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Play for female empowerment comes to the University

NICOLE MONTERO
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A global activist movement to stop violence against women and girls brings an episodic play of women’s rights, empowerment and respect to the Florida International University community.

The Vagina Monologues, brought to FIU by the Women’s Studies Student Association, is a play that consists of 16 different stories and interviews about all kinds of female experiences.

“The play talks about the experiences and things that women deal with: the good, the bad, the sad, the happy – all with the ultimate goal of female empowerment,” said Genesis Adrian, WSSA president and executive producer for the play.

She says, “There’s a lot of shame behind the female body, so we’re viewing the vagina as an image of empowerment and individuality.”

The play was written by Eve Ensler, founder of V-Day, a non-profit organization dedicated to stopping violence against women.

According to Adrian, Ensler started the plays because she felt there was a lot of shame around the female body.

“That’s how it came about and it’s important because, first of all, we live in a community that is infamous for a lot of bad things,” said Adrian. “South Florida is one of the largest communities with trafficking in America. It’s an alarming statistic and people don’t know that.”

According to Adrian, this statistic is the reason why the University became involved with the “It’s On Us” campaign, a movement dedicated to raising awareness about how the community can stop sexual violence.

“FIU is doing so many things right now,” said Kendra Jacobs, junior biology major. “I’m proud to be in a school where people, of all gender preferences, can be welcomed. There are gender neutral bathrooms and this new FIU’s progress on less violence and victimization toward this community.

The Vagina Monologues, a recurring play since 2001 will be collaborating with Omega Phi Beta, a new sorority dedicated to female empowerment.

All proceeds of the play will go to Kristi House, a nonprofit organization in Downtown Miami that rescues girls in need. Neiman Marcus, a cast member for the memorial.

Anthony Hernandez, a recent graduate who studied health services administration, shakes Detective William “Gunny” DeJesus’s hand at the career fair on Feb. 9 after a conversation.

DeJesus was representing the Fort Lauderdale Police Department at the career fair, where students had the opportunity to meet with various potential employers.

BUSINESS TIME

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Memorial held to honor Phillip Marcus

ADRIAN SUAREZ AVILA
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Faculty of the English Department, alongside students and members of the University community, met on Thursday, Feb. 12, for a memorial honoring Phillip Marcus, a professor of English who died on Saturday, Jan. 10.

Leading the memorial was James Sutton, chair of the English Department and associate professor of English.

According to Sutton, the memorial was organized to not only honor the memory of Marcus but also give all of those who knew him the chance to talk about him, read poetry, and talk about the impact he had on their lives as professors, students and lovers of literature.

While Sutton was in charge of coordinating the event’s coordination, he received help from other faculty members in the English department, as well as current students and alumni who knew Marcus.

“I will forever be thankful for the students who attended his memorial service. They reached out to me and shared personal stories about their professor who was a great influence in their lives. It’s humbling to see their love and respect for him,” Sutton said.

The memorial was held at the University of Miami’s Auditorium, where the audience sat in silence as Marcus’s life was celebrated.

Marcus was a beloved member of the University community, known for his passion for literature and his dedication to his students.

He said, “I will never forget the day when Marcus shared his love for poetry with me. He inspired me to pursue my dream of becoming a writer, and I will always be grateful to him for that.”

Marcus’s legacy will live on through the students who were fortunate enough to have him as their instructor.

“We will continue to remember him, and hold him dear.”

James Sutton
Chair
English Department

Sutton used the email as an example to call attention to how much Marcus cared for his students and how he was thinking about them while he was sick.

Sutton also read emails that past students of Marcus sent the professor, expressing their gratitude for the impact that he had on their professional, academic, and personal lives.

Speaking in regards to dealing with loss, Sutton said that one way of dealing with Marcus’s death was by doing exactly what he did in the classroom, never wanting to teach online courses.

An email that Marcus sent to his students last fall was read at the memorial.

“I’ve missed you all terribly, and I very much look forward to seeing you all again soon,” read the email.

The email reminded us of Marcus’s love for teaching and his commitment to his students.

“I’m sure that Marcus would be proud of the students who are now following in his footsteps,” Sutton said.

Marcus’s memory will continue to live on through his students and his legacy as a beloved professor and mentor.

