Transgender students face insurance issues at University

ALYSSA ELSO
Contributing Writer

An increasing number of universities throughout the nation are offering transgender students health insurance plans that cover gender reassignment surgery and hormone therapy.

In the last decade, activists have fought to acquire recognition for transgender needs on campus, beginning with the acknowledgment of a student’s name change to allowing them to use the bathroom of their choosing. Progress has so far been made, as Harvard, Stanford, Emory, and Cornell universities are now providing transgender students with insurance that covers gender reassignment surgery.

According to the voluntary insurance plan offered to students through University Health Services, sex reassignment surgery and hormone therapy are currently not covered under the University’s insurance.

“Any time that a transgender student comes to us, our first step would be to identify at what stage of the gender identity process the student is in and the steps we can take to getting them assistance,” said Oscar Loynez, director of University Health Services. “We will also work with the Counseling and Psychological Services center to further identify their needs.”

In determining whether universities should cover sex-change surgeries, debate has risen between insurance companies and doctors.

Insurance companies consider gender reassignment surgeries and hormone therapy as elective surgeries and treatments that are not eligible for the University medical plan coverage, while doctors from the American Medical Association and the American Psychiatric Association state that sex-change surgeries are medically necessary and essential to the well-being of the transgender individual.

The latest university to offer this coverage to students, Brown University, will announce a plan to cover sex reassignment surgery in August 2013, becoming the 36th university to offer this coverage to students.

Gender reassignment surgery includes a variety of procedures that alter the anatomy to create physical traits of the opposite gender. Psychological counseling and some form of hormone treatment usually follow the surgery.

As universities are slowly beginning to recognize transgender students, the Human Rights Campaign, a civil rights organization working to achieve equality for lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender Americans, reported that about one-quarter of Fortune 500 companies offer health plans that cover sex changes in addition to hormone therapy.

As FIU does not currently offer treatment options through the University’s insurance plan, students can reach out to the University’s LGBT community, clubs and organizations for support including the GLBT Advocacy Coalition, Rainbow Panthers, Stonewall Legal Alliance, and Stonewall Pride Alliance.

Six years ago colleges and universities offered no such treatment for transgender students.

According to the Transgender Law and Policy Institute, the number of universities offering health insurance plans has since increased as today 36 colleges offer hormone and gender reassignment surgery, and an additional 25 only cover hormone treatment.

The University Health Services insurance meeting will take place on February 27 from 9 a.m. to noon, to discuss health plan coverage for the upcoming academic year.

VICTORIA RONDEROS
Contributing Writer

The College of Law has announced its new graduate degree, the Masters of Law. The degree is a one-year residential course of study for foreign graduate law students.

Through the Masters of Law, or LL.M Program, students will have a chance to study, practice, experience and understand the concepts of American law and legal institutions.

Matthew C. Mirow, associate dean of the International and Graduate Studies and director of the LL.M Program, said the degree has been in the works since 2010.

“I was appointed at the beginning of the summer of 2010 by Dean Alex Acosta and it was one of the things he wanted to make a priority for the law school,” said Mirow. “He said we needed an LL.M program, so we began working on that.”

There are 24 credits: two required courses, one recommended course, and electives.

The program’s electives will be subjective to the student. It will allow students to choose classes in whichever specialty they would like to study, with environmental law, real estate development, international trade, and taxation being the most popular studies, according to Mirow.

“If you’ve got somebody coming in, who wants to do a lot of international courses, if they’re available in the curriculum, that student can do those,” said Mirow. “If they want to focus in business law, and they decide to take business organizations, corporate tax, securities regulations, all of the courses that are bundled around in that area, they can choose to do those as well.”

A national survey from July 2012 shows that most LL.M students in the United States come from China, Saudi Arabia and South Korea. The program is open to all students from all countries around the world, but they are hoping to attract South American and Caribbean students in particular.

“Being here in South Florida, we are hopefully looking to draw

students from around the world, particularly from Latin America and the Caribbean. Miami, as a location, is a big draw for those students,” Mirow said.

Mirow said that many students from around the world are interested in practicing American law.

“It’s good to know something about U.S Law, particularly if you’re going to be working with U.S lawyers, but also for the legal English part of it.”

Matthew C. Mirow
Associate Dean and Director
International and Graduate Studies and LL.M Program

It’s good to know something about U.S Law, particularly if you’re going to be working with U.S lawyers, but also for the legal English part of it.

