FIU medical school programs help local communities

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Since its opening in 2006, the University’s Herbert Wertheim College of Medicine has implemented programs that benefit the local community and give students a hands-on opportunity to learn.

One staple of the medical school is the Green Family Foundation Neighborhood Health Education Learning Program, also known as NeighborhoodHELP.

According to its website, the program provides service-learning opportunities to students, through which the students can apply basic supervised medical care to patients in the program.

With the use of mobile health centers, NeighborhoodHELP provides weekly, cost-free care to underprivileged communities in Miami.

The mobile medical units are 38-foot vans, fully equipped with a laboratory and two examination rooms for patients. These health centers venture to different local areas, such as Miami Gardens and Hialeah from Monday to Thursday.

The program provides services such as routine physicals, adult vaccinations, disease management and screening, health education and WellCare.

In November 2014, the program launched a new branch to its existing program—the Linda Fenner 3-D Mobile Mammography Center. This facility’s initiative is to help control the South Florida breast cancer rate.

The national average of women finding breast cancer at a late stage—stages three and four—is at about 37 percent. The average rate for women finding breast cancer at this stage in these underserved South Florida communities is 54 percent.

“We don’t care that they don’t have insurance. We don’t care that they’re not citizens. All we want to do is provide them with mammograms and be as efficient as possible in helping [the community],” said Lorraine Nowakowski, program director for all clinical initiatives at NeighborhoodHELP.

The mobile mammography unit has a mammogram station and two changing rooms. The mammograms use a machine that uses digital tomosynthesis, which creates a three-dimensional image of the breast. Compared to the traditional two-dimensional approach, tomosynthesis is a newer option that more efficiently finds masses in the breast and gives less false positives.

The Braman Family Foundation donated $1.1 million to make this initiative possible, according to John Rock, dean of the College of Medicine.

The program is named after Linda Fenner, who died at 54 of breast cancer and is the sister-in-law of Norman Braman, founder of the Braman Family Foundation.

The donated amount was matched by the Batchelor Foundation, which has funded other University entities in the past, such as the Patricia and Phillip Frost Museum of Science.

“The NeighborhoodHELP was very excited about this program to help women gain access to preventative care,” said Rock. “We had a wonderful visionary in the community, Norman Braman… who helped make this operation [possible].”

Since the program is new, the mobile unit has only gone out a handful of times. Nowakowski said they’re still in more of a trial process before implementing a fit schedule, as the general NeighborhoodHELP mobile centers currently have.

Students have not yet joined the program. Once there’s a system in play, students will slowly start to be able to join, said Nowakowski.

However, students have addressed the issue by establishing the Mammography Art Initiative, an organization to help raise money for breast health services in South Florida. The organization was founded three years ago.

For the last two years, students have put together a fundraiser by collecting artwork from local artists for an auction. Thus far, the students have raised $50,000.

Alfredo Armas, a second-year medical student at the University and member of MAI, hopes to make a difference. In last year’s fundraiser, Armas recruited artists for the show and even submitted some of his work.

He and other students look forward to working with the mammography bus.

“The 3-D mammography van not only raises health awareness in South Florida, but it also provides mammograms directly to many women in the community that might otherwise not have ready access to healthcare, and this is a beautiful thing,” Armas said.

ROSENBERG HIM-SELFIE

President Mark 8. Rosenberg takes a picture with Wednesday’s edition of the Beacon to prove to students that he was answering questions during the #askrosenberg Twitter event on March 4. From 3 to 4:30 pm, Rosenberg answered student questions via the @FIU Twitter.

SEE CUBA, PAGE 2

Panel to hold discussion on immigration reform

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Last year in December, the United States and Cuba ended more than a half-century of aversion and announced that they would reestablish diplomatic relations and begin dismantling the last pillar of the Cold War.

The move, following 18 months of secret negotiations, fulfilled one of President Obama’s key second-term goals.