SEE MARCUS, PAGE 2
**NATION & WORLD BRIEFS**

Tokyo district mulls plan to recognize same-sex couples dp

A central Tokyo district could become the first in Japan to give same-sex couples official recognition pending approval by the local government, media reported Thursday. A plan by Tokyo’s Shibuya ward to issue certificates stating that couples are in “relationships equivalent to marriage” will be brought to a vote in the local assembly in March, the Kyodo News agency reported. The draft is likely to be opposed by assembly members who say it could threaten traditional family values, Kyodo said. Same-sex couples can face discrimination when living together or visiting partners at hospitals on the grounds that they are not seen as relatives.

Cairo judge orders 2 Al Jazeera journalists freed on bail

A Cairo judge Thursday ordered the release on bail of two journalists for Al Jazeera English at the start of their retrial on terrorism-related charges. Mohamed Fahmy and Baher Mohamed have spent more than 13 months in jail. Their Australian colleague, Peter Greste, was released and deported last week.

Netanyahu’s U.S. speech drives wedge between Democrats, Israel

Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu’s planned address to Congress next month is driving an uncomfortable and rarely seen wedge between congressional Democrats and Israel--and that may have been exactly what House Speaker John A. Boehner and other Republicans intended. For many Democrats, and especially the more than two dozen Jewish members of Congress, Boehner’s decision to invite Netanyahu to speak about Iran’s nuclear program--despite objections from the White House--is forcing them to choose between their president and their long-standing support for Israel.

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**JIM MARCUS**

**MARCUS, PAGE 1**

Following Patrick’s portion of the memorial were recollections of Marcus delivered by Cindy Sepulveda, a student of Marcus who graduated from the University in 2003 with a Bachelor’s degree in English, and Michael Gillespie, professor of English. Finishing his portion of the event with a reading of William Shakespeare’s “Sonnet 65”, Sutton encouraged all those who wanted to share words or a story about Marcus to step up to the podium. Among those who spoke was Jenny Parra Fuerte, a junior English education major. Marcus made it no secret that he cared for his students, said Parra Fuerte, who added that Marcus encouraged her habit of speaking in vernacular and made her feel like someone who deserved to be at a university. The remainder of the memorial consisted of current students and alumni sharing stories about their time with Marcus. Those who stayed afterwards partook in pizza and coffee. “We will continue to remember him, and hold him dear,” said Sutton.

**SJMC Scholarship deadline days away**

SOFIA GALIANO
Asst. News Director

The deadline for journalism scholarships at FIU is fast approaching. Last week, the School of Journalism and Mass Communication sent an email reminding students that February 28 is the final day to apply for SJMC scholarships. Scholarships are available for various concentrations such as broadcast and print journalism, public relations and Spanish-language at the graduate level. Students interested in applying are encouraged to login to Academic Works using their MyFiU account information and fill out the general scholarship application. SJMC majors will then be able to search through the scholarships under the “Recommended” tab to find matches based on their application.

Once clicking “Apply,” students will have to provide additional information based on the scholarship requirements, which usually include supplementary documentation or added personal statements. However, many university scholarships are available on Academic Works for all fields of study.

Once applications are reviewed by the SJMC Scholarship Committee and winners are chosen, the scholarship winners will be announced via email. The awarded candidates must then attend the award ceremony on Thursday, March 26. For further details, students may contact the SJMC at (305) 919-5625 or email sjmc@fiu.edu.

**UPCOMING EVENTS**

**FEBRUARY MMC 2015**

**NETWORKING EVENT**

**DATE:** Feb. 16, 2015
**TIME:** 1:00-2:00 p.m.
**LOCATION:** MMC GC 210

**PEACE CORPS PREP:** MEET FIU’S PEACE CORPS RECRUITERS

**DATE:** Feb. 19, 2015
**TIME:** 4:00-5:00 p.m.
**LOCATION:** MMC GC 482

**BUSINESS ETIQUETTE TOOLS 101 WORKSHOP FOR BUSINESS STUDENTS**

**DATE:** Feb. 20, 2015
**TIME:** 10:00-11:30 a.m.
**LOCATION:** MMC CBC 121

**DIVERSITY BREAKFAST**

**DATE:** Feb. 25, 2015
**TIME:** 8:30-10:45 a.m.
**LOCATION:** MMC Law School Student Lounge

**CAPS GROUP COUNSELING**

**DATE:** Every Wednesday starting on February 11, 2015 - March 25, 2015
**TIME:** 1:00-3:00 p.m.
**LOCATION:** MMC SHC 270