The LL.M program will begin during the fall 2014 semester. The application deadline is March 15, 2014.

news@fiusm.com
WORLD NEWS

Egypt’s military signals impatience with president

Egypt’s powerful military is showing signs of growing impatience with the country’s Islamist leaders, indirectly criticizing their policies and implying thinly veiled threats that it might seize power again.

The tension is raising the specter of another military intervention much like the one in 2011, when generals replaced longtime authoritarian leader Hosni Mubarak after they sided with anti-regime protesters in their 18-day popular uprising.

The strains come at a time when many Egyptians are desperate for an end to the crippling political impasse between President Mohammed Morsi and his Muslim Brotherhood group on one side, and the mostly secular and liberal opposition on the other.

The tug of war between the two camps is being waged against a grim backdrop of spreading unrest, rising crime and a worsening economy.

NATO and Afghan forces kill 25 insurgents

NATO and Afghan forces have killed at least 25 insurgents and three of their commanders in separate operations around the country, Afghan and coalition officials said Wednesday.

The size and scope of the latest operations were an indication that the Afghan war is far from over after 11 years of conflict, even as U.S. and foreign forces begin rapidly withdrawing and handing the lead role for security to the Afghans.

Fighting is also expected to intensify as the traditional spring fighting season gets under way after the heavy snows that blanket much of northern and eastern Afghanistan start melting.

Serbia withdraws suspected toxic milk

Serbian officials ordered some brands of milk taken off store shelves Wednesday, despite earlier claims that they were safe and not dangerously contaminated with a potentially cancer-causing toxin.

The order came after widespread public outrage over allegations that health authorities have for weeks been hiding the results of lab tests which reportedly show that much of the milk sold in Serbia contains high levels of aflatoxins, a fungus linked to mildewed cattle feed that can cause cancer of consumed in high doses.

Authorities have not published a list of the brands that have been ordered out of shops, saying they were waiting for results of tests being conducted in the Netherlands.

Lima’s reformist mayor battles to stay in office

After becoming the first woman ever elected to run Peru’s capital, Susana Villaran did what no modern predecessor had dared. She tried to bring order and transparency to a metropolis plagued by widespread corruption and a chaotic, patronage-heavy transit system swollen with aging, swarming taxis and buses.

The 63-year-old career human rights defender didn’t flinch. She wrestled with powerful racketeers to relocate the city’s unsightly, crime-hounded wholesale market. And her campaign to clean up public transit is beginning to show results, with bus drivers starting to heed designated stops and traffic moving taxis smoothly in much of the city center as buses stick to designated lanes.

Corrections

In Vol. 24, Issue 65 in the article titled, “Writing Center offering more than just writing help,” the story attributed the Center for Academic Success as the Writing Center. It should have read throughout the story as the Center for Academic Success instead of the Writing Center.

The Beacon will gladly change any errors. Call our MMC office at 305-448-2700 or BBC at 305-919-4722.

Meteorites fly over South Florida and the world

JESSICA MESZAROS
BRANDON WISE
FIUSM Staff

When you wish upon a star, make sure it stays in the sky first.

Residents of South Florida looking up on Sunday, Feb. 17 and saw a ball of light resembling a meteor in the sky. The sighting duration was recorded at about three seconds.

Two days prior to the South Florida sighting, Russia witnessed a meteor blazing across the western Siberian sky. The meteor exploded with the force of 20 atomic bombs, injuring more than 1,000 people as it blasted out windows and spread panic in a city of 1 million, according to the Associated Press.

This are fairly common occurrences, according to physics and astronomy professor Walter Van Hamme.

“It’s basically the solid piece of material hitting a dense area in the atmosphere,” said Van Hamme. “It’s very similar to throwing a snowball against a wall, for example. As soon as it hits the wall, the impact will break down the object.”

Professor of Physics James Webb recalled seeing a similar meteor when he was studying at the University of Florida as a graduate student in the 1980s.

“I actually saw a fairly bright one when I was a grad student, it exploded over Gainesville in 1988,” said Webb. “It wasn’t as big as the one in Russia, it didn’t do any damage.”

The largest recorded meteor strike in more than a century occurred hours before a 150-foot asteroid passed within about 17,000 miles (28,000 kilometers) of Earth.

