2-6-2015

The Beacon, February 6, 2015

Florida International University

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Goals for 2014 academic year passed

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The Title V grant, generated by the government, as you know, is one area that has seen significant growth in recent years. From a national perspective, the Title V grant has been a key driver in the growth of community colleges. It helps fund the expansion of educational opportunities, particularly for underrepresented minority students. It is clear that the Title V grant has had a profound impact on higher education, and we should continue to support it.

New technology simplifies faculty-advisor communication

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New software has been added to the PantherSoft Faculty Center that will facilitate communication between faculty and academic advisors. The program aims to allow faculty members to contact advisors as a form of early intervention for students who are identified as struggling in certain courses.

According to Dr. Douglas L. Robertson, dean of undergraduate education, the Early Alert feature is part of the University’s Graduation Success Initiative, a specific brand of academic intervention to help students succeed.

Consisting of four main objectives, the initiative involves helping incoming students identify a major early, providing a clear path to help students meet the requirements for the major in question, providing feedback about progress toward the academic goal and removing barriers on the way to graduation.

While the feature is now available for use by professors teaching all types of undergraduate courses, the Early Alert system was already in existence for a number of specific courses.

The alert system built upon one that had already been developed as part of the Title V grant with the college algebra course. The Title V grant, generated by the government, was received specifically to improve student success in college algebra, as the course had a high predicting value of whether the student enrolled would graduate on time or not.

Some time after the University received the grant, it was discovered that if a student failed college algebra, then he or she would be 75 percent less likely to graduate on time. The system was later expanded to include other sets of courses: first year experience and English composition courses.

The system was then tested for gateway courses. Among the were gateway courses, those that go toward meeting the University Core Curriculum requirements and are common prerequisites for other classes, such as college algebra, finite math, general biology and principles of macroeconomics, among others.

Every school should have this type of technology. This makes it a lot easier, more streamlined, for a professor to lead students to make the right decisions when they are struggling in class.

Abel Tomlin
Junior
Mechanical Engineering

Since the software already existed, it just needed to be modified to fit other course groups. One of the intended purposes of the Early Alert system is to provide a manner of intervening early in cases where students are at risk, that a professor deems as a risk for failing.

Professors using the feature will be able to navigate between different columns of academic progress, such as attendance and assignment completion. Robertson believes that faculty members are just as eager as students to use the feature.

Admits that although the feature will go a long way to help ensure student success, faculty participation is optional. Rather than wait until the midterm or final examinations for information on the student's progress to be gathered, Robertson believes that faculty members should be proactive in providing early progress reports of students in order to better identify which ones should be contacted by advisors.

Ideally, the alert should be made within the first three to four weeks of the semester, according to Robertson.

2012, Robertson said. At present, the University boasts an advisor-to-student ratio of around 400-to-one, a significant drop from a previous ratio of around 1000-to-one, all due to the University's efforts of hiring more advisors to serve the student population. Some students believe that the program doesn’t hold much promise.

Even if an advisor notified of a student's at-risk performance contacts a student, the decision of whether or not to meet with the advisor rests with the student.

"I don’t think it’ll do much,” said Laura Fernandez, a junior architecture major. "It’s likely that a student will be called to speak with [his or her] advisor and they will just ignore the advisor’s request."

Robertson admits that while advisors have many ways of reaching out to students, such as through text messages, emails and phone calls, they can only do so much to ensure that a student pays them a visit to discuss their progress.

There is a certain point at which a student’s sense of responsibility must kick in.

Other students, however, actually believe the Early Alert feature will yield positive effects. "Every school should have this type of technology," said Abel Tomlin, a junior mechanical engineering major. "This makes it a lot easier, more streamlined, for a professor to lead students to make the right decisions when they are struggling in class."
Jordan executes 2 prisoners to avenge pilot Islamic State burned alive

Jordanian state television said one of the executed prisoners was Sajida al-Rishawi, the 44-year-old Iraqi woman whose release the Islamic State had demanded in return for the life of a Japanese hostage killed last week. The other was Ziad al-Karbouli, a jihadist who once worked with Abu Musab al-Zarqawi, the founder of al-Qaeda in Iraq, the organization that was the precursor to the Islamic State.

