University partners with United States Hispanic Chamber of Commerce

BY AMIN COLOMINAS
Staff Writer
amin.colominas@fiusm.com

The University and the United States Hispanic Chamber of Commerce have recently entered a partnership that benefits both organizations locally and nationally.

The partnership, the first ever between the USHCC and a public university, hopes to provide internships, jobs and scholarships for students while also creating a platform to promote the University’s research and legislative priorities nationally, according to the USHCC website.

This collaborative agreement became possible through the efforts of University alumnus Kevin Hernandez.

Hernandez began working as the USHCC’s manager of government affairs and policy last May and immediately pursued the possibility of bringing his alma mater and new workplace together.

In the USHCC website, Hernandez was quoted as saying, “It was something I felt very strongly about – that we could find a way to collaborate – from research and events to jobs and internship opportunities for FIU students.”

Carlos Becerra, University director of federal relations, praised the efforts of Hernandez.

“This partnership is proof that engaged alumni like Kevin Hernandez are the future of our collaborative advocacy efforts locally and in our nation’s capital.” Becerra said.

He said that the USHCC’s interest for a partnership with the University was caused by the University’s involvement with a “number of students graduating with STEM degrees, a priority for the chamber.” and that he believes the partnership will serve to “amplify our voice and their voice to Washington D.C.”

Becerra looks forward to jointly advocating “issues that relate to making small businesses thrive.”

According to him, students who graduate with STEM degrees make up one of the largest communities that support and have small businesses.

“This partnership is also a testament to the standing that FIU has as an urban research university and a leader in economic development, job creation and entrepreneurship,” Becerra said.

“Our engagement in these areas holds value in helping inform the national dialogue in partnership with organizations like the USHCC.”

In February, University President Mark B. Rosenberg met with the USHCC President and Chief Executive Officer Javier Palomarez at the Reagan House on the Modesto A. Maidique Campus to sign the agreement for the partnership.

According to an FIU News article, Rosenberg commented, “We are excited to join with USHCC and we look forward to promoting our shared interests, including recruitment, research, legislative advocacy and economic development.”

Palomarez said that the University has demonstrated a true commitment to cultivating the economic and professional development of the next generation of American leaders, according to the article.

“The USHCC is proud to partner with Florida International University – a world class institution that awards more bachelor’s and master’s degrees to Hispanic students than any other school in the country,” he said.

The USHCC will be creating new internship and job opportunities for University students by bringing them in contact with Hispanic-owned businesses all over the United States.

It will also be working closely with the University’s Governmental Relations team in order to bring to light both organizations’ shared legislative priorities.

“The University will be tasked with supporting both organizations’ shared research priorities – namely STEM, healthcare, agriculture, trade and travel.”

University facilities, including the Latin American and Caribbean Center, the School of International and Public Affairs and the Small Business Development Center, will be utilized to promote Hispanic businesses and entrepreneurs.

Kevin Portela, a freshman business major, shared his sentiment on the partnership.

“It really goes to show the impact that ‘Worlds Ahead’ learning has on both a national and local level,” Portela said. “The voice of FIU will be heard all over the country. Being Hispanic and a current FIU student, I think the partnership is a wonderful idea and I can’t wait to see what it means for the future.”

Tax fraud peeks in South Florida, student victims rise

BIRMINGHAM, Ala. — A senior running back on the University of Alabama football team made history Saturday night in a game against the University of Southern Mississippi.

Senior quarterback Dennis McKinley made his season debut as the starting quarterback in a game for the first time.

The game was a nationally televised affair, with ABC broadcasting it live.

The team won 42-17, with McKinley finishing the game with 137 yards passing and two touchdowns.

According to the Miami Herald, the IRS Commissioner John Koskinen informed the Finance Committee of the U.S. Senate that the IRS has experienced budget cuts of around $1.2 billion during the past five years.

Said cuts make it difficult to upgrade the outdated technology the IRS is using.

In order for it to be up to par with technology, the agency would need money from the legislative branch.

There are, however, some ways to prevent tax fraud.