The European Space Agency said its experts had determined there was no connection between the asteroid and the Russian meteor – just cosmic coincidence, according to the AP.

The AP reported that the shock wave blew in an estimated 100,000 square meters (more than 1 million square feet) of glass, according to city officials, who said 3,000 buildings in Chelyabinsk were damaged. In addition, part of the roof collapsed at a zinc factory.

“In all likelihood most of the damage was caused by the shock wave,” he said. As the object collides with the atmosphere, this sort of shock propagates through the atmosphere,” said Van Hamme. He added that the amount of shock would shatter glass windows.

Daniella Roberts, treasurer of the Astronomy Club, described what people saw over South Florida was similar to the one that hit Russia, but not quite the same.

“The report in Miami wasn’t an impact, it burned up in the atmosphere,” Roberts said. “We saw the ball of fire and it dissipated. Those are actually what we call shooting stars.”

Van Hamme said that meteorites are difficult to detect. He said that if they are out of the earth’s atmosphere, they are typically small and dark. Even a “big telescope” could miss it, he said.

The only thing that civilians can do to help the detection of meteorites, according to Van Hamme, is to “support NASA in their endeavors to observe the skies as much as they can to catalog all the available pieces of asteroids and material that are floating out there.”

However, Webb believes that without an active space program, it is like we are giving up our ability to track these asteroids.

“The big one, like the asteroid that just missed us, we can track. We have the capability and technology to do something about it before it becomes an issue,” Webb said. “If we can detect it early enough, we can calculate its orbits and see if they will be a threat to us.”

Without an active space program, Webb thinks that the planet is at risk of similar situations to the one that occurred in Russia.

“A lot of this stuff is avoidable,” said Webb. “We have the technology.”

- news@fiusm.com

METEOR FACTS

• 34,513 recorded findings of meteorites since 2,300 B.C.
• Largest crater located in Arizona measures 43 miles in diameter.

For more world news, check out www.FIUSM.com.
The Beacon, delivering the ‘real’ news

LOURDES GINART
Staff Writer

What do headlines like “Artwork on MMC Campus to be Censored,” “CIO Uses Tech Fee Money To Build Office Out Of Pods,” and “Quiet Asian Student Still Waiting for Professor To Show Up” have in common?

They are the hard-hitting investigative articles of FIU's prestigious newspaper: The Beacon. Aside from The Beacon, a mere shadow for a newspaper compared to FIU's other student media, there lies a newspaper one of a kind.

The Beacon covers the scandalous, political, and day-to-day stories of the University – or used to, keeping read for more deets.

The Beacon has reported news far more in-depth than The Beacon-articles like the potential for zebras and leopards to be FIU’s new school colors, and the school’s new parking violation policy: vandalism.

The Beacon even surfaced information that The Beacon printed false and made-up information; found in an interview they had with the paper’s editor-in-chief, Lazaro Mercadante.

Funny, I'm a staff writer and never met the guy.

In its superiority, The Beacon has even found the funds to publish studies!

The latest study, “Most MDC Transfer Students Can Neither Read Nor Write,” showed the lack of education Miami Dade College students receive versus FIU students.

Not only did this study find MDC students obtain an extremely poor education, it also showed that MDC has resorted to hiring animals as teachers, like Assistant Professor Barky Henderson, a golden retriever who teaches algebra at MDC.

Apart from conducting studies, The Beacon also seems to have the upper hand on reporting stories; their writers have the luck to be in the right place at the right time.

Last year, one of The Beacon’s writers witnessed former football coach Mario Cristobal win a bar fight against three men.

You couldn’t pay for that type of coverage!

The Beacon, delivering “FIU News So Hot, It’s Sizzling,” was founded in 2011 by the same students who conduct the FIU Meme Generators, or better known as "those guys in morphsuits and Guy Fawkes masks.

But tragedy struck when The Beacon staff mysteriously disappeared after Spring 2012.

The Beacon’s website remains running not only to keep alive the memories of the missing writers, but to remind students that there was once a true newspaper on campus. The type of newspaper students could depend on for the latest news, outcomes, or student life. Whether it be the measures students are taking to avoid old friends or the newest addition to FIU’s athletics departments, NFL star Brett Favre.

But seriously, The Beacon is a satirical newspaper that began last year by “those guys in morphsuits and Guy Fawkes masks.”