Following the Dec. 17 announcement that called for the revision of the relations between the two countries, the Center for Humanities in an Urban Environment and the Cuban Research Institute set up a discussion panel to explore the relations between Cuba and the United States and the immigration reform.

“These 50 years have shown that isolation has not worked,” Obama said in a televised address, according to the Washington Post. “It’s time for a new approach.”

The president also said that he was “under no illusion about the continued barriers to freedom that remain for ordinary Cubans,” and that he was convinced that “through a policy of engagement, we can more effectively stand up for our values and help the Cuban people help themselves.”

For many states, this sparked the discussion on immigration reform.

Now the University is bringing a panel to further discuss the different perspectives of these relations.

The panel will host four speakers, including Archbishop Thomas Wenski from the Archdiocese of Miami; Helen Aquirre Ferré, an award-winning journalist covering topics in the Hispanic community; Gepsie Metellus, executive director at Sant La Haitian Neighborhood
Supreme Court waives the duty to collect online retailer and state taxes

Online merchants won an important technical victory at the Supreme Court on Tuesday, empowering them to challenge state sales tax reporting requirements on federal courts. Rejecting the pleas of two dozen states including Idaho, Texas, Mississippi and Washington, the court unanimously sided with online companies that favor federal court as the place to dispute state tax laws. The decision foreshadows future legal fights relating to the taxation of increasingly popular Internet-based sales.

“Although online businesses may not have a physical presence in some states, the Web has, in many ways, brought the average American closer to most major retailers,” Justice Anthony Kennedy noted, adding that “a connection to a shopper's favorite store is a click away.”

States, in turn, have been vexed by the difficulty in collecting sales taxes from Internet commerce. California, Kennedy observed, has estimated that it is only able to collect about 4 percent of the taxes due on sales from out-of-state businesses purveying goods via the Web.

As airstrikes damage Islamic State, it seeks ‘money, money, money’

The Islamic State might be the best-funded radical Islamist group, perhaps in history, but the coalitions air campaign that’s targeting its oil-refining and banks, according to a recent additional territorial expansion, the best-equipped military non-state modern caliphate that controls much of northern and western State territory.

The Islamic State, a self-styled caliphate, controls much of northern and western Iraq and eastern Syria, turned itself into perhaps the richest and best-equipped military non-state actor last June after seizing tremendous amounts of money and equipment from the Iraqi army as it swept through Mosul and to the western and northern outskirts of Baghdad while the Iraqi army collapsed.

CUBA, PAGE 1

Center, and Dahlia Walker-Huntington, an immigration lawyer.

Wenok is discussing moral issues in the immigration legislation, while Metellus and Walker-Huntington will be discussing the varied immigrant groups affected by the possible reform and the roles of lawyers as they interpret and implement immigration law.

Among the speakers considered for the event was Sen. Marco Rubio (R-FL), who co-teaches a political science course at the University, along with Associate Professor and Graduate Program Director for Political Science Dario Moreno.

A topic that has been discussed heavily, immigration reform is not only a timely topic, but also a very important topic to the South Florida community and to the University.

According to the Migration Policy Institute in Washington, D.C., the state of Florida is the fifth state with the largest population of eligible immigrants—with over 253,000 candidates who can apply for relief from deportation through the Deferred Action program, an initiative by the government that seeks to temporarily provide relief to immigrant children and parents under unlawful status.

This initiative not only helps integrate the large immigrant population, but also keeps families together, which too often consist of undocumented parents and documented children.

For Yusein Gonzalez, junior modern languages major, this is what helped him continue his education.

“I’m an immigrant here,” he said. “Without that in my life, I wouldn’t be here. Because there’s no way I can afford out-of-state. I’m glad that FIU incorporated this to its curriculum because it can impact many, many other people like me… that’s why I love this school. Because I feel at home here and there are many other immigrants.”