According to the Miami Herald, the IRS Commissioner John Koskinen informed the Finance Committee of the U.S. Senate that the IRS has experienced budget cuts of around $1.2 billion during the past five years.

Said cuts make it difficult to upgrade the outdated technology the IRS is using.

In order for it to be up to par with technology, the agency would need money from the legislative branch.

There are, however, some ways to prevent tax fraud.

According to the Miami Herald, the IRS Commissioner John Koskinen informed the Finance Committee of the U.S. Senate that the IRS has experienced budget cuts of around $1.2 billion during the past five years.

Said cuts make it difficult to upgrade the outdated technology the IRS is using.

In order for it to be up to par with technology, the agency would need money from the legislative branch.

There are, however, some ways to prevent tax fraud.

According to the Miami Herald, the IRS Commissioner John Koskinen informed the Finance Committee of the U.S. Senate that the IRS has experienced budget cuts of around $1.2 billion during the past five years.

Said cuts make it difficult to upgrade the outdated technology the IRS is using.

In order for it to be up to par with technology, the agency would need money from the legislative branch.

There are, however, some ways to prevent tax fraud.

According to the Miami Herald, the IRS Commissioner John Koskinen informed the Finance Committee of the U.S. Senate that the IRS has experienced budget cuts of around $1.2 billion during the past five years.
NATION & WORLD BRIEFS

Executions in Iran hit 12-year high, UN reports

Iran executed more people last year than it had in the previous 12 years, the United Nations’ special envoy on Iranian human rights reported Thursday. Ahmad Shaheed said Iran carried out at least 753 executions in 2014, up from 687 in 2013 and 580 in 2012. Nearly half of the executions were for drug-related crimes, he said, and he questioned whether they would meet the internationally accepted norm for death penalty cases of “most serious crimes.” He urged Iran to nullify death sentences against political prisoners and prisoners of conscience, ban juvenile executions, and “enforce a complete moratorium” on the death penalty.

Shaheed’s comments on the death sentences came in a harshly critical report that rebuked Iran for a variety of abuses, including the assistance and protection of religious minorities. The report will be formally presented to the Geneva-based U.N. Human Rights Council on Monday.

A diplomatic divide between the United States and Germany over the extent of Russian military involvement in Ukraine and how to respond to it threatens to hinder hopes of providing greater support to the beleaguered nation.

The dispute comes as the United States agreed this week to provide $75 million in nonlethal aid to Ukraine, including 30 armored Humvees and up to 200 unarmored ones. White House press secretary Josh Earnest called the $75 million a “substantial supplement” to the assistance the United States already has provided, including some $120 million that’s gone to the Ukrainian military, but he stopped short of saying lethal aid might be considered.

Earnest urged the United States and Germany to consult on how to proceed. “It’s going to give you more energy and help you with your studies.”

Academic chemicals can bring about changes in a person’s brain structure – both chemically and physiologically – which can lead to altered behavior. While certain diets or foods may not ease depression or put a person in an instantly better mood, it may help as part of the overall treatment, according to the “How Food Affects Your Moods” article.

Farrera, a junior majoring in broadcast journalism, has experienced that change firsthand.

“My mood has changed dramatically since I began working out three years ago. Now, I tend to be a more positive person,” he said. “Others agree. ‘Eating better, especially if you start at a young age, can not only help you feel better but it’s also going to prevent the risk of chronic diseases,” said Christine Tellez, a registered dietitian at SHS.

“If you want to use the theme of St. Patrick’s Day – which is all about going green – to talk about sustainability, as well as thinking about ways to go green and just being a more sustainable community,’”

Farrera, a junior majoring in broadcast journalism, has experienced that change firsthand.

“...Since I began exercising regularly and eating healthy...”

The FIU Bike Shop, from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. It will be free and open to the public.

University activities to promote healthy living

NICOLE MONTERO
Asst. News Director
nicole.montero@fiusm.com

For Jose Farrera, exercising and eating healthy are two things that help improve his mood. While some argue that this is impossible, Farrera’s point may nonetheless be valid.

To further the discussion on this particular subject, the University’s Student Dietetic Association will be formally presented to the Geneva-based U.N. Human Rights Council on Monday.