For more information on The Beacon, a mere shadow for a newspaper compared to FIU’s other student media, you can visit their website: www.fiusm.com.

The opinions expressed within this page do not represent the views of The Beacon. These views are separate from the editors and reflect individual perspectives of contributing writers and/or members of the University community.

Editorial Policy

Editorials are the unified voice of the editorial board, which is composed of 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.
Music helps ADHD students to concentrate

EDWIVE SEME  
Staff Writer

New research by the University’s Center for Children and Families shows that listening to music might help students with attention deficit hyperactivity disorder concentrate more.

According to William E. Pelham, researcher and director of the CCF, lab experiments have failed to show that ADHD students are more distractible than normal students.

“Teachers, however, often say the opposite, claiming that they are terrible students who have difficulty focusing. “So we decided to conduct a study that would observe students in a classroom setting,” said Pelham.

Television and music theoretically being the biggest distractors to kids, the CCF decided to use those as their distractors in the experiment.

Pelham explained that the group consisted of ADHD students and normal students.

Some days there would be no distractions present, or there would be a TV monitor in the front of the class, and other days speakers would play rock music in the classroom. Students were instructed to do their work and not get distracted.

As the CCF expected, television caused problems for everyone, however, it distracted the ADHD students more.

Other students were able to cope and get work done while glancing at the monitor frequently, whereas the ADHD students got much less work done.

The center expected music to have the same effect because of everything teachers said.

“All the teachers in the country are saying that ADHD students are easily distracted by everything that happens in the classroom, so we thought anything that we did would distract them,” said Pelham.

Playing rock music, however, didn’t decrease the work done by the group and its accuracy. Only a few kids, both normal and ADHD, were distracted.

On a vast majority of the ADHD kids, compared to the other kids, music had no [bad] effect at all,” Pelham said. “In fact when we looked at individual patterns, some of the ADHD students actually did more work and were more accurate when there was music playing.”

According to Pelham, about 15 percent of the ADHD students completed about 20 percent more work when music was playing in the classroom.

“So really, it was a pretty significant effect,” said Pelham.

While music might not be used as treatment, the CCF is doing other studies on intervention treatment, a method that involves setting rules and having positive and negative consequences to create behavior modifications.

Intervention treatment might be better than medicating in the long term.

According to Pelham, medication has commendable short term effects and long term benefits, but behavior modification can last longer.

However, it’s a harder and longer process; behavior modification has to be done consistently at home for the child to learn new behavior patterns.

“You can give a child medication for 10 years, but if you stop and compare him to another child who was never on medication, they’re technically the same,” Pelham said. “Behavior modification could and should be used instead of medication.”

According to Pelham, if music can help ADHD students, it might be able to do the same for college students although it might vary from individual to individual.

“If you’re wondering whether or not music distracts or helps you in your studies, you should try and experiment on yourself,” advised Pelham.

Bard College president, next lecturer in CHUE’s lecture series

JUNETTE REYES  
Staff Writer

Leon Botstein, conductor and president of Bard College, will present the next lecture in The Center for the Humanities’ Spring 2013 series, “Exile, the Arts and Patronage.”

CHUE and the Exile Studies Program have partnered with the lecture series Exile, the Arts and Patronage of Spring 2013. Botstein’s lecture, “The Exiled Intellectual and the American University,” will be held at 7 p.m. on Monday, Feb. 25 in the Graham Center in Room 243.

Botstein will discuss Bard College’s role as patron of the arts, particularly of exiled artists.

Botstein was born in Zurich, Switzerland and is the son of Polish refugees. He is described as a “highly acclaimed conductor and impresario,” in addition to being an educator and writer.

“Bard College itself has been a shelter for exiles, especially academic exiles, intellectual exiles, for decades,” said Dr. Michael P. Gillespie, the director of CHUE.

Gillespie said the majority of people who come to the events are exiled in Miami or have direct experience with exiles.

“What we are doing together is keeping the discussion of exiles in the forefront of people’s consciousness,” said Gillespie.

This is one direction Gillespie is taking CHUE.

“Our aim is to foster conversations on the humanities in South Florida,” said Gillespie.

“We are here to talk to people from South Florida, who already have a very great sense of the Humanities, to let them know how we feel about certain issues and to learn from them on other issues.”