“The dynamic and diverse immigrant community in South Florida, where she spent some time in a medically-induced coma. She passed away after suffering complications in late February. "[Analise] touched a lot of lives in a lot of different ways," Jennifer said in the memorandum, it is mentioned that Dlugasch is survived by her mother and father, Laurie and Philip Dlugasch, a clinical medicine结束后，Analise was later transferred to Baptist Health South Florida. The memorial event will feature a silent auction, in which restaurant gift certificates will be offered alongside a sculpture by artist Romero Britto and other items, according to Jennifer. The memorial is sponsored by the Unbridled Spirit Fund, an organization that seeks to provide the means of assistance to families and individuals through equine-assisted therapy, according to the organization’s web page.

According to Jennifer, a portion of the proceeds will go toward educating restaurant personnel how to better prepare to handle choking and other emergency situations.

The event will last from 7 p.m. to 11 p.m. According to the memorandum, the Dlugasch family has requested that, in place of flowers, donations be submitted on behalf of Analise to www.unbridledspiritsociety.org.

Additional reporting was done by Nicole Montero.
Netanyahu won’t let the State of Israel be destroyed

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The recent visit of Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu to the United States during this timeframe and it comes as a power move to show voters that he could take on foreign policy without fear.

While the idea that Iran will attack Israel is not irrational fear, but the idea that the clerical dictator Ayatollah Khamenei will attack is perhaps more bleak. The Prime Minister of Israel, Netanyahu has the obligation to do everything in his power to prevent Iran, a theatrical dictatorship which funds terrorism world-wide and denies that the Holocaust happened, from developing the means to wipe out Israel.

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Assistant Director creates hybrid Zumboxing class at Rec Center

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While most students are in class or having lunch on a Wednesday afternoon, Recreation Services Assistant Director Lia Jiannine and her class are moving their bodies to heart-pounding dance and Latin beats, working on their jab-cross combinations and stomping their feet in a club-like atmosphere.

Is it Zumba? Kickboxing? Neither. Both. These are some of the sights and sounds of Jiannine’s new Zumboxing class being offered at the Recreation Center.

Jiannine is currently the FIU Recreational Services Assistant Director of Fitness. If you have taken an aerobic class at “The Rec” chances are she is a familiar face. Some of her weekly classes include Zumba, Kickboxing, Total-Body, Cardio-Sculpt, Spinning, Hip-Hop and now Zumboxing, a heart pounding combination of zumba, cardio and kickboxing.

As a new class to the rec center, Jiannine promises it is a fun switch for anyone who is stuck in a workout slump.

“It’s something new, and that’s what I like most about it. Sometimes workouts get repetitive and I’m the kind of person who likes to switch it up,” Jiannine said.

The 50-minute class is offered at the rec center Wednesdays at 12:30 p.m. “It’s intense and it’s so much fun and fast-paced. I like to make it into a club-like atmosphere and that makes the time fly,” Jiannine said.

Jiannine is no stranger to high intensity workouts. While pursuing a Bachelor of Science in Health Science Education at the University of Florida, she joined her first collegiate recreational class at the age of 17, a hip-hop dance class under the University’s group fitness program called Gator Funk.

“It was a lot of fun,” Jiannine said. “I was basically just looking for something to do in my spare time and I really enjoyed it. It opened up a lot of doors for me.”

Jiannine enjoyed it so much that it wasn’t long before she joined an 8-week fitness training class selected for the certificate and has kept herself busy ever since.

As she moved on to obtain her master’s degree in exercise and sports science, she began teaching. Everything from kickboxing, total body, cardio blast, interval training, step, spinning and even Gator Funk, at her Alma Mater until 2007.

“Gator Funk was always my favorite. I still run into people that took my class more than a decade ago.”

To start a new chapter in her life, Jiannine moved to Miami. In July 2010, she applied for a fitness coordinator position and joined the FIU recreational family.

“I wanted to get out of Gainesville and live somewhere else ... I still wanted to stay in the same field, so I applied for a job at FIU, and here I am almost 5 years later.”

Despite her energy-demanding job as a fitness coach and her busy schedule, Jiannine is happy to do what she loves every day.

