuba diving courses so students can witness the hidden activity in the ocean and learn to explore it.

During the 2 credits basic scuba diving course and coreqquisite 1 credit scuba diving lab, students learn all about the science and theory of diving, with an emphasis on environmental protection and awareness.

Students also have the option of getting certified through the National Association of Underwater Instructors.

The classes are offered year-round, including a 12-week summer session. The course goes through the diving procedures slowly and gives room to practice different scenarios.

“There’s a lot of math in diving, believe it or not, because you go through the physical laws of pressure relationships and partial pressures.

A lot of things people don’t realize,” Weisman said.

During the summer, the class runs at both campuses from May to August, 8 a.m. to 1 p.m. on Saturdays. The courses are also available for non-degree seeking students and members of the community.

Each course costs the same as a credit of a regular course.

However, students seeking certification in diving pay an additional $375 which includes the six dives, charter boat fees, equipment use, scuba license and the safety staff. The certification process is optional.

According to the Director of University College Jorge Zumeta, who is currently taking the class, there’s a lot of material to cover, the most important being safety.

“We spend a few hours in the classroom learning how to use all the equipment, safety rules and regulations,” said senior Courtney Bleier, an education major.

“The course is the tool for the research,” Weisman said.

The Scuba Dive Safety Program began in 1995, and it was officially recognized by NAUI and by the American Academy of Underwater Science in 1996. It is under the administration of Risk Management and Environmental Health and Safety Department with Weisman as the boat and dive safety officer.

“I am happy to say, that during a lifetime of being cut, the FIU Scuba Program stays,” Weisman said.

Weisman and his assistant, Alex Carreno, carry these out along with Environmental Health and Safety Director Roger Riddelmoor, who completes the administrative structure.

A Diving Control Board set procedures for the dive safety manual, which contains the basic regulations for safety in scientific diving operations and is based on the policies of AAUS. The DCB is chaired by James Fournier and made up of faculty and administrators, the majority being scientific divers.

Weisman is happy to say that after having certified over 1200 students, the program still has a record of zero incidents or accidents.

“You’re talking about something that could be potentially life threatening if you don’t know what you’re doing,” said Ady Orzooli, Underwater Archaeologist.

“It is important to take a program that’s done so many years, helps you understand diving.”

Watch the video on fiusm.com.

**SEIMAH HUSSAIN** Contributing Writer

The Overtown Youth Center, a charitable organization dedicated to empowering underprivileged minority youth in Miami, will be holding a fundraising event on Thursday, July 19, 2012, at the new Rusty Pelican waterfront restaurant in Key Biscayne from 6:30 p.m. to 10 p.m.

The event will be hosted by former Miami Heat All-Star Center and NBA Legend, Alonzo Mourning, and his wife, Tracy Mourning.

The event, “It’s All Overtown – One Night … One World,” will feature exotic cuisine, live musical performances, and a silent auction of items like authentic jerseys signed by Miami Heat stars Dwyane Wade, LeBron James and Chris Bosh.

All of the funds raised at the event will be used to benefit the OYC and the many programs it provides to help improve the lives of the underprivileged youth it serves. Tickets cost $125 and are available for purchase at www.overtownyouth.org by calling (305) 349-1204.

Jayne Klein, professor of religious studies and program director of the Honors College at Biscayne Bay Campus, has been volunteering with the Overtown Youth Center since 2006.

“The Overtown Youth Center is a holistic, in-school, after-school and summer program designed to help underprivileged kids develop self-esteem, study skills, and character,” Klein said.

“OYC is also a safe haven and a place of transformation for young people and their families. The majority of the kids who participate there come from broken homes and have had some extremely difficult life experiences. I have seen first-hand how OYC has helped them overcome their negative environment to become productive students and citizens,” shares Klein.

Students in Tau Sigma Alpha, the Honors College club at BBC, volunteer as tutors for OYC’s high school students as part of their community service requirement. The club also hosts events for the children, such as a trip to pool parties and field trips.

Tashaun Williams, a junior and Honors College student with a double major in marketing and finance, has been tutoring the OYC high-school students for the past year.

“Volunteering with the Overtown Youth Center has been a very fulfilling and enlightening experience for me,” Williams said. “I get to meet different types of students and see how they change for the better. The kids are cool, and I formed a few friendships.”