China fears Japan will use hostage crisis to drop pacifist policies

When news broke Sunday that militants from the Islamic State group had beheaded journalist Kenji Goto after killing another Japanese citizen, much of the world condemned the executions and offered Japan condolences.

Not China. In Beijing, concerns over Tokyo’s possible response to the beheadings— a building of Japan’s military—trumped diplomatic niceties.

On Tuesday, Global Times, the country’s military and explore “a precursor to the Islamic State. If former President Ricardo Martinelli returns to Panama, Panama’s ex-president trots globe, one step ahead of corruption probe at home

Panama has long been a haven for dictators and foreign oil-do-wells, but now its citizens are watching the curious spectacle of their own former president trotting the globe in a private jet, perhaps looking for revenge himself.

If former President Ricardo Martinelli returns to Panama, the likelihood of his arrest on corruption charges appears to grow by the day.

Martinelli left Panama last Wednesday aboard a 15-seat Hawker jet for Guatemala, then continued for refueling stops in Florida, Canada and Ireland before landing in Bologna, Italy.

Technology allows faculty to contact advisors with ease

Robertson says that the current step is to educate faculty members about this feature available to them, to encourage them to make use of it.

Robertson admitted that several people have commented on the program, saying that they wish something of its kind had existed when they were undergraduate students.

He confessed that, if something like the Early Alert system had existed when he was in college, he would have helped him focus more on learning. He found on trying to get to know his advisor, learn the policies of academic performance or figure out what classes to take.

Those students have a negative impact on one’s academic record, Robertson believes it can also have detrimental psychological effects.

He provided the example of an incoming freshman student who has doubts about whether or not college is for him or her.

If the student fails a course, then his or her doubts will be continued, leaving a psychological impact about academic abilities.

If the University can keep students from having to drop experiences, particularly during the first and second semesters, then students may increase their chances of succeeding across the board.

“...And finding out what you want to do for that career, finding out what you want to do for that major, finding the answers to your questions,” Roman Biffa said. "This program gave me the opportunity to (become) a student of any major with at least a 3.0 GPA."

The program also covers how to confront homelessness.

“...This is a great opportunity to network,” Dinar said. “These days, securing a job is difficult. The Washington Center helps expose students to networking opportunities that are difficult to find.”

What makes the program so spectacular is its versatility towards any major, said Dinar. The Washington Center will find suitable opportunities for any majors. Those interested must be accepted into the program, with letters of recommendation being part of the application requirements.

“Any student will benefit from the program,” he said.

“We’ve had students from our nursing program, political science program, psychology program and history program intern with the Washington Center.”

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Increasing our footprint by going local

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Since the 1970s there have been a lot of people who turn to vegetarianism as a way to reduce their negative effects on nature, the general pain and gloom of life for livestock and the guilt that comes from knowing that, when it comes down to it, steak is animal muscle.

There are two types of people who live this way. The first and largest group will eat fish and parts of harvested animals without killing them. Vegans, however, won’t eat any sort of animal product; they rely solely on first-tier energy producers like plants.

Let’s keep in mind the benefits of the vegetarian lifestyle.

Animals suffer in captivity. While the extent of this suffering can’t really be measured empirically, life is rough for livestock. Also, according to the EPA, raising these animals creates an environmental impact, mainly from methane created by cattle—yes, cattle farms—that traps much more heat than CO2.

Additionally, agriculture is one of the most destructive human activities. The farmer must clear acres of wild land to make space for the produce that the farmer will plant. Habitat loss is arguably the biggest threat to animal species worldwide, except perhaps climate change. The problem is that it takes more land to grow the equivalent of a cow’s worth of protein than the space that such a cow would take up.