Nicole Montero is an experienced that change in broadcast journalism, has a solid understanding of the importance of nutrition and exercise in one’s life. Her dedication to promoting healthy living is evident in her work as a reporter.

For Jose Farrera, exercising and eating healthy are two things that help improve his mood. While some argue that this is impossible, Farrera’s point may nonetheless be valid. According to WebMD, dietary changes can bring about changes in a person’s brain structure – both chemically and physiologically – which can lead to altered behavior. While certain diets or foods may not ease depression or put a person in an instantly better mood, it may help as part of the overall treatment, according to the “How Food Affects Your Moods” article.

Farrera, a junior majoring in broadcast journalism, has experienced that change firsthand.

“My mood has changed dramatically since I began working out three years ago. Now, I tend to be [a more] positive person,” he said.

Others agree. “Eating better, especially if you start at a young age, can not only help you feel better but it’s also going to prevent the risk of chronic diseases,” said Christine Tellez, a registered dietitian at SHS. “It’s going to give you more energy and help you with your studies.”

According to Tellez, March is national nutrition month and, because of this, her office decided to host the event, Lettuce Go Green, the same day as St. Patrick’s Day. “Basically, we’re just trying to promote healthy eating and raising awareness about fruits and vegetables, particularly the green veggies,” she said.

“We want to use the theme of St. Patrick’s Day – which is all about going green – to talk about sustainability, as well as thinking about ways to go green and just being a more sustainable community.”

The FIU Bike Shop, from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. It will be free and open to the public.

The event will also be held in front of Einstein Bagels in the Modesto A. Maidique Campus’ Graham Center lawn area on March 17. It will start at 11 a.m. and go on until 2 p.m. It will be free and open to the public.

The FIU Bike Shop, from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. It will be free and open to the public.

For Jose Farrera, exercising and eating healthy are two things that help improve his mood. While some argue that this is impossible, Farrera’s point may nonetheless be valid. According to WebMD, dietary changes can bring about changes in a person’s brain structure – both chemically and physiologically – which can lead to altered behavior. While certain diets or foods may not ease depression or put a person in an instantly better mood, it may help as part of the overall treatment, according to the “How Food Affects Your Moods” article.

Farrera, a junior majoring in broadcast journalism, has experienced that change firsthand.

“My mood has changed dramatically since I began working out three years ago. Now, I tend to be [a more] positive person,” he said.

Others agree. “Eating better, especially if you start at a young age, can not only help you feel better but it’s also going to prevent the risk of chronic diseases,” said Christine Tellez, a registered dietitian at SHS. “It’s going to give you more energy and help you with your studies.”

According to Tellez, March is national nutrition month and, because of this, her office decided to host the event, Lettuce Go Green, the same day as St. Patrick’s Day. “Basically, we’re just trying to promote healthy eating and raising awareness about fruits and vegetables, particularly the green veggies,” she said.

“We want to use the theme of St. Patrick’s Day – which is all about going green – to talk about sustainability, as well as thinking about ways to go green and just being a more sustainable community.”

The FIU Bike Shop, from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. It will be free and open to the public.

The event will also be held in front of Einstein Bagels in the Modesto A. Maidique Campus’ Graham Center lawn area on March 17. It will start at 11 a.m. and go on until 2 p.m. It will be free and open to the public.

The event will also be hosted by the FIU Bike Shop, from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. It will be free and open to the public.

The event will also be hosted by the FIU Bike Shop, from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. It will be free and open to the public.

The event will also be hosted by the FIU Bike Shop, from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. It will be free and open to the public.

The event will also be hosted by the FIU Bike Shop, from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. It will be free and open to the public.

The event will also be hosted by the FIU Bike Shop, from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. It will be free and open to the public.

The event will also be hosted by the FIU Bike Shop, from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. It will be free and open to the public.

The event will also be hosted by the FIU Bike Shop, from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. It will be free and open to the public.

The event will also be hosted by the FIU Bike Shop, from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. It will be free and open to the public.

The event will also be hosted by the FIU Bike Shop, from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. It will be free and open to the public.