**11TH ANNUAL RELAY FOR LIFE**

**DATE:** Feb. 27-28, 2015
**TIME:** 6:00-7:00 p.m.
**LOCATION:** MMC RDB Loop

To have your event featured, email us at calendar@fiusm.com
Monday, February 16, 2015

Terrorism has no religion and no race

MEGHAN MACLAIREN
Contributing Writer
opinion@fiusm.com

Rest in peace to the three Muslim students shot dead near Chapel Hill, North Carolina on Tuesday, Feb. 10. I cannot begin to imagine what their families are going through right now and I’m sure I speak for all of our readers when I say my thoughts and condolences are with them. They weren’t white Americans taken hostage and killed by ISIS. They weren’t young black men killed as a result of police brutality. But that shouldn’t for a second lessen the significance of their deaths. Before people start arguing over whether the motive for their murder was because of their religion or because of a ‘parking space dispute’, people should take the time to recognize that three young people lost their lives when they shouldn’t have.

Deah Barakat, Yusor Abu-Salha and Razan Abu-Salha were people. They were Muslims, but that isn’t where their story ends. They were three young people with dreams, and families, and achievements. We need to stop categorizing people by the color of their skin, or the religion they believe in, or their sexual orientation or by any similar factors. Judge them by what they do in their lives.

ISIS is not representative of all terrorists. The man who is accused of killing Barakat, Yusor and Razan, is supposedly an atheist. Does that mean we should now start fearing all atheists? Does that mean all atheists are capable of committing murder and acts of terrorism? Of course it doesn’t. We shouldn’t fear Muslims because the members of ISIS are Muslims, we should fear ISIS because they are terrorists. Some people are capable of murder and capable of terrorism, and that is not a direct result of their skin color or religious choice. It acts of terrorism are going to get publicity such as in the case of ISIS, and Charlie Hebdo, so should this attack. It is not anything less tragic because Barakat, Yusor and Razan were not the same religion or race as the majority.

Black lives matter, but so do Muslim lives. So do gay lives, so do Hispanic lives, so do white lives. So do the lives of every individual from every walk of life. People need to stop using religion, or race, or anything else as excuses and justifications for fear and for killing. People have a right to think the things that they think and believe the things that they believe in, but first and foremost, people have the right to live.
Celebrating Valentine’s Day the FIU way

KRYSTAL PUGH  
Contributing Writer  
life@fiusm.com

Love is in the air as the famous celebration of love, Valentine’s Day, approaches. The Student Alumni Association, with efforts from the Student Government Association, hosted their annual Sweetheart event on Thursday, Feb. 2, between the Ryder Business building and the Green Library.

Contrary to popular belief, the sweethearts event is more than a celebration of love. Samantha Pujol, interim coordinator of SAA, explained that the Sweethearts event is in efforts to honor the kissing bridge and turtle pond.

FIU’s kissing bridge has a tradition which states that if you kiss someone on the bridge, you will be with them forever. Pujol also expressed that she has been a member of the SAA throughout her undergraduate career and even now, she walks away with the same feeling of happiness from the event.

“I like that SAA keeps the tradition of thesweethearts event alive, tradition is very important and it’s something to always look forward to each year.”

The sweetheart event had great turnout, however, it’s great selection in food could have more to do with it than anyone alive, tradition is very important and it’s something to always look forward to each year.

The sweethearts event had great turnout, however, it’s great selection in food could have more to do with it than anyone alive, tradition is very important and it’s something to always look forward to each year.

There was an assortment of cakes, pies and cookies. Vendors such as Chipotle and People Dedicated to Quality catered with chips and dip as well as fresh chicken strips and dipping sauces.

In addition to the chicken strips, FIU students were given free coupons for their choice of a hand-span shake or cookie. “I love free food. I am a full time student, I don’t work and whenever events are on campus such as, I always enjoy them with my peers,” said Mercedes Jones, sophomore with an undeclared major.

Students, particularly the lady panthers were asked to pick a lipstick and kiss a slip. Fajet would then tell them what type of personality is behind the kiss. Students accepted donations in exchange for a chance to spin the wheel and win a prize and the funds are extended among SAA’s Legacy Scholarship and Pride for Panther Scholarship.