However, this is not the true genocide. Mice are exterminated by the millions through agriculture. There is rat poison in the grain silos that store grain and there are mice that die from field pesticides.

A study from Australia (the only place where such research exists) found that there are 500 to 1,000 mice per hectare of farmland and 80 percent of them are killed. If the land used for agriculture accounted for just 1 percent of Australia’s land mass it would be 7,686,850 hectares of land, or 2.5-6 million mice die every year due to agriculture in that country alone.

If everyone became a vegetarian, these numbers would skyrocket. Even though pesticides and fertilizers are mostly made from petrochemicals, the organic alternative is also damaging to the environment. While organic farmers do less damage to the soil that they cultivate, the runoff of excess fertilizers causes putrefaction in nearby bodies of water. The Gulf of Mexico is a perfect example, most of which has slowly died due to the fertilizers that find their way into the Mississippi River. If cow excrement creates putrification around cattle pens it’s logical to expect that effect would be similar if the farmer sprinkled the manure on their produce. The same goes for pesticides, even organic farmers use natural pesticides which still kill the insects, spiders and mice.

In terms of greenhouse gasses, agriculture is not necessarily a good practice. The chemicals used in non-organic agriculture are mostly petroleum derivatives.

While organic produce reduces the use of those chemicals, organic foods make up a small portion of agriculture and are expensive enough to keep many people from being able to buy them. All agriculture relies on heavy vehicles such as tractors and tractors also uses up a lot of water.

The only way to reduce animal suffering is by changing our behaviour as consumers, which is exactly what vegetarians are doing. However, turning everyone into a vegetarian doesn’t sound feasible and some ways of raising livestock are much more humane than others.

While the end result of killing the animal will not change, the life of the animal could be much less miserable. There should probably be a law protecting the rights of livestock, but considering that animals aren’t entitled to rights according to the law and that the cattle industry is very rich and profitable, I wouldn’t bet my savings on that happening soon.

My recommendation: Buy local! To me this is the most important step to take. Chickens have a shorter lifespan, require less space to raise and are much healthier sources of protein than cows and pigs.

Farm raised fish don’t deplete the natural fish populations and recent breakthroughs in technology allow the fish farms to be in the open sea—as opposed to tanks and pools which is the current method—which greatly reduces the problem caused by fish waste.

If you do chose to eat red meat, the least destructive form of doing that is by eating free range cows — cattle raised in pastures eating grass.

Lastly, if you can afford it, eat organic. The ideal way to reduce your footprint — for those who have time — is to have a small vegetable garden to reduce your dependence on agricultural produce.

These foods require no transportation and the gardener controls exactly what goes into the food, but not all of us can afford the spare time.

Abortion should be a woman’s option

VANESSA MARTINEZ
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One woman should have to be held accountable for the life of a child she did not agree to make due to rape and certain situations involving incest. The reasons that support this stance in society often revolve around the idea of virginity and the fact that the woman is responsible for the development of a child that is forbidden by law. It is necessary to remember that the connection it has with situations involving incest. Unlike certain situations where a child is unfamiliar with their father because they were born out of rape, it is equally unfair that a child conceived out of incest would have to live a life knowing that their father is also their brother, or any double familial role that they are born into.

Abortion may be a crucial decision, but it could also be the fairest logical decision. From a stranger. It’s another reason that supports why abortion is a better logical decision.

However, this same notion of abortion is relevant towards the connection it has with situations involving incest. Unlike certain situations where a child is unfamiliar with their father because they were born out of rape, it is equally unfair that a child conceived out of incest would have to live a life knowing that their father is also their brother, or any double familial role that they are born into. Abortion may be a crucial decision, but it also could be the fairest logical decision that stays from shame within a family, and most importantly one that is forbidden by law. It is necessary to remember that the child did not ask to be born in the first place.

Based upon the circumstances of the time when the woman was impregnated, she should be able to determine whether or not having a child would free her from her victimization, or hold her back. At the end of the day, it is up to her, not us.