The event will also be hosted by the FIU Bike Shop, from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. It will be free and open to the public.

The event will also be hosted by the FIU Bike Shop, from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. It will be free and open to the public.

The event will also be hosted by the FIU Bike Shop, from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. It will be free and open to the public.

The event will also be hosted by the FIU Bike Shop, from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. It will be free and open to the public.
Do not ever give up on your grind

MEGHAN MACLAREN
Staff Writer
meghan.maclaren@fiusm.com

I think most people consider themselves hard workers. We wouldn’t all be in college if we didn’t put at least a little bit of effort in at some point in our lives. While it doesn’t always seem to be noticed, it’s something to take pride in – regardless of whether you get rewarded for it.

And this is the most difficult part – the most difficult, but by far the most important. Rewards, results and recognition are not the way you should define yourself. Rewards, results and recognition may not be reflective of everything you’ve put in. But that does not for a second mean you should quit on the grind.

The grind is the part that you control. This is where the athletes with their heads sorted out will tell you it is the only part that you control.

Grades, results and recognition are gratifying, and they make us feel like we’ve achieved something. They can train their hardest every single day for months – waking up early, saying no to Friday night drinks, missing out on parties – but when the time for competition comes their opponent just has a better day.

But that doesn’t change a single thing that athlete did over those months; it doesn’t make them a bad person.

And the same thing goes for everyone, with anything they are working towards. If you study for a month before your mid-term exam – doing the same thing as that athlete, waking up early and saying no to parties – but when your professor comes to grade it he’s in the worst mood he’s been in all year – does that put you at blame? Of course it doesn’t.

Grades, results and recognition are gratifying, and they make us feel like we’ve achieved something. But free-thinking – and thus progress as a human society, not a religious society – is not only being smothered by extreme fundamentalists, but also by non believers. Western people who have secular views have an unparalleled advantage that we should stop taking for granted.

Though we non-believers don’t fear being butchered to death when we walk out the door, most of us don’t express our ways of thinking for fear of other things: social ostracism or judgment. How do we expect to improve humanity if we do not speak out? There are religious people who seek to cut off our voice by fear of other things: social ostracism or judgment.

I won’t be silent. I will proclaim that my religion is a disease, a social form of thinking for fear of other things: social ostracism or judgment.

Religion is a disease, a social form of thinking for fear of other things: social ostracism or judgment.

The opinions presented within this page do not represent the views of The Beacon Editorial Board. These views are separate from sections. The Beacon welcomes any letters regarding or in response to its editorials and reflect individual perspectives of contributing writers and/or members of the University community.

RELEVANT

Have something on your mind? Send your thoughts (400 words maximum) to steph.piedrahita@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.

FRANK AND IRENE: It’s over

FRANK AND IRENE:
It’s over

Editorials are the unified voice of the editorial board, which is comprised 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.
An inside view of student’s participation in freestyle dance crew Liquid Menace

VANESSA MARTINEZ
Staff Writer
vanessa.martinez@fiusm.com

Javier Romero, a 21-year-old FIU psychology major, goes by the alias Aderol and makes frequent dance freestyle appearances around FIU.

Aderol took the stage by a combination of action and fun in front of the Graham Center.

Speaking of roles: Jackson plays a charismatic villain in Valentine, a man with a crazy hobby, basketball. His intimidation lead the smiles and reactions from the spectators that pass by.

The trio began dancing with each other about a year ago and have managed to network amongst each other with the aid of Instagram, followed by meeting at a jam, a term referring to dance battles.

Their usual spots are located in Pembroke Pines. Their usual spots are around the Graham Center pit or outside the Green Library.

For more information on Liquid Menace, you can follow their Instagram profiles @officialaderol and @kiddghost.

Not often do I watch a movie with as much silliness and lack of seriousness as Kingsman, but this film does not just poke fun at spy movies, it is generally a good one on its own.

The film is directed by Matthew Vaughn who has also done Kick-Ass and X-Men: First Class, and his talent for violent action shows wonderfully in Kingsman.