CHUE was certified in April 2011 and has featured lectures that touch upon issues such as the importance of the humanities as well as opposing views, the business side of medicine in terms of the complications of health-care costs, the represen-tations of violence in cinema in terms of its usefulness and whether it is unnecessary or art and the racial tensions and changes in cities.

“What we try to do is have a range of lectures that would appeal to different student constituencies here,” said Gillespie. “It has been really gratifying and very enlightening, very illuminating, to me, to learn as much about different perspectives of the humanities as I have and learn it from people who, without the center, I never would have been in contact with.

“Music helps ADHD students to concentrate

- edwive.seme@fiusm.com
Oscars might just turn out to be as predictable as usual

W ith the Oscars riding this weekend, everyone’s into award shows and movies has the same question on their mind: who’s taking home the gold?

It is doubtful that most people know exactly who they’ll be voting for themselves with every film nominated this year, as there are a grand total of 53 nominees in these 24 categories. It’s an overwhelming number for anyone to tackle, so how challenging it is to watch some of these considering their lack of a wide US release.

This year’s Best Picture nominees were fairly popular and widely known. There’s an abundance of American history films this year, with “Argo,” “Django Unchained,” “Lincoln,” and “Zero Dark Thirty” rounding out the nominees. While some of these seem to be in the lead, it wouldn’t be tough for a technical beauty like “Life of Pi,” the pulsing musical “Les Miserables,” the indie darling “Beasts of the Southern Wild,” or even the mental illness romcom “Silver Linings Playbook” to steal it out of their hands.

There’s a clear front-runner in the race for Foreign Film and it’s name is “Amour,” which is up for five nominations this year, including Best Picture. Everyone is gaga for Haneke’s depressing tale of old age and death, and it’s currently playing at the Tower Theater this month. Another impressive nominee from Chile is “No,” which will be having its Miami premiere next month at the Miami International Film Festival.

Nobody ever pays much attention to the short film nominees, but there’s a prime cut of shorts this year that are easy to watch if you know where to look. Those who missed the beautiful animated short “Paperman” in front of Disney’s “Wreck-It Ralph,” can find that tossed into the mix, and those interested in the live-action and documentary shorts will find that “Curfew” and “Monday at Raceine” are the current frontrunner, watching at the Cosford Cinema or Miami Beach Cinematheque.

The actors and actresses are easy predications this year, with Daniel Day-Lewis and Tommy Jones up for the male wins for “Lincoln,” and Jennifer Lawrence and Anne Hathaway for the female wins in “Silver Linings Playbook” and “Les Miserables,” respectively. There’s a slim chance that Emmanuelle Riva, Robert DeNiro, or Christoph Waltz may be able to sneak their way into winning, but it’s unlikely. If “Lincoln” seems like it is gaining an overwhelming amount of possible love, it’s because it’s the likely winner for Best Adapted Screenplay, and seven time nominee Steven Spielberg is in the game for Best Director. Ben Affleck may have won the Globe, the BAFTA, but the Academy excluded him from their nominees, making for a disappointing punch. While Best Picture nominees “Django Unchained,” “Amour,” and “Zero Dark Thirty” all have a shot for Original Screenplay, Ang Lee’s technical genius for “Life of Pi” will likely go unrewarded as it falls under the budget, predictable steamroller that is “Lincoln.”

The minor categories aren’t on too many minds and are unpredictable as can be, so a quick look at documentary and animated will serve to close this off.

In terms of documentaries, the important look at sexual abuse in the military, “The Invisible War,” will likely be snubbed this year for the pretty but aimless “Searching for Sugar Man.” As for the animated features, it’s a fairly strong category, but Pixar’s weak “Brave” looks to be in the lead instead of the stop-motion wonders “ParaNorman” and “Frankenweenie.”

It’s impossible to tell what could happen with the Oscars, as voters tend to ditch their usual predictability at times, but these are just some simple predictions and helpful tips to knowing where to watch a few of the lesser known flicks this year.