FRANK AND IRENE: Payday

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

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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.
Have to “go” somewhere on campus? I can speak for the guys on this when I say that a nice bathroom is a home away from home sometimes. I have been, at some point or another during my tenure at FIU, to a bathroom in most of the buildings here. I am not counting bathrooms in the housing buildings. That is the closest “at home” bathroom available for some students but I am solely counting buildings that every student has access to.

A good bathroom should be comforting, clean and not full - which is sometimes the most important aspect. The following are my top three men’s bathrooms at the University.

No. 3
The third best men’s room on campus has to go to the location on the second floor of the Ernest R. Graham Center that is near the Student Government Association office. The reason this location is up there is that, in my history of being in GC and needing to use them, it is never really full. Yes, it may not always be the cleanest, but it is good when the need comes. It is, however, the best bathroom in arguably the most crowded building on campus.

No. 2
This one may have the most backlash out of any of my picks, but my second highest rated men’s restroom is the one at the U.S. Century Bank Arena. Out of the many sets of restrooms here, the set I find the best are in the corner between the hallway with classrooms near the student entrance and the back hall with the racquetball courts. They are usually clean and always empty. The worst part is that the temperature is a little high because there are no windows around the staircase to the outside world directly across from them.

No. 1
The penthouse suite of FIU may not be in the tallest building, but it houses the top dog of the University in President Mark B. Rosenberg. That is the office of the president and several other members of the administration for the University. Near the hallway that leads you past the office of the board of trustees, heading down to the office of the president, is a set of bathrooms. These are my top bathrooms for the University on the men’s side.

They are clean a majority of the time, and I have had a class in Primera Casa every semester since I have been at FIU. I usually take the elevator ride up a couple seconds to the fifth floor to use these facilities if I am in the building or area and feel the need to “go.” The bathrooms are also always filled with the necessities of toilet paper, hand soap and paper towels.

Top Tres is done for every Friday issue of The Beacon and on fiusm.com. The view of the Top Tres do not represent the views of FIU Student Media. If you wish to suggest an FIU “top three” topic for Rhys Williams, send him an email at rhys.williams@fiusm.com.

SOUND OF MUSIC

Guest violinist Sharon Wei also joined the Amernet String Quartet who performed pieces composed by Ludwig von Beethoven and Karl Goldmark.

Senior Instructor and Artist-in-Residence Micheal Klotz plays viola during the Feb. 3, performance.

LIfe!
A sit down with popular local DJ Heron

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In anticipation of DillaWeekend, FIUSM had a chance to sit down and talk with DJ Heron.

DJ Heron is hosting and organizing DillaWeekend, which started on Thursday, Feb. 5 and will go on until Sunday, Feb. 8.

Heron: I’m just a Miami DJ. I do a lot of parties down here in Miami, and I have a lot of fun doing them.

You’re not just a DJ though. Somewhere along the line, you decided, “We’re lacking something.” What was it?

Heron: Nobody was doing regular club shows trying to bring individual artists like Raekwon, Black Rob, or any shows like that… Plus, my genre, I really don’t cater to the new style of hip-hop that’s out there now. I really play that old boom-bap stuff… and I was just like “You know what? Let me just do what me and my boys want to see and see how it goes from there.”

Around what year?

Heron: Around two years ago. We started with Raekwon first.

So it was Raekwon [first], and from there, things just fell into place?

Heron: Everything just fell into place and people saw there was a market down here. Sponsors came out… That’s where it all took off.

How did that lead to Dillafest?

Heron: Mrs. Yancey [J Dilla’s mother] reached out to me in late November and father RJ, [who] is Young RJ’s father from Slum Village, Mr. Rice, he reached me up also, and they were looking for me because they wanted to do Dilla Day in Miami… I gave them the idea… and I was like “Well, Mrs Yancey, Mr. Rice, I think instead of just doing a J Dilla day, we should do a J Dilla weekend.”

If you’re coming from Japan, or coming from England, you don’t want to just come to Miami for one day.