From a short sequence at the beginning, to a very violent one in the middle, to an excellent extended one at the end, the film does a great job at showing action in a fast but clear style.

I was very pleased with how violent most of the action was, similar to how I enjoyed it in Kick-Ass, and I never felt as if the film was overdoing it.

Again, the film’s sense of fun is well showcased in these action sequences, complemented by the film’s top-notch directing.

While there are a few things in Kingsman I didn’t fall in love with such as that I felt the ending was too quickly wrapped up, I left it with the nice and confident feeling that I had seen an extremely enjoyable picture.

If you’re a fan of spy films and action films, there’s no reason why I would not recommend Kingsman.

Rating:

"Not often do I watch a movie with as much silliness and lack of seriousness as Kingsman, but this film does not just poke fun at spy movies, it is generally a good one on its own."
St. Patrick’s history and happenings

AMANDA RABINES
Entertainment Director
amanda.rabines@fiusm.com

In the United States, it’s simple to celebrate St. Patrick’s Day: wear something green, display a smiling leprechaun memo at work and after your shift is done, head to a local Irish pub. In Ireland though, most go to church. According to Philip M. Freeman, an expert in Celtic and classical studies at Washington University in St. Louis and author of the book “St. Patrick of Ireland: A Biography,” St. Patrick was known for converting many people in Ireland from Paganism to Christianity.

After his death on March 17, around 460 AD, many villagers mourned his loss and so it became an annual event. In legend, St. Patrick would use three-leaved shamrocks to explain the Holy Trinity, explaining the classic clover symbolism we see today. What is known of St. Patrick was that he was kidnapped as a child, taken away from his home in England by Irish pirates and was sold as a slave in Ireland where he spent six years in captivity.

He later returned to Ireland as a Bishop to help the people. In his book, Freeman discusses the letters written by St. Patrick. He states St. Patrick taught all people were equal in the eyes of God, whether they were male, female, slaves or free.

Freeman mentions an interview conducted by Washington University in St. Louis’ Newsroom, that St. Patrick also continuously stressed his concern for the welfare of Irish women.

The tradition to celebrate St. Patrick’s in America can be traced back to the Potato famine around the mid 1800’s when a mass migration of Irish settlers came to the states.

Today, local Irish pubs and restaurants continue the tradition with serving green beer and traditional Irish plates such as cabbage and corn beef. There will be bagpipers, DJs and green beer. Located at 690 SW 1ST Ave. Miami, Fl. on Tuesday, March 17 beginning at 9 am. There will be music, beer gardens and traditional Irish entertainment. Tickets range from $15-30 and can be bought at fadorsirishpub.com. Call (786) 924-0972 for inquiries.

St. Paddy’s Block Party

Fado’s Irish Pub will host its annual festival at Mary Brickell Village, 900 S. Miami Ave. Miami, Fl. on Tuesday, March 17 beginning at 9 am. There will be music, beer gardens and traditional Irish entertainment. Tickets range from $15-30 and can be bought at fadorsirishpub.com. Call (786) 924-0972 for inquiries.

Irish Fries at Shake Shack

Shake Shack will have celebrity fries and dessert for St. Paddy’s day. Their fries platter “When Irish Fries Are Smiling,” include crinkle-cut fries topped with horseradish cream, scallions and Applewood-smoked bacon for $4.50 and are only available up to the end of Tuesday, March 17. For the dessert they have the Mast Brothers chocolate-mint frozen custard, available Monday, March 16 through Sunday, March 22.

Finnegan’s

On Tuesday, March 17, Finnegan’s Brickell will have Bud light girls coming from 7 to 10 pm and will be part of a bar crawl in honor of St. Patrick’s Day. Their three locations in Brickell, South Beach and Miami Beach will have specialty shots, green beer and Irish car bombs specials.

Clandestino Pub

Starting Tuesday, March 17, at 6:00 pm. Clandestino’s will celebrate “St. Patricio’s,” a Mexican spin off of St. Patrick’s Day, with available whiskey, tequila and beer specials. Located at 758 Washington Ave, Miami Beach, FL 33139. Call (305) 397-8946 for inquiries.