In regards to the location so close to the kissing bridge, there was an assumption that there were going to be many kissing couples. However, there were none. There were, however, many singles enjoying themselves. Most notably were groups of friends taking photos along the kissing bridge, mocking kisses and making “duck lip” faces and having a good time.

Coupled at the event were more modest and did not even kiss on the kissing bridge. This could also mean that they are not in hopes to spend their lives together afraid of testing the FIU kissing bridge tradition.

The Flash and Arrow bring on the personal drama

DC ON TV


Watching Barry in this week’s episode of The Flash go through different outfits at super speed for his date with Linda Park while “Uptown Funk” played in the background was absolutely priceless.

Let’s also talk about what a date that was! Barry went saved a suicide bomber while Linda was in the bathroom! If that isn’t great, I don’t know what is. Then again, it must be super hard to maintain a love life while being the hero of an entire city.

This episode was enjoyable because the producer’s switched things up and gave the viewers more story than just action. It was wholly dedicated to two things: Barry’s love life proving to be more difficult than usual, even with superpowers, and S.T.A.R. Labs’ attempt to track down Ronnie, aka Firestorm.

However, Ronnie’s body is being used as a host for Dr. Stein who took control of it after the nuclear explosion months ago.

Let’s talk about Barry’s love life. He’s developing feelings for Linda and Iris takes notice. She becomes jealous that another woman is taking Barry’s attention. She talks with Linda and tells her that Barry is still in love with her, so she should leave him alone.

I don’t know how Barry was able to keep his cool after he found out. If I had found out Iris had done that to me, I’d flip a few tables, but things work in Barry’s favor in the end and he gets another chance with Linda.

As for Ronnie, they need to find a way to separate him from Dr. Stein without causing another nuclear explosion.

I really enjoyed how Robbie Amell, the actor that plays Ronnie, was able to act as two completely characters flawlessly. It really shows his ability as a actor.

Unfortunately, Ronnie explodes, leaving us unsure on whether he is alive or dead. It was a powerful and emotional episode, for sure. With the crime boss Brick out of the picture, things in Starling City seem almost back to normal. Of course, we know that can’t last more than one episode.

Moving on to Arrow, things start off chaotic in this week’s episode as we watch Canary getting herself beaten by a hallucination of her sister as a result of the toxins from the criminal known as Vertigo.

The episode then jumps back in time by 48 hours and shows Arrow and Arsenal running through the city taking care of business, which leads them back to their hideout below Thea’s club.

It’s funny to me that Oliver believes he can just walk right back into his home and have things back to the way things were, especially since Team Arrow made it clear throughout the previous episodes that they’ve learned to take care of the city without him and that was one of the biggest points of the episode.

After Oliver reveals to Thea that he’s the Arrow and has been trying to protect her though being the masked vigilante, Thea

Study Abroad info sessions will take place in SIPA 502 on the following dates:

Monday, February 16, 1-2:30 pm  
Tuesday, March 3, 5-6:30 pm

International School for Jain Studies are pleased to announce two programs for Summer 2015 with a focus on the religious and cultural tradition of Jainism. This unique program will provide students from all over the world an opportunity to participate in a cultural and educational immersion in India. In India, the program will be based at ISJCs centers in Delhi and Jaipur primarily.

SEE DC, PAGE 5
Fifty Shades’ beats the book — but so what?

MOIRA MACDONALD

The Seattle Times

OK, let’s just do this thing: “Fifty Shades of Grey” the movie, for the record, is not quite as bad as “Fifty Shades of Grey” the book. But that’s not saying much.

Is it a good movie? No. Is Dakota Johnson’s performance better than it seems to be in the trailer, in which she appears to be perpetually on the verge of tears? Yes. Does Anastasia say “Holy crap!” in the movie as she does in the book? No, thank goodness.

Does this movie employ extremely nonsubtle visual metaphors, such as loving shots of keys sliding into locks and pencils pushing on a woman’s lips? Yes, but at least there’s no train heading into a tunnel. Are lines like “I’m not going to touch you. Not until I have your written consent” just as wooden on screen as they are on the page? Yes, and why am I feeling like I shouldn’t use the word “wooden” here?