So why Miami? Why not, for example, Atlanta? It’s because they saw there was a track record there in the previous two years?

Heron: It’s because of the weather. Atlanta’s cold in February also.

Why does Miami have a J Dilla weekend whereas Los Angeles only have a day, and is three times the size of the Miami metro area?

Heron: I guess they didn’t have somebody like me to come up with the concept.

Friday, Feb. 6 is at The Stage, it’s Talib Kweli and Black Milk, right?

Heron: Correct… It’s a performance from Talib Kweli, and it’s a drum machine and video performance from Black Milk, plus there’s also a performance from Da Vinci from Miami Beat Wave, and also there’s a performance from Dynas… probably the only one in Miami that has a song with J Dilla called “The Apartment.” It’s an official song. Klassik is DJ’ing, so is DJ Sharpounds and I’ll be DJ’ing also. Tony Touch too.

Saturday the seventh is probably the meat of the [weekend], right? It’s shaping up to be an all day thing.

Heron: Yeah. It starts at 2 p.m. It starts with the Dunk Xchange first. Then we have Joey Bada$$, Mobb Deep, the Soulection barbecue with Esta and Starro, Chuck Strangers, Camp Lo, and I think we just added Kaytranada.

That’s just the day?

Heron: Yeah. That’s just the daytime. That’s just from 2 p.m. to 10 p.m. at night. I mean, by 9 p.m. it’s gonna be pretty much done.

Then at night-time at The Stage we got Slum Village and Pete Rock, right?

Heron: Right.

Dead Prez is slated for Sunday?

Heron: Not only that, we just added a lot more to Sunday. We added a performance from Termology, a performance from Wreckonize from ¡MAYDAY!... Statik Selektah is going to do a DJ set.
University to possibly house Miami Beckham United as temporary option

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The University could be the temporary home of David Beckham’s major league soccer team. Executive Director of Sports and Entertainment Pete Garcia held a press conference on Tuesday, Feb. 3, to announce the University’s bid as the short-term playing field for the proposed MLS team.

The final alignment has the Conference USA football schedule announced, with seven and six teams respectively. FIU split into two divisions, East and West, made conference would align the divisions.

potential scenarios drawn up as to how the joining C-USA, there were many different would be making the jump to Division 1 and of North Carolina at Charlotte’s football team carrying a football team, and the University of Alabama at Birmingham was no longer schedule for the 2015 season.

has finally unveiled their official football final schedule would look, Conference USA jacob.spiwak@fiusm.com

EXPERIENCE, NOT SIZE

When it was announced that the University of Alabama at Birmingham was no longer carrying a football team, and the University of North Carolina at Charlotte’s football team would be making the jump to Division I and joining C-USA, there were many different potential scenarios drawn up as to how the conference would align the divisions.

The final alignment has the Conference US split into two divisions, East and West, made up of seven and six teams respectively. FIU will be competing in the East Division along with Charlotte, Florida Atlantic University, Marshall University, Middle Tennessee State University, Old Dominion University, and Western Kentucky University. The West will consist of Louisiana Tech University, University of North Texas, Rice University, University of Southern Mississippi, University of Texas at El Paso, and University of Texas at San Antonio.

Teams from the West will play every team in their division, and have three additional conference games against teams from the East Division. Three teams from the East Division play everyone in their division and have two crossover games with teams from the West. The other four teams in the East will play five games against division opponents and two crossover games.

Unlike last season (in which FIU opened the season with four consecutive home games), four of the first five games for the Panthers in 2015 will be on the road.

FIU opens their season on Saturday, Sept. 5, against in-state rival University of Central Florida. The last time these two teams met, UCF shut out FIU 38-0 in Miami. The Panthers will then travel to Bloomington, IN to take on the Indiana University Hoosiers. FIU will return to Miami for their home opener a week later, facing off with Football Championship Series opponent North Carolina Central University.