Brickell Fest – St. Patrick’s Day Celebration

Brickell Fest will celebrate their third annual St. Patrick’s Day Celebration Tuesday, March 17. There will be a Bag Piper, DJs and green beer. Located at 690 SW 1ST Ct. Miami, FL 33130. General admission is $24 and includes one day entry, a 16 oz. glass of green beer, one souvenir item and green beads. The VIP package is $50 and comes with VIP entry, one liter of sponsored green beer, a souvenir beer boot, a hat, green beads, a T-shirt and souvenir sponsor item. Tickets can be bought at http://brickelfestival.com/st-patricks-day/ and all tickets final sale.

Trends and celebrities at Paris Fashion Week

The runways of Paris Fashion Week 2015 hosted the luxurious collections of some of the world’s most known designers in the world as a stream of designs and trend filled the catwalk displaying winter and fall garments.

It is clear that the black and white trend remains solid. It was seen making fragmented appearances on Louis Vuitton and Chanel’s catwalk, within others, in prints such as gingham (small black and white squares) and houndstooth, or as outfits composed of color blocking. Red also played a role in many designer’s eyes for the upcoming seasons.

Barbara Bui presented a collection of light body-hugging pieces that emphasized the female figure, along with skirts and jackets made in velvet, silk and vinyl. Bui’s runway was themed in black, gray and maroon.

Céline’s creative director Phoebe Philo played with straps as she layerd them on skirts and dresses. Céline showed a variation within beige, dark reds, burnt yellows, black and off-white tones.

Kim Kardashian helped increase Lanev’s popularity through the years as she has been seen wearing pieces from it. The celebrity seems to have an admiration for the brand’s pieces, and without a doubt she was spotted at the show, surprising all with her brand new platinum blonde long bob, while accompanied with rapper husband Kanye West, who recently launched his collaboration with Adidas. The audience saw the Lanvin garments designed with an inspiration of taking an imaginary trip to Morocco, with midiskirts, pencil skirts and a color story of blacks, deep red, hints of pink, shifty sequined layers, and gold.

Mugler by Damir Doma focused on a modern “girl of today” style with tight mini dresses in black and white, yet with detailing in bronzed metallics. The designs were seen in a majority with high collars and belted waists, chosen by Doma, to emphasize the hourglass shape of the wearer.

Valentino Garavani gave us a fall/ winter show with a main emphasis on the gingham and floral print. Most of the collection is seen with at least one red garment. Other accompanying colors are blush pink, forest green and heather grey. The Valentino show was full of surprises, starting with Ben Stiller and Owen Wilson making an appearance not on the benches, but on the catwalk. They strutted their outfits in full character, for promotion of the new Zoolander movie.

Fashion Disposition is a bi-weekly column by fashion enthusiast Cata Bardotti. Bardotti has been a personal fashion stylist for over four years. Make sure to follow her fashion blog: www.CataBardotti.com which updates readers on the latest fashion news and trends.

Can you hack it?

The fastest-growing crime is happening online. It can strike anywhere, anytime. Earn your master’s degree in Cybersecurity online or in person at our Pensacola campus. We’ll teach you to stay a step ahead of the bad guys.

Think you can hack it? Make your splash. Scholarships and financial aid available.

Get the facts: uwf.edu/cybersecurity.

UWF Cybersecurity
Men’s Basketball Falls to UTEP to End Season

DAVID DRUCKER
Staff Writer
david.drucker@fiusm.com

The men’s basketball team completed their season on Thursday in their 71-83 loss to the University of Texas at El Paso Miners in the drama-filled Conference USA Tournament. The Panthers finished the 2014-2015 season with an overall record of 16-17 and a C-USA record of 8-10.

As the no. 10 seed, Florida International University was slated to play the University of Texas at San Antonio Roadrunners in the first round of the tournament. Junior forward Dominic Williams and sophomore guard Ray Rodriguez stepped up in a big way in the first half. Rodriguez drained two three pointers and Williams scored all nine of his points in the first 20 minutes. At halftime, FIU trailed 25-26.