“Jiannine is also a doctoral student at FIU and is recruiting volunteers for a research study examining the relationship between physical activity, self-concept and sexual behavior for which anyone can volunteer.

“Health is just so relevant to every aspect of human life,” Jiannine said. “I got to learn about nutrition, drugs and sexual behavior. What is more interesting than that?”

‘Last Man on Earth’ tackles isolation with comedy

CREATED by and starring Will Forte, “The Last Man on Earth” is about... the last man on Earth. There is, of course, more to it than that, but I don’t want to go into spoiler territory just yet.

However, I can say that the premise itself really is that simple: Phil Miller, played by Forte, is the last man on Earth after a virus has somehow killed off everyone else in the world (or at least the USA).

The first episode, Alive in Tucson, was directed by Phil Lord & Christopher Miller, the duo behind The Lego Movie and 23 and 22 Jump Street, and written by Forte. It worked so well on its own that it could have been its own short film.

However, this is supposed to be a series, so something does in fact happen that leads to episode two, The Elephant in the Room, also directed by Lord & Miller. The premise is an hour long as a result, but doesn’t skip a beat in transition, so I give them an extra dose of kudos for not doing the
Father John Misty creates mystifying album

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It’s rare that an album tackles a subject matter as delicate as love with such creative elegance. Joshua Tillman, also known by his pseudonym Father John Misty, has managed to create a record as equally clever as it is heartfelt and cynical.

His musical prowess should come as no surprise judging by his past work as a former member of Fleet Foxes who are known for their larger-than-life sound, or by his work as a singer-songwriter with half a dozen albums of emotional and personal folk songs akin to his contemporaries Bon Iver or Iron and Wine.

“I Love You, Honeybear” is J. Tillman’s sophomore album under the Father John Misty name and is arguably his most ambitious work yet. His first album “Fear Fun” marked the transition from his barebones acoustic approach to a grander and more psychedelic approach to folk music.

Instrumentally, “I Love You, Honeybear” is reminiscent of Beck’s 2002 masterpiece: “Sea Change.” The usual mix of rock instrumentation is coupled with lush strings, carefully layered vocals and horns.

What is most impressive is the way in which Tillman’s soulful vocals and orchestral support combine to create soaring crescendos which lead to equally wondrous choruses. This songwriting approach is a risky one, due to the fact that it places a strong emphasis on the lyrics (which is an aspect of the record).

The exercise for the song “The Night Josh Tillman Came to Our Apartment” is coupled to create soaring crescendos which lead to equally wondrous choruses. This songwriting approach is a risky one, due to the fact that it places a strong emphasis on the lyrics (which is an aspect of the record).

The album contains themes of alienation (“True Affection”), bitterness (“The Night Josh Tillman Came to Our Apartment”) and honesty, affectionate, love (“Château Lobby #4” and “When You’re Smiling and Article Me”). While his presentation may be unorthodox, his oddball personality really shines through in this album, while never coming across as uncharming or disingenuous.

The few songs that take a break from the motif of love and heartbreak (namely “Bored in the USA” and “Holy Sh*t”) instead act as a commentary on modern day society.

“They gave me a useless education / and a sublime loan / on a craftsman home / keep my prescriptions filled / and now I can’t get off / but I can kind of deal / oh, with being bored in the USA.” J. Tillman cried out, as he is ironically mocked by the laughter of what appears to be a recording of a live studio audience. The end result of these songs is poignant and intelligent rather than overly judgmental.

Part of the experience of this album comes from the packaging of the physical media release. Both the CD and vinyl versions include pop-up artwork and a booklet of “Listening Exercises” which is both miserable and ridiculously hilarious. The exercise for the song “The Night Josh Tillman Came to Our Apartment” is a sarcastic fill-in-the-blank about a man (presumably J. Tillman himself) and his encounter with someone from his past.

We are not even a quarter of the way through the year but I can already guarantee that “I Love You, Honeybear” will be regarded as one of the best albums of 2015.