On Saturday, Sept. 26, the Panthers will open C-USA play with a trip to Joe Aillet Stadium to take on the Zaxby’s Heart of Dallas Bowl champion Louisiana Tech Bulldogs. They play one more non-conference game against the University of Massachusetts Amherst on Saturday, Oct. 3, and the rest of the season consists of solely C-USA games. UTEP will visit Ocean Bank Field at FIU Stadium on Saturday, Oct. 10, which will be the first conference home game for FIU in 2015. One week later, FIU will travel to Middle Tennessee attempting to defeat the Blue Raiders for the second season in a row, before traveling back to Miami to face the Monarchs of Old Dominion.

On Halloween, the Panthers will travel to Boca Raton to face their biggest rival, the Owls of FAU. FAU will be looking to avenge their 38-10 loss at the hands of the Panthers from the 2014 season. FIU will return home the following week to play the Charlotte 49ers, marking the first time the Panthers will face their new C-USA opponent. Saturday, Nov. 14, may prove to be FIU’s toughest day of the season, going on the road to face Marshall, the reigning conference and Boca Raton Bowl champions. FIU will close out the season on Saturday, Nov. 21, with a home game against Western Kentucky.

The C-USA Championship will feature the winners of the East and West Divisions on Friday, Dec. 11. This game will be televised nationally on either ESPN or ESPN 2. The official television schedule for the conference will be announced on a later date.
National Signing Day adds 18 new Panthers

Rob Harley, who left to fill the same position at the University of Pittsburgh in January. “Tem is a bright, young defensive coach, who was a key part of our staff at Rutgers and at Tampa Bay,” said former NFL head coach Greg Schiano. “He’s a great fit for FIU and Head Coach Ron Turner.”

Tem Lukabu is a very intelligent, hard-working individual and I’m excited about this signing class.

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Starting Wednesday morning, high school athletes started signing their letters and officially joining universities they plan to call home.

National Signing Day took place on Feb. 4, and FIU solidified their 2015 recruiting class.

First to sign with the Panthers Wednesday was Collin Olsen, a four-year letterman running back from Spruce Creek High School. A few hours and 17 commits later, First-Team All-Dade County cornerback Olin Cushion III from Miami Central High School was FIU’s last signee.

Head Coach Ron Turner was excited about this signing class said the group of athletes brought in can be key in helping the Panthers for the next four years. “We put together a very good recruiting class,” Turner said. “We addressed our roster’s depth, and helped get players that we think will have an immediate impact.”

When asked which players may see significant playing time early on in their careers, said that the players at skill positions will have a great chance to contribute early on. “I envision a true freshman wide receiver Anthony Jones from Miami Central High School. The first one that comes to mind is Anthony Jones.” Turner said. “He’s a tremendous player. You watch the film, and you see him making play after play after play. Very talented guy, and he’s here in the spring so that’ll help him a lot as well.

Another player who enrolled early is Quarterback Christian Alexander from Lakeland Christian High School. Turner spoke highly of him and the other quarterback commit from the 2015 class, Maurice Alexander from Booker T. Washington High School, and hinted at a possible quarterback competition during the offseason.

“I think they’ve really excited about the two quarterbacks, Christine Alexander and Maurice Alexander,” Turner said. “I think they are both very good quarterbacks, and they’re going to come in and compete right away. That’s something that Alex (McGough) knows, as he came in last year and competed for the starting job.

I think both Alexess have something special, ability-wise, leadership-wise, and character-wise, they have what you’re looking for from a QB.”

The Panthers had an impressive signing class but they did lose out on players as well.

The most notable commitment came when Safety Octavio Rose, one of FIU’s highest rated defensive commitments, decided to enroll at the University of Florida.

Two weeks prior, former FIU offensive lineman commit Richard Williams flipped his commitment over to the Owls.

Turner discussed the importance of having players sign who want to be part of the university.

“We [want] get players who want to be here and believe in what we’re doing,” Turner said.