Does this movie employ extremely nonsubtle metaphors, such as loving shots of keys sliding into locks and pencils pushing on a woman’s lips? Yes, but at least there’s no train heading into a tunnel. Are lines like “I’m not going to touch you. Not until I have your written consent” just as wooden on screen as they are on the page? Yes, and why am I feeling like I shouldn’t use the word “wooden” here?

The book, long and tedious and awkwardly written, has earned E.L. James the big bucks. Meanwhile, Christian begins to reveal his Dark Secrets and Tragic Past that cause him to behave the way he does (and, not incidentally, demonstrates a real knack for plunking out exquisitely moody postcoital Bach on the grand piano, and no, that is not a metaphor), and eventually we’re in the Red Room, where the movie goes to die.

But they’re not, and we’re not (well, I wasn’t; maybe you won’t make that mistake), and we’re not in the Red Room, where the movie goes to die.

Meanwhile, Christian begins to reveal his Dark Secrets and Tragic Past that cause him to behave the way he does (and, not incidentally, demonstrates a real knack for plunking out exquisitely moody postcoital Bach on his grand piano, and no, that is not a metaphor), and Anastasia begins to feel her power, as she realizes that she can change him, and that, my friends, is the fantasy that has earned E.L. James the big bucks.

Taylor-Johnson tries hard to sell it, but I wasn’t buying.

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Taylor-Johnson tries hard to sell it, but I wasn’t buying.

The chaotic lives of heroes

DC, PAGE 4

offers to help take down Vertigo, but Oliver scolds her.

Roy stands up to him, much to Oliver’s surprise, and lets him know that things aren’t just going to go his way this time around.

I gave me chills to see the apprentice stand up to the person who is almost always in charge. I literally said to the TV, “Ha! Chilli with that ‘tude, Ollie!”

As the episode rolls on, Arrow, Arsenal and Canary take on Vertigo and his goons.

Canary gets another dose of the hallucinogen and has to fight both her father and sister. She overcomes her fears and manages to take down Vertigo by smashing his face to the ground. Always an awesome move and a great ending.

I’m very excited for next week’s episode for one reason and one reason only: Slade Wilson. Believe me, he keeps his promises, kid. Time traveling and training, oh my.

CONTRIBUTING WRITER

LIFE!

For Jose Calderon, a political science major of class 2018, becoming his best self is important. “Being the best version of myself is all I want in life. I always wake up and try to be the best me I can be for the day. My studies are my main priority as a student, so I try to be the best student I can be. I do not know what my future may bring me but I can’t wait!”

Based off Humans of New York from the NYTs, Student Spotlight captures FIU students as their natural self. Ana Arenas, FIUSM Staff, will spotlight a new student every Monday, with a photo and quote that eludes to their personal story and goals.

Student Spotlight

ANA ARENAS

Contributing Writer

life@fiusm.com

For Jose Calderon, a political science major of class 2018, becoming his best self is important. “Being the best version of myself is all I want in life. I always wake up and try to be the best me I can be for the day. My studies are my main priority as a student, so I try to be the best student I can be. I do not know what my future may bring me but I can’t wait!”

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Jose Calderon

Jose Calderon loves community service and is currently a member of Habitat for Humanity and Placemaking. His political interests include: civil rights, women’s rights, privacy, and affordable housing. Jose enjoys spending his free time with his family and friends.：“Being a student can be difficult, but I always try to be the best I can be. I always look forward to the future and I love spending time with my family and friends.”

Student Spotlight captures FIU students as their natural self. Ana Arenas, FIUSM Staff, will spotlight a new student every Monday, with a photo and quote that eludes to their personal story and goals.
Viewing Party

Baseball to be on national television five times in 2015

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The 2015 baseball season has started and the team is looking to follow up a (36-20) record from last year. The Panthers will be looking forward to this season, especially after the recent announcing of the Conference USA television schedule.

On Feb. 10, the American Sports Network (ASN) announced that the Panthers would be playing in two of the televised games.

The first game is at home against the Old Dominion University. Heading to Norfolk, Virginia, to face Old Dominion University.

UTSA finished last season with a (35-26) overall record. They were just defeated by the University of Southern Mississippi Golden Eagles on Thursday, Feb. 12. The Panthers lost 78 - 65.

The second game will be against Wofford University.

This game marked their third game of the season and only improve from last year's record, but also look to win these televised games against tough opponents.

UPCOMING GAMES

Stetson Univ.
Feb. 18 - 6 p.m.
Away

Coastal Carolina Tournament
Georgia Tech
Feb. 20 - 12 p.m.