Juan Barquin is a junior FIU English major. For the past year and a half, he has written more than 80 movie reviews for YAM-Magazine and is pursuing a certificate in Film Studies at the University.
FIU staff turnover

Cristobal staff
Alex Mirabal: Offensive Line
Todd Orlandi: Defensive Coordinator
Tim Crumsey: Offensive Coordinator
Jeff Popovich: Special Teams Coordinator
Cedric Callaham: Defensive Line
Dionte Navarro, Jr.: Outside Linebackers
Frank Ponce: Wide Receivers
Dennis Smith: Tight Ends/Recruiting Coordinator
Apollo Wright: Running Backs

Turner staff
Ron Turner: Offensive Coordinator
Steve Shankweiler: Offensive Line
Josh Conklin: Defensive Coordinator
Kevin Woulfhausen: Special Teams Coordinator
Andrew Hayes-Stoker: Running Backs
Morgan Turner: Tight Ends/Offensive Tackles
Cameron Turner: Quarterbacks/Wide Receivers
Tom Williams: Linebackers
André Patterson: Defensive Line

New coaching staff brings loads of experience

JONATHAN JACOBSKIND Staff Writer

If there is one thing Head Coach Ron Turner and his newly appointed coaching staff don’t lack heading into their first year at FIU, it’s experience. The staff boasts a combined 30 years of NFL experience.

Aside from experience, there won’t be a need for icebreakers with this coaching staff as Ron Turner went the familiarity route when hiring his staff.

“I choose guys that I know what kind of people they are, what kind of character they have, and what kind of teachers or communicators they are. That is what’s most important to me,” Ron Turner said. “These guys have a great mix of experience and youth, high-energy guys that can relate to the players.”

Ron Turner turned over a new leaf for FIU football, keeping only one position coach — running backs coach Apollo Wright from Mario Cristobal’s staff.

Wright, however, left FIU on Feb. 18 to reprise his role in the University of New Mexico of his hiring.

With South Florida being a hotbed for high school football talent and Cristobal’s former staff knowing the area real well, it begs the question as why not keep some of Cristobal’s coaches in order to reel in some of the area’s finest athletes.

“I didn’t want to necessarily just come in and clean house. I wanted to find the best people that where the best fit for the direction that we’re trying to go,” Ron Turner, university “I had an open mind and spoke to everyone on the staff.”

As if Ron Turner could not surround himself enough with guys that satisfy his niche, the former Super Bowl participant hired two of his sons to his coaching staff. Cameron Turner, who is coming off a year stint as an assistant head coach of the Minnesota Vikings will coach quarterbacks and receivers, while Morgan Turner, a former offensive assistant for the Stanford Cardinals, will coach the offensive line and tight ends.

Getting his sons to FIU was actually a difficult task, according to Ron Turner. He had to do his best to pry them from their previous jobs.

“They both had great jobs where they were, I had to fight to get them,” Ron Turner said. “We have been sitting in some of the meetings talking termi-speaking and football and I enjoy listening to them talk about the great ideas. They have done a great job of preparing for this.”

As soon as Ron Turner was hired on Jan. 4, it was not the smoothest of transitions. Upon getting the call by athletic director Pete Garcia, he had been hired, Ron Turner was faced with daunting task of compiling a recruiting class while hiring his coaching staff, all at the same time.

“It’s part of the job. It was non-stop and tough, but in a good way,” Ron Turner said.

RHYE WILLIAMS Contributing Writer

On Feb. 12, news broke that the International Olympic Committee proposed that wrestling be dropped from the 2020 Olympic games, a decision that ignited uproar in the wrestling community.

The FIU wrestling club was among the groups upset with the IOC’s decision.

“It is absurd to get rid of the sport,” said Jahrel Francis, club member. “The IOC removing it just makes me believe that there will be a severe downfall in the Olympics in coming games.”

“Dumb. Plain and simple, it is dumb to take out wrestling,” said Christian Viera. “It is one of the original sports to be involved in the games.”

Michael Aza, another member, believes stripping wrestling from the Olympics kills any desire to continue wrestling for some.

“It is messed up because the wrestlers are not going to have any motivation to pursue it,” Aza said. “If it truly is kept out of future Olympics, I don’t think that it as a sport will be as big around the world as it currently is.”

All over the nation, groups are petitioning the IOC to change their decision back to keep wrestling as a sport for the Olympic games. The biggest push is from Minn. Rep. Bob Dettmer, a former Olympic wrestler and NCAA wrestling national champion, who is pushing in the House of Representatives to take action in petitioning the decision of the IOC, along with fellow Minn. Rep. Tim Walz attempting to do so in the Senate.

Later in September, the IOC will its decision on whether to officially drop the sport.