To say that Dennis Mavin’s scoreless first half didn’t get to him would be an understatement – the Gainesville product exploded for 15 points in the remainder of the game to give his team a lead that they would hold for most of the second half. That advantage evaporated, however, when UTEP’s Keon Lewis knocked down a three pointer to tie the game at 54-54 with two seconds left.

With just a couple of seconds to throw up a miracle to avoid overtime, Mavin shifted into his fastest gear to get as close to the hoop as possible. Two defenders guarded Mavin as he launched a shot from half court, but neither would dare contest the shot out of fear of sending him to the line. The Mavin heave was true, and the Panthers took the game 57-54 to move on to the second round of the tournament.

The Miners would prove to be a handful for the Panthers. The bye week given to them as the no. 2 seed ensured that they were well-rested for their game against the Miners. The Miners found a way to hang with the heavy favorite, however, and possessed a 13-12 lead with 12 minutes and 27 seconds left in the first half.

Eventually, UTEP’s size on the inside started to cause trouble. Cedrick Lang seemed to find some of the younger players. The Gainesville native also claimed FIU’s assist title with an average of 3.1 per game.

At no one’s surprise, the 6’11” Diaz led the Panthers in rebounds with an average of 6.9 boards per game. He also led his team in blocks, averaging three rejections per game.

Pound named Conference USA Freshman of the Year

REBECCA CHARUR
Staff Writer
rebecca.charur@fiusm.com

It’s been a season of hardships and lessons for the Panthers. FIU finished the season with an overall record of 3-26 and 0-18 in the Conference USA competition. Still, amongst the cloud of losses, the Panthers found a silver lining in red shirt freshman Kiandre’a Pound.

On March 9, the league announced that Pound had been named Conference USA Freshman of the Year. This is a historical moment for FIU’s basketball program, as she is the first Panther to garner the award. Furthermore, Pound was named to C-USA’s All-Freshman Team.

An impressive personal season, culminated in a win against the University of Alabama in Birmingham where she finished with 12 points. On the season, Pound averaged a team-leading 14.8 points per game and second with 7.0 rebounds per game.

Not only was this enough to earn the honor before the game, she went on to make C-USA history with the numbers she put up. This season, Pound was the only freshman in C-USA to rank in the top 10 in scoring and top 15 in rebounding. In addition, she led the league with six C-USA Freshman of the Week awards.

Without a doubt, Mavin kept FIU in contention both during the season and the tournament; his abilities to spot-up shoot and score in transition profited from the extra attention opposing defenses attributed to Diaz.

When Mavin was double-teamed, FIU struggled to score – a fact that UTEP took advantage of. The senior may be leaving the Panthers, but his buzzer-beater against UTSA in the tournament is a shot he will remember for the rest of his life, and is one that Panther fans will not be forgetting soon.

Other awards this season have included FIU Thanksgiving Classic and FIU Fun and Sun All-Tournament honors after recording double-double averages in both tournaments. On the season, Pound recorded eight double-doubles finishing second on the team behind only senior Marisa Davydova.

The Vero Beach native recorded a career-high 29 points in the game against Florida Atlantic University in late January. Pound notched 20 or more points on six other occasions this season, including their last victory against Bowling Green State University. In that game, she led the way with 20 points and 14 rebounds motoring her team to their third and final win of the season.

Next season, the reigning C-USA Freshman of the Year will look to lead a young FIU team with an extra year of collegiate experience under her belt.
The Beacon – Monday, March 16, 2015

STEFANO RIVERA
Contributing Writer
sports@fiu.edu

After losing five straight games and starting the season with a 2-5 record, the women’s tennis team needed to turn its season around in a positive note. However, the games were tough as the last three losses have come against Yale University, Boston College and Brown University, all ranked opponents at the time.

Since then, the Panthers have reeled in three straight victories with wins coming against Bethune Cookman University, Florida Gulf Coast University and University of Southern Mississippi.

All of the victories have been by a large margin, defeating BSU 5-2, FGCU 6-1, and Southern Miss 5-2. During this three game win streak, the talented tandem of Yana Koroleva and Nina Nagode has won each of its doubles matches.