Coastal Carolina Univ.
Feb. 20 - 4 p.m.

Univ. of Albany
Feb. 21 - 3 p.m.

North Carolina State Univ.
Feb. 22 - 1 p.m.

Struggle continues following Russo’s departure

REBBECCA CHARUR
Staff Writer
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In sports, there is a constant presence of adversity that individuals or teams are challenged to endure and eventually overcome. The women’s basketball team is no exception to this, especially in a 2014-2015 season where adversity is, seemingly, all they have known.

But the opening tip-off of the season, FIU struggled to find the formula for success. Immediately they stumbled towards a five game losing streak, dropping decisions against Tennessee Tech University, Florida Gulf Coast University, Cleveland State University, University of Arizona and University of Virginia. Moreover, the average margin of victory was a devastating 18.6 points.

In the sixth game of the regular season, however, former Head Coach Cindy Russo successfully led the team to their first win on Dec. 6, where they would go on to defeat the University of Central Florida with a final score of 66-57. It was a point in the season that redshirt freshman Kandie’a Pound began to emerge as the anchor of a team that would only benefit from youthful leadership as the season unfolded.

After dropping two more decisions to Jacksonville University and Western Carolina, the season finish the Panthers earned their second regular season victory against Wofford University. Even after the worst statistical loss of the season against Auburn University, where they were defeated by a deficit of 31 points, FIU bounced back against Bowling Green. This game marked their two wins before heading towards a 10 game losing streak. The Panthers last 78 - 65.

Junior guard Taylor Shade looks to set up an offensive play in hopes to lead to a Panther basket against the University of Southern Mississippi Golden Eagles on Thursday, Feb. 12. The Panthers last 78 - 65.

FIU team, then the news that long-time tenured Russo was leaving the program just may have.

Life before the retirement had at least yielded three victories; however, the aftermath of the decision has only consisted of a continuation of the losing pattern.

In their first game without Russo, FIU took on Old Dominion University and fell 80-67. Nevertheless, even in the loss there was a ray of fight and resilience that came from the Panther side of the ball. And had it not been for the spectacular play of ODU’s Jennie Simmons. FIU just might have pulled ahead in the final minutes to win their first game of the new year.

With all the negative changes that the new year brought to women’s basketball in FIU, the Panthers have been able to maintain a relatively optimistic mindset with the help of Russo.

"I think it would call and check in on us every now and then," said junior guard Taylor Shade. "She’d tell us to keep working and have fun, things to keep us going.”
FOOTBALL

Dixon leaves to become Gators assistant coach

JACOB SPIWAK
Staff Writer
jacob.spiwak@fiusm.com

The new head coach at University of Florida, Jim McElwain, announced the addition of former FIU running backs coach Kerry Dixon II to the staff at UF on Tuesday, Feb. 10.

Although Dixon has been exclusively a running backs coach since 2010, he will be working as the wide receivers coach for the Gators.

Dixon has been an offensive coach for the past 10 years at both the high school and college level. Dixon’s coaching career started in the 2005 season as a coach for his alma mater, Booker T. Washington High School in Houston, Texas. He then began coaching collegiately as a quarterbacks coach at Morgan State University in 2007, and at Texas Southern University in 2008. He became offensive coordinator for Stillman College in 2009 before beginning his career as a running backs coach.

He coached running backs at Montana State University in 2010 and 2011, and took the same position with Florida Atlantic University in 2012.

After spending two years coaching in Boca Raton, FIU brought Dixon on board to work with their young core of running backs.

2014 was Dixon’s lone season coaching at FIU, and the running backs really came together under his direction. True freshman Alex Gardner averaged over 4 yards per carry, and consistently gave the Panthers a reliable option out of the backfield. When he went down with a season-ending shoulder injury, true freshman Napoleon Maxwell and redshirt-junior Anthon Samuel stepped up and played very well.

Dixon was also credited for playing a major role in recruiting for the Panthers this season, specifically targeting players in Miami-Dade County. 21 of FIU’s 22 new signees were from the state of Florida, and 9 were from Miami-Dade.

Dixon was visibly very excited about the new players FIU added on National Signing Day before the news that he was leaving for UF.