Students are not only reacting on the Olympic front, but how it will affect the athletes who have dedicated their lives, or planned on it to wrestling with the dream of becoming an Olympic athlete.

“It doesn’t only disrespect the sport but it also diminishes the dreams of thousands of children and teens around the world as they were training for that one event, or children in the United States who rely on the sport to make it to college,” Francis said.

“It has been practiced for thousands of years and [the IOC] is taking so many people’s motivation and dreams away,” Jose Arrastia added.

Some people, like freshman Derrick Jones, do not see the IOC’s decision as much of an issue for future Olympic games so long as they don’t start taking out some of the other key sports.

“As long as track is still included I will still be watching the future versions of the games,” Jones said. “I think mixed martial arts would be an awesome replacement for wrestling. That simply is an amazing idea to me.”

The IOC decided that wrestling is no longer one of the “core 25” sports. Possible replacements that are being considered for the single open spot are baseball/softball, karate, squash, roller sport, sport climbing, wushu and wakeboarding along with the possibility of wrestling returning.

Squash is a racquet sport played by two players or four players on court at a time, in a four-walled court with a small rubber ball. It is one of the few sports that use human powered vehicles, such as roller blades, which move by either gravity or pushing methods.

The sport of wushu is an exhibition of skill and a full-contact sport which is derived from traditional Chinese martial arts techniques.
Panthers look to sweep second tournament at FIU Classic

BRYAN PALACIO
Contributing Writer

After playing 11 games in 14 days, the FIU softball team traded onto their next tournament of the season with a perfect weekend behind them, but not as fast a start as they would’ve liked.

The Panthers (6-5) come off a weekend tournament which saw them win all four of their games in the Blue/Gold Felsberg Memorial tournament, bringing them to a five-game win streak and above .500 for the first time this season. Unfortunately, it’s not the start they were looking for.

“Forty plus wins,” said senior Brie Rojas in the preseason of the team’s goal. Forty wins is still possible, but that means they’d have to go 34-9 over the rest of the season. The Panthers have only reached 40 wins once in program history in 2001.

The season just started and FIU, sitting third in the Sun Belt Conference, is already down four teams to games that have played fewer games. But without any conference games played yet, the team is still in good position to compete for the top spot.

“We made our adjustments,” said Head Coach Jake Schumann. “When they’re going to throw us away then we need to hit it away. [We need to] be on the cover and hit to all fields. I thought we did pretty well at that this weekend.”

FIU ranks sixth in team batting average in the SBC, same spot they held last year.

SUN BELT CONFERENCE STANDINGS

| South Alabama | 8-1 | North Texas | 4-5 |
| Louisiana-Lafayette | 7-1 | Troy | 4-5 |
| Louisiana-Monroe | 5-4 | Florida Atlantic | 3-6 |
| FIU | 6-5 | Middle Tennessee | 0-5 |
| WKU | 2-2 |

Tennis still struggling as conference play opens

TEennis, PAGE 6

I thought since [Maisak] being a senior I thought she could win it, but unfortunately wasn’t able to,” Petrovic said. “When she had match point at up 6-5 she made a bad decision on the serve, but I already talked to her about it.”

Against the Mean Green of North Texas, the Panthers took care of business in doubles. Battling windy weather conditions, the duo of Maisak and Trifunovic, along with Boha and Orlando earned victories to clinch the doubles point.

In singles however, the Panthers faltered. Out of the five matches, Orlando was the only one on the winning side defeating North Texas’ Kseniya Bardabush in three hard fought sets 4-6, 6-4, and 10-5.

With the stretch of four straight road games in the books, the Panthers now have 11 of their final 13 matches on their home tennis courts.

FIU will look to regroup as its quests for win number one the season continues on Friday Feb. 22 at home against intrastate opponent Florida State University.

“Now I can only continue to encourage the girls, and building more mental toughness,” Petrovic said. “I will continue to stress to give 100 percent. These girls work really hard in practice, it hasn’t completely shown in the matches yet, but it’s not something that happens in one day.”

Freshman Carlotta Orlando is one of the few bright spots so far this season, winning all but one of her singles matches for a 4-1 record.

No football coaches leftover from Cristobal era

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Turner said, “A lot of things were going on, a lot of balls were in the air but we finally were able to get together a great coaching staff and recruiting class.”