Including the three early enrollees and previously gray shirted cornerback Tyree Johnson and preferred walk-on kicker punter Stone Wilson, the Panthers 2015 class sits at 23 players. Turner placed emphasis on recruiting in-state talent, and the team accomplished just that. 21 of the 22 players they are from Florida, nine out of Miami-Dade County.

Breaking down the class by position, there are two quarterbacks, two running backs, four wide receivers, one tight end, three offensive linemen, four defensive linemen, one Linebacker, five defensive backs.

Tem Lukabu added to coaching staff to lead linebackers in 2015

This past weekend was big for Tem Lukabu. It had not only the biggest game of each football season-- Super Bowl XLIX-- but also the fourth annual National Football League Honors award.

This is where the regular season awards were given. As a defensive player of the year, the offensive and defensive rookies of the year, the comeback player of the year and the Walter Payton Award winner, among others.

The other important announcement was the revealing of the members for the 2015 Pro Football Hall of Fame.

I think that there were definitely some award snubs from this past weekend, along with some obvious on point selections.

Let me start with the Most Valuable Player award from the Super Bowl. Tom Brady, the quarterback of the New England Patriots, Super Bowl XLIX champions - was the right choice for the offensive player of the year and the MVP of the regular season.

If a defensive player has no chance at winning the Defensive Player of the Year award during this season - even with having offensive statistics - then the award should be separated and an overall MVP should be awarded.

My vote for the MVP of the 2014-2015 NFL season was J.J. Watt. The comeback player of the year award went to Rob Gronkowski.

This one is a personal vendetta, but I think it should have gone to the Philadelphia Eagles wide receiver Jeremy Maclin. Gronkowski played in more games during the 2013-2014 season at which point he was injured. Maclin missed the entire of 2013 with a leg injury.

The following men were announced as the inductees for the 2015 Pro Football Hall of Fame class: Junior Seau, Tim Brown, Jerome Bettis, Charles Haley, Bill Polian, Bill Polian, Bill Polian, Bill Polian, Bill Polian, Bill Polian, Bill Polian, Bill Polian, Bill Polian, Bill Polian.

There are several former players and coaches who I believe come on that list.

They include former St. Louis Rams and Arizona Cardinals quarterback Kurt Warner, former coaches Tony Dungy and Jimmy Johnson, former Indianapolis Colts wide receiver Marvin Harrison and former Tampa Bay Buccaneers strong safety John Lynch.

In my belief these men deserve to be in Canton in the next few years, but, I think that they should be there now.

Rhye’s Piece is a weekly column on both FIU and National sports news that goes online. The views shown by Rhye’s Piece are not necessarily the views of The Beacon, its Editorial Board or FIU Student Media.

Check back every Friday for the latest edition of Rhye’s Piece and email rhye.williams@fiu.edu with a topic that you would like to suggest.

Tis the season of snubbing for the NFL

If a defensive player has no chance of winning, such as J.J. Watt should have this season - even with having offensive statistics - then the award should be separated and an overall MVP should be crowned.

That perplexes me.

Working back to the NFL Honors Award show, which took place on Saturday, Jan. 31, there were a couple awards given that could not have been argued. “I’m...”

Some of these were the defensive player of the year which went to Houston Texans’ monster defensive end J.J. Watt, and the offensive rookie of the year going to New York Giants’ phenomenon Odell Beckham Jr. However, a few of the other big awards definitely did not agree with.

The biggest point is that, at this point, there needs to be a separate award for the defensive player of the year and the MVP of the regular season.

Winner: Rob Gronkowski
My vote: Jeremy Maclin

2015 Super Bowl MVP
Winner: Tom Brady
My vote: Julian Edelman

2015 NFL MVP
Winner: Aaron Rodgers
My vote: J.J. Watt

2015 Pro Football Hall of Fame Inductee


2015 NFL Awards

Winner: Rob Gronkowski
My vote: Jeremy Maclin

2015 Super Bowl MVP
Winner: Tom Brady
My vote: Julian Edelman

2015 NFL MVP
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MAST@FIU receives national award in STEM
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My vision as the principle of MAST@FIU is to create the image that [the academy] is the absolute best high school in the nation,” Welker said. “What leverages that position and assumption is the ongoing relationship that we have with the University.”