‘Last Man on Earth’ gives comic relief to a stressful situation

TV PAGE 4

whole one-hour-special-but-still-individual-credits-for-both-episodes thing.

As for the show itself, it’s so far a great mixture of comedy and tragedy, showing some hilarious hijinks coupled with serious moments of sadness. In a world where it seems that there’s no one else around, what would the last man on Earth do?

But even though we expect a lot of doom and gloom, it’s barely there. The show mostly sticks to comedy and succeeds pretty well. It’s also strongly anchored on the acting of Will Forte, who definitely works for this sort of show.

Its aim is not to be super dark and gritty, so Forte and his hilarity are welcomed and amusing to see. Even the more serious moments are believable, especially in the first episode where Phil spends his birthday alone, flashbacking to when there were real friends and family celebrating alongside him.

Things might be cool and fun at first, but there’s ultimately no escaping the cold truth that he’s alone and never see another human again.

That’s as far as the first episode goes, it worked very well on its own and set up expectations for the coming airings. The second episode changes things up a bit, throwing more challenges at our main character while bringing up questions about what one does in a stressful situation like this.

The show does a surprisingly good job raising questions and sometimes providing more than one answer to each. For example, do certain establishments and rules still matter when there’s pretty much no reason to recognize them anymore?

After the conclusion of episode two, I’m really curious as to where this show is headed. With a premise as open as this one, there’s no telling what’s going to happen, where this character is headed and whether or not he’s going to shave his shaggy beard.

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Show: Last Man on Earth
Network: FOX
Rating: 4.5/5

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Portelli and Nunez headline baseball team early on in the new season

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At this point of the season it is a far too soon for good feel for the FIU baseball team in their 2015 campaign. Coming off a loss to the Miami Marlins in a friendly exhibition the Panthers have an overall record of 7-5.

It’s too early to tell still where the Panther will end up by the end of the season but as of now, the team has a few players that have had a hot start and that hopefully could be impact on the team until the end of the season.

This season, the team as a whole has been competitive game by game and has played hard. That play style has shown due to some Panthers being among the national leaders in different offensive and pitching categories.

Anchoring the batting lineup is outfielder Brian Portelli who leads the nation with 11 doubles in the latest NCAC statistics. Portelli also leads FIU in a lot of major offensive statistics with 17 hrs, 11 RBI and a .609 slugging percentage.

Portelli has an impressive 370 batting average which is good enough to be second on the team.

The only player with a better batting average is catcher Zach Soria who has started the season with a .417 average.

With Portelli leading the way hitting doubles consistently, FIU is second in the nation in the category with 30.

The baseball team has managed to hang in there with the better hitting teams in the nation.

At first by seeing the team collectively has a .266 team batting average it would seem FIU struggles offensively, but that’s not the case here.

The Panthers are 40th in the nation out of 301 teams with 110 hits.

Also, FIU is 26th in the nation with 78 runs scored, 46 of those runs coming from the Manhattan series. Mississippi State leads the nation with 115 runs scored.

On the other side of the game, FIU pitching has been able to limit teams hitting and scoring runs which is why they are fourth in the nation with three shutouts.

Senior infielder Julius Gaines slides into home plate to score against Manhattan college. The Panthers won that 4-game series with three wins.

TUC, Bradley and California State Northridge are the only schools with more shutouts with four. Leading the rotation so far this season is senior right- hander Andres Nunez, who not many fans expected as the pitcher leading the rotation so far this season.

He has had two starts and four appearances overall and throughout that time he has allowed zero earned runs in 16 2/3 innings to place in a tie with 42 other pitchers for the national ERA lead.

Nunez has had exceptional control only walking one batter in all the innings he has worked. What has made Nunez even more dominant is that he has not allowed many runners to reach base and a factor for that is he has kept opposing batters to a .153 batting average.

Hopefully FIU can continue this impressive play and become a force in Conference USA.

The Panthers have a three game series versus the University of Connecticut this weekend and after that have only one more non-conference game until they kick off conference play March 13 against Southern Mississippi.