With those priorities now in check and finally settling into his reins as head coach, Ron Turner is looking forward to doing what he came here to do: coach football and contour the minds of young student athletes.

“When I first got here my main focus were on recruiting and getting my staff together, so I told our guys that they’re the most important part of program because for the next three weeks I’m going to be gone,” Ron Turner said. “We’re just anxious to finally get back out there on the field with the players and get to know them as people.”
A “Hoot” of an evening with Carl Hiaasen

ALFREDO APARICIO
Staff Writer

An Evening with Carl Hiaasen promises to be a “Hoot” as the best selling author and journalist for The Miami Herald visits the Biscayne Bay Campus on Monday, Feb. 25 where he will give a lecture on Florida’s environment and its natural resources and will be available for a Q&A session and book signing afterward.

The evening with Hiaasen is free and open to the public and will take place in the Wolfe University Center at the Mary Ann Wolfe Theater from 6:30 p.m. to 8 p.m.

Hiaasen is the second guest lecturer in the Student Government Association – BBC lecture series that began with The New York Times media reporter, Brian Stelter, this past January and will conclude with Larry King this upcoming March.

Hiaasen’s lecture will be co-sponsored by the School of Environment, Arts and Society.

“We looked at different topics or areas such as politics, journalism, etc.,” said Rafael Zapata, the assistant director of Campus Life at BBC and SGC-BBC adviser. “We were looking at partnering up with an academic department to bring someone to the campus.”

Hiaasen, who was born and raised in Florida, was hired by The Miami Herald in 1976, where he still works as a columnist, and began his career as a novelist in 1981 with “Powder Burn,” which he wrote with Bill Montalbano. Hiaasen wrote his first solo novel, “Tourist Season,” in 1986. His 1993 novel, “Strip Tease,” was adapted into a film starring Demi Moore and Burt Reynolds. His 1993 novel, “Strip Tease,” was adapted into a film starring Demi Moore and Burt Reynolds. Since then he has written three other young adult novels—“Flush,” “Scat” and “Chomp”—and over 10 adult fiction novels, eight of which have been national bestsellers that have been translated into more than 30 languages. Hiaasen’s lecture series is based around an evening with Larry King, in which students will hear about his experiences starting as a journalist in Florida and becoming one of the nation’s most watched TV personalities.

We’re hoping the lecture is a learning and engaging experience for our students.

Rafael Zapata
Assistant Director and SGA Adviser
Campus Life and Student Government Association

We’re hoping the lecture is a learning and engaging experience for our students. Larry King is a name that should be familiar to anyone who has paid attention to the news in the past 30 years. A journalist, radio and television host, it is fitting for King to speak at the Biscayne Bay Campus where the School of Journalism and Mass Communications is located, as a part of the Student Government Council’s lecture series.

SGC-BBC creates a lecture series every year with the aim of enticing students to participate and learn from different distinguished figures.

“Our hope is that the student body will learn from these speakers and thus create an invigorating debate,” said Pablo Haspel, SGC-BBC president who is earning his master’s degree in public administration.

For these lectures, student government reaches out to various public speaker agencies in order to see whom they are offering and evaluate how it would be beneficial to have them speak at the University.

However, students had the final say when Larry King was the highest ranked in a survey of which speakers they would prefer in the lecture series.

In the past, the lecture series has brought Common, Dan Savage and Adrian Grenier, and they hope to continue the tradition with Carl Hiaasen and King.

We’re hoping the lecture is a learning and engaging experience that will allow the student body to interact and learn from an individual that has had the honor of interviewing many of the most distinguished people in the world,” said Haspel.

From 1985 to 2010, King hosted the popular and self-titled TV program “Larry King Live” on CNN. Throughout his run on “Larry King Live,” King interviewed many prominent figures from politicians to celebrities.

The lecture will be based around an evening with Larry King, in which students will hear about his experiences starting as a journalist in Florida and becoming one of the nation’s most watched TV personalities.

With someone who has such an extended resume as King, SGC-BBC hopes that students will be inspired by his experiences in order to achieve the same success he has achieved.

Students are encouraged to attend and to take away life lessons from these lectures that will help them on their path to finding careers.

The SGC-BBC Lecture Series Presents: Larry King will take place in the WUC Ballrooms on Thursday, Mar. 28 from 6 p.m. to 9 p.m.

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