“I am extremely excited about the guys that we have,” Dixon said after FIU’s Signing Day event. “A lot of them have great upside...and I think we have a lot of guys in this class that will be able to impact us immediately.”

It is currently unknown who will take over Dixon’s position as running backs coach at FIU.

‘Dange-Russ’ playing in spring training should be okay

RHYS’ PIECE

Football games being played is done for the early part of 2015. Yes, I know that is a hard pill to swallow. However, one of the most exciting young players in the NFL isn’t done being on the national major league sports stage till August.

Russell Wilson, the Super Bowl XLVIII winning quarterback for the Seattle Seahawks, is also technically a member of the Texas Rangers organization in the MLB. He also plans, for the second year in a row, to do some team activities in the beginning of spring training when the Rangers open up camp this year.

No one, outside of his little camp, knows why he is doing this. Whether it is for the love of the game, the extra money, to stay in shape or, also on a money side, to threaten the Seahawks with the knowledge that if he doesn’t get enough money he can always leave to play baseball, we may never know.

I, a sports and fitness studies major whose only goal in life is to coach football, find that the only thing wrong with this is the possibility of injury.

Why not do another thing that will keep you in shape, get you some extra money, and more importantly keep you from doing anything stupid in the time off that most players have between the seasons.

The offseason for football players is usually when they get in the most trouble, such as last offseason when two of the top five running backs in the league got into different types of trouble. I fully acknowledge that not all NFL players could play professional baseball but, if in the couple of months in between the end of the season and the beginning of the optional team activities, they have the chance to do something that could help them out in anyway, I am a firm believer that they should do it.

Now some of the options that have been suggested, like UFC or MMA, are not smart at all. The main reason is risk of injury. Just look at what happened to Anderson Silva in 2014.

However, with some of the stupid injuries that athletes have outside of their sport I can see the negative side to it however.

RHYS’ PIECE is a weekly column on both FIU and National sports news that goes on. The views shown by RHYS’ 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 RHYS’ PIECE and email rhys.williams@fiusm if you have a topic that you would like to suggest.
‘Dancing with the Wolfe’ brings cultural immersion

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“Now move your hips to the right,” said belly dance instructor Kira Kismet at the Biscayne Bay Campus Recreation Center.

Kismet teaches belly dancing as part of the BBC Student Programming Council Dancing With the Wolfe Series where students can take a break from a busy class schedule and bust a new dance move.

Kismet said that the series is a great way for students to be immersed into different cultures and rhythms, while meeting other students.

“I’m thrilled about the series, it’s a chance for people to experience different cultures and to learn different dance styles -- it’s a great educational thing,” Kismet said.

Sponsored by the BBC-SPC, the series is geared towards bringing out a mix of diversity and culture that exists within the student body. According to Tashaun Williams, BBC-SPC president, it is part of the SPC’s mission to host events with diverse themes.

Through Dancing With the Wolfe, the SPC offers a variety of dance classes each semester for students and faculty.

The more popular dances are based on the many cultures in South Florida. These include Haitian Kompa, a modern meringue in Haiti, as well as belly dancing, modern dance and salsa. They are held Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays at the REC Center.

According to Williams, the dance classes originally took place in Panther Square. However, the space became uncomfortable for students. Instead, they preferred to be in a more closed area such as the center.

“It was very open and people prefer to learn in a more closed environment and in a class you can really see your progress,” Williams said.

Unlike at the REC Center where students must pay a dollar to take classes, the ones at the series are free of charge. You can also network with other people and develop a new skill, said Williams.

Students like Rebecca Larette, a junior broadcast media major, agrees with Williams about the advantages of the series.

I did it. I just wanted to try something new, so I decided to check it out,” Larette said.

“It’s good exercise. It’s great because it gives you core strength and flexibility. And its great because you’re learning musicality -- it’s creative,” Kismet said.

Jeanette Benjamin, a junior international business major, has taken Haitian Kompa a couple of times and enjoys learning from the other classes as well.

“It’s very beneficial... the instructors are great,” Benjamin said. “I did salsa and learned different techniques of moving the body and exercising.”

According to Williams, the SPC hopes to carry out Dancing With the Wolfe as a sort of tradition at BBC. She said that the idea of the series was recently revived from past University archives.

“One thing I know FIU is trying to do is build on traditions,” Williams said.

“So since it was something that worked for SPC in the past, we decided to bring back the tradition.”

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