Panthers look to keep momentum going after first victory

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On Friday, March 6, the Panthers will continue their season by playing in the 2015 SunTrust Gator Women’s Invitational at the Mark Bostick Golf course. Here’s a small preview of each team in the tournament:

Florida International University

The Panthers have been in six tournaments this season. They’re coming off their first overall team victory at the Amelia Island Collegiate tournament. The team is led by senior Meghan MacLaren of all their tournaments so far. The team is led by senior Lauren Salazar who has a team-high stroke average of 75.44.

University of Arizona

The Wildcats have already participated in seven tournaments so far this season.

Their best finish as a team was when they came in second place at the Annika Intercollegiate. The team is led by senior Manon Gildali who leads the team with a 73.50 stroke average.

University of Central Florida

The Knights have played in six tournaments this season. Their best finish was third place at the UCF Challenge.

They are led by sophomore Ashley Holder who has a team best 72.60 stroke average.

Clemson University

The Tigers have played in six tournaments this year. They haven’t fared well all season finishing in the bottom tier of all their tournaments so far. The team is led by sophomore Lauren Salazar who has a team-high stroke average of 75.44.

University of Denver

The Pioneers have been in six tournaments this year. Their best finish as a team was third place at the Golfweek Conference Challenge. The team is coming off an eleventh place finish at the Tulane Allstate Sugar Bowl Invitational.

University of Florida

The Gators have played in six tournaments this year.

Their best finish was a tie for second place in the Tulane Allstate Sugar Bowl Invitational. Sophomore Kelly Grassel leads the team with a 74.60 stroke average.

Florida State University

The Seminoles have played in six tournaments this season. Their best finish came at the Mo Morial Invitational. Sophomore Lydia Gumm has a team high 73.18 stroke average.

Georgia Regents University

The Jaguars have played in five tournaments this year. They already have one overall team victory at the Lady Pirate Intercollegiate. It was one of four top five finishes overall by the team this year.

Kent State University

The Flash have played in six tournaments this year. Their best performance was at the Mercedes Benz Intercollegiate as they finished in third place. The team has finished in the top ten of all their tournaments so far this season.

University of Missouri

The Tigers have been in seven tournaments this year. They won the Johnnie Imes Invitational that was hosted by them earlier this year. The team has three other overall top ten finishes this year.

North Carolina State University

The Wolfpack have played in four tournaments this year. Their best finish was at the Tar Heel Invitational when they finished in third place. They are led by N-Club Invitational to start the year. The team is led by senior Johnnie Imes Invitational that was hosted by them earlier this year. The team has three other overall top ten finishes this year.

Ohio State University

The Buckeyes have played in five tournaments this year. They won the Chip-N-Club Invitational to start the year. The team is led by senior Johnnie Imes Invitational that was hosted by them earlier this year. The team has three other overall top ten finishes this year.

Penn State University

The Nittany Lions have been in five tournaments this year. They came in sixth at the Nittany Lion Invitational. The team is led by Senior Ellen Ceresko who has a team best stroke average of 73.76.

University of Texas at San Antonio

The Roadrunners have been in five tournaments this year. Their best finish was a tie for seventh at the Mo Morial Invitational. The team is led by junior Brogan Townsend who has a team best stroke average of 72.67.

University of Connecticut

The Huskies have been in six tournaments this season. Their best finish was a tie for seventh at the Mo Morial Invitational. The team is led by junior Brogan Townsend who has a team best stroke average of 75.92.

Tulane University

The Green Wave have played in six tournaments this year. Their best finish was tied for first place, coming at the Betsy Rawls Longhorn Invitational.

They have four other top ten finishes as a team this year.
FOOTBALL

Football welcomes Ron Cooper as new assistant head coach for 2015

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The extremely active off-season for FIU football continues as they have announced the addition of Ron Cooper to the coaching staff as assistant head coach.