According to Welker, the academy’s most exemplified experience, as well as student access to university resources such as internships, lecures and career exploration, said Welker.

Jenny, a student at MAST@FIU received the 2015 STEM Excellence Award at the 35th Annual Florida Education Technology Conference in Orlando, Florida. It was the only Florida school to be recognized. The school was selected from hundreds of high school applicants across the nation that offer a curriculum in STEM. They were evaluated based on their use of interdisciplinary curriculum, collaboration, design, problem solving and overall STEM experiences.

“It came as a complete surprise,” said the school’s principal Matthew Welker. “I was in wait with great interest regarding the announcement as to whether or not we were anywhere in the running,” he said.

Finalists in the high school division also included Chartiers Valley High School from Bridgeville, Pennsylvania, and Park City High School from Park City, Utah. According to Welker, the award was due to a successful partnership between M-DCPS and FIU.

The faculty involvement of the University’s School of Environment, Arts and Society enriches the academy’s academic experience, as well as student access to university resources such as internships, lecures and career exploration, said Welker.

“[These students] are going to be the future scientists or future leaders... So we want to work with FIU and hopefully it’s going to be a partnership that’s just going to get bigger and bigger.

Martin Roch Professor Environmental and Technology

Top swimmers earn Conference USA recognition

STEFANO RIVERA
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The swimming and diving team could not have asked for a better start to the season. Sitting at 10-0, the Panthers’ have not only been one of the elite teams in Conference USA, but the nation as well. They seem to be hitting their stride as their regular season schedule comes to an end.

The team has been lifted by freshmen Silvia Scalia and Rebecca Quesnel. Scalia, a native from Italy, has been swimming for many years. In Italy, she participated in various events including the European Junior Championships, the Milan Trophy, and the Multination Games. She won a gold medal at the 2013 Summer National Youth Championships. Scalia has proven to be a very important aspect of the team.

Quesnel, an Ontario native, is a nationally ranked diver and has competed in the CAMO International Invitational, Canadian Junior Elite Nationals and was named an alternate for Team Ontario in 2013. Quesnel

proves to become an elite diver for the Panthers.

This past week, Scalia and Quesnel were named C-USA Swimmer and Diver of the Week, respectively. This was Scalia’s fifth Swimmer of the Week award, setting a C-USA record. Quesnel has collected six Diver of the Week awards this season, becoming the fourth diver in C-USA history to achieve such a feat. Even more impressive is the fact that both of these athletes are only freshmen.

They accomplished this by putting up impressive performances against instate rivals Florida Atlantic University and the University of Miami.

On Friday, Jan. 30, Scalia participated and won in three events, two of which included the 200 medley relay and the 200 freestyle events against FAU. Scalia and her teammates would go on to defeat the Owls in both events in convincing fashion.

Quesnel scored a 293.02 in the one-meter dive, which was good for first place. Quesnel took second place in the three-meter dive with a score of 293.02 as well. This was good enough to defeat the Owls and record their ninth win of the season.

On Saturday, Jan. 31, Scalia continued to show her dominance as she faced UM. Scalia had a total of four wins, three individual and one medley.

As always, she was a threat in the backstroke event as she won the 100 and 200 events. She clocked in at 55.56 in the 100 and 2:00.23 in the 200.

Scalia’s final individual win of the day was in the 200 IM, where she posted a time of 2:04.89. The Panthers would sneak by the Hurricanes 150-149.

After impressive performances from Scalia and Quesnel this past weekend, the Panthers get to rest until this week’s Conference USA Championships on Wednesday, Feb. 18, in Knoxville, Tennessee.

Bring a four-day tournament, the C-USA Championships will pose as the biggest threat the Panthers have faced this season.

Scalia and Quesnel will need to bring out their best performances in order for the Panthers to succeed against the tough competition.