Cooper, who will also coach the defensive secondary, brings a lot of coaching experience to FIU, having been a coach at the collegiate level for over 30 years.

He began coaching in 1983, one year after his playing career at Jacksonville State University, where he was a four-year letterwinner and two-time Gulf South Conference champion, ended. The first job he had was as a graduate assistant with Appalachian State University.

Throughout his career, Cooper has been part of the coaching staff at schools including Louisiana State University, University of Wisconsin-Madison, Michigan State University, University of Louisville, and Alabama A&M University, where he compiled a 45-55 record. During the 2012 season, Cooper coached professionally in the National Football League as the defensive backs coach of the Tampa Bay Buccaneers.

“I had the privilege of working with him at the Tampa Bay Buccaneers, so I saw firsthand how he works and how he coaches. He is a very good teacher and very good with the players.”

Ron Turner
Head Coach
FIU Football

He and FIU head coach Ron Turner actually worked together in Tampa. "I've known Coach Turner for years and worked over the past couple of seasons as the defensive backs coach at the in-state rival University of South Florida. In addition to the hiring of Cooper, it was also announced that assistant coach Tem Lukabu will be coaching the defensive line, and defensive coordinator Matt House will coach the linebackers.

SOFTBALL

Softball hosts the Thundering Herd of Marshall University for weekend series

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Coming off a victorious weekend for the FIU softball team in the Felsberg Invitational, we look forward to this upcoming weekend when the Panthers (15-8) host the Marshall Thundering Herd (13-5) in the first Conference USA series of the season.

Saturday will be the start of the three game set with a double header at 4 p.m. and 6 p.m.

Sunday, the FIU softball team will be featured on FOX Sports at 1 p.m.

Defensively, the Panthers have junior ace Corrine Jenkins (8-5) with a 2.57 ERA and 51 strikeouts alongside senior Shelby Graves (4-3) with 32 strikeouts and an ERA of 4.48.

The Thundering Herd have a very young team and only three pitchers with their ace being sophomore Jordan Dixon (12-5) with a 2.39 ERA.

Leading the Herd offensively is sophomore Morgan Zerkle with a slugging percentage of .641 and 11 RBIs.

Sophomore Ashley Leon is right behind her with a batting average of .391 and 25 hits.

Senior Krystal Garcia has also been making quite a huge impact offensively with a batting average of .528, slugging percentage (1.057), hits (28), RBIs (26), home runs (6), walks (19), and total bases (56).

Sophomore Stephanie Texeira is a team leader in almost every category including batting average (.528), slugging percentage (1.057), hits (28), RBIs (26), home runs (6), walks (19), and total bases (56).

“I’m excited about Ron Cooper.” Turner said. “I had the privilege of working with him at the Tampa Bay Buccaneers, so I saw first-hand how he works and how he coaches. He is a very good teacher and very good with the players. Coach Cooper brings a tremendous amount of experience having been a head coach and a coordinator during his career. He will be an excellent addition to our defensive staff.”

Cooper shares Turner’s excitement as he prepares to begin working with the Panthers. “I’m excited about being here,” Cooper said. “I’ve known Coach Turner for years and worked with him in Tampa. He’s done some great things in rebuilding this program over the past couple of years. I’m excited about having the chance to coach these players. I’m looking forward to doing it and feeling real good about it.”

Most recently, Cooper spent the 2013 and 2014 seasons as the defensive backs coach at the in-state rival University of South Florida.

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MAST students prepare to race electric car

MARIA SOLEDAD LORENZINO
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The streets of downtown will close later this month to host an environmentally conscious race series.

Among the competitors is MAST @ FIU.

Almost a month after building an electric car, the high school students will watch their creation race in the Formula E School Series in downtown Miami on Saturday, March 14.

The FE School Series is part of the 2014/2015 FIA Formula E Championship, the world’s first fully-electric racing series, according to their website. Miami is the fifth location out of 10 in the series.

FIU’s School of Journalism and Mass Communication’s Eye on the Rise team is sponsoring the MAST @ FIU students’ participation in the race.

Eyes on the Rise is a project funded by a $35,000 Challenge Fund for Innovation in Journalism Education grant to SJMC professors Robert Gutsche, Kate MacMillin, Susan Jacobson and Juliet Pinto.

The Eye on the Rise team works with MAST @ FIU to conduct research and reporting on sea level rise.

“A lot of the communication that we have been doing has focused on the problems of sea level rise and the problems of the government trying to keep up with it,” Gutsche said. “This event is an example of the positive or solution-based initiatives that we can be doing as a way to recognize sea level rise.”

MAST @ FIU student Reunie Faustin agrees with Gutsche that the project and the race will raise interest for every day electric car use.

“It feel like this is something we should have already been doing,” Faustin said. “If you look at it now, the coal that we use and all these other non-renewable resources, they’re making the earth not as good as it used to be.”

“By going into renewable sources, we’re helping the earth cleanse itself,” Faustin said. “We’re helping the earth cleanse itself.”

MAST @ FIU will compete against nine other local schools.

Each school received a kit to build their own electric car from Greenpower UK, a charity organization with interest in promoting careers in engineering and sustainability to young people, according to the Formula E website.

The schools will first compete in a 20 minute practice and qualifying round, and the qualifying teams will race in the final 20 minute race.

The teams must not only keep in mind their speed, but their car’s energy efficiency.

To participate in the project, MAST @ FIU technology teacher John Zoeller selected students who have demonstrated the most interest for every day electric car use.

“What’re more interested in is teaching them a process; following instructions, tools, equipment, documentation,” Zoeller said. “What I’m more interested in is teaching them a process; following instructions, tools, equipment, documentation.”

For South Beach Wine & Food Festival students, the experience of working next to culinary experts is unforgettable. Yet for student Daniela Malabad, losing her car keys was not something to smile about.

Malabad, a senior French major, was one of the thousand of students who volunteer at the SOBEWFF, a four-day event hosted by the University and Southern Wine & Spirits of Florida.

Each year, more than $2 million are raised for the Chaplin School of Hospitality & Tourism Management.

Malabad was one of the 2,000 people who attended the festival taught her to remain calm under pressure. She said working at guest services with University foreign exchange students was a challenge.

“I learned that simplicity is key,” Malabad said. “When you’ve got so many people going in and out, you just have to keep things short to the point.”

For Sylvia de Ovin-Berenguer, a masters student at the Chaplin School, the festival is about the opportunities that come with working next to professionals and not so much for the monetary compensation.

Ovin-Berenguer has volunteered at the festival for the past three years. At last month’s festival, she was product coordinator and supervised all the beverage products for the event.

“Every year is a different adventure. [There are always] different challenges, and even if it’s the same old challenges, you find different way to tackle them,” Ovin-Berenguer said.

“If you do mess up, you have to resolve it immediately. If not, it’s so detrimental to the rest of the festival experience,” she said. She also said that working at a high-volume traffic of people all while doing it “gracefully”, proves great problem-solving skills.

This year, she worked alongside Lead Culinary Instructor Michael Moran at the Chaplin School to help coordinate operations for the festival’s opening event.

Torres said what was most surprising at the event was to see culinary students who come from studying to be doctors, engineers and accountants, for example.

“You realize [that] you know this is an industry of just fun people and doing different things, and it’s always nice,” Torres said.

Torres agrees that working on your feet to fix problems is important. Ironically, she said she enjoyed when things went wrong during her time at the festival because they challenged her.

“I love when things go wrong as bad as it sounds,” Torres said. “Because it’s always how are you going to solve it and then once you get over that little bump, it’s always nice to say, ‘Yeah you know, we got over it, we did it, on to the next one.’

Torres said her favorite moment was just watching how students would dance under the live music and engage with guests. Everyone had a great time.

“I’m very proudful. FIU has done so many great things,” Torres said. “We’ve assisted in the wine and food festival for so many years that you know things can only get better from here.”