Against Southern Miss, Koroleva, Nagode, Valentina Briceno and Carlotta Orlando all won their singles matches to help the Panthers win and improve to .500.

The most impressive win came against conference opponent Western Kentucky University, as the Hilltoppers came into the match with the same record as the Panthers at 5-5. This was also the first time the tennis team has faced off against WKU.

The afternoon started off strong for the Panthers. The team won all six of its singles matches. Koroleva defeated Emelia Granstrom 6-3, 6-1, Carlotta Orlando defeated Teresa Hejlova 6-2, 7-6 (7-5), Nerma Caluk defeated Elpida Malamou 6-2, 6-1, Nagode defeated Andrea Christopoulou 7-6 (7-2), 6-3, Kaitlin Brozovich defeated Emily Przystawski 6-1, 6-1, and Valentina Briceno defeated Gabby Crofford 6-0, 6-3.

Orlando and Nagode won yet again. They have each posted impressive singles records. Nagode, a sophomore, has a 17-7 record and Orlando, a junior, has a 19-8 record. Both of these players play an important role for the Panthers.

Winning all the singles matches gave the Panthers six of the seven total points the team earned in the afternoon. The last point would be earned by winning the two out of the three doubles matches.

The Panthers continued to dominate as the doubles matches began. The Senior duo of Koroleva/Nagode defeated Granstrom/Christopoulou 6-2 and the Junior duo of Orlando/Brozovich defeated Crofford/Madeline Phillips 6-1.

The Panthers got their first victory against WKU in convincing fashion and improved to 6-0 at home. The next five matches are home, which could boost their record to 11-5 if they continue to command at home.

Junior Carlotta Orlando returns a serve against Bethune-Cookman University on Sunday, March 1. The Panthers have maintained a four game win streak.

Up next for the Panthers is Boston University on Saturday, March 14. The Terriers are 6-4 and have won four of the last five matches.
SHS hosts Wellness Expo, offers free health screenings

SOFIA GALIANO
BBC Managing Editor
sofia.galiano@fiusm.com

This St. Patrick’s Day, students and faculty will embody total health at the annual Wellness Expo. The University’s Wellness Center will host this year’s event on Tuesday, March 17 in Panther Square at the Biscayne Bay Campus, offering free health screenings, an outdoor workout and healthy snacks.

A total of 17 tables will be stationed throughout the first floor of the Wolfe University Center. More vendors were present in past years, before recent renovations to WUC and when space permitted, according to Isabel Capella, senior health educator for Student Health Services at BBC.

“Another unique feature at this year’s expo is a 30-minute total-body workout. An INSANITY workout is expected to be held right outside WUC in Panther Plaza, according Capella and confirmed by Shaw.”

Shaw said Perez will be present, demonstrating exercises and providing fitness tips as well. If students and faculty miss the workout, they will still have a chance to tone their bodies. Perez teaches hour-long INSANITY classes Tuesday at noon and Thursday at 6 p.m. in the Group X Studio, inside the BBC REC Center.

“Updated, this time we are trying to have as many health screenings as possible,” Capella said.

In line with the holiday theme, WUC will be adorned in shamrocks and other green decor. At the event, students will need to visit six tables and collect coins to redeem a green, kiwi fruit pop. Water bottles and granola bars will also be provided. Other health-related freebies include cutting boards, measuring cups and salad bowls.

Shaw said Perez will be present, demonstrating exercises and providing fitness tips as well. If students and faculty miss the workout, they will still have a chance to tone their bodies. Perez teaches hour-long INSANITY classes Tuesday at noon and Thursday at 6 p.m. in the Group X Studio, inside the BBC REC Center.

“This time we are trying to have as many health screenings as possible,” Capella said.

In line with the holiday theme, WUC will be adorned in shamrocks and other green decor. At the event, students will need to visit six tables and collect coins to redeem a green, kiwi fruit pop. Water bottles and granola bars will also be provided. Other health-related freebies include cutting boards, measuring cups and salad bowls.

Shaw said Perez will be present, demonstrating exercises and providing fitness tips as well. If students and faculty miss the workout, they will still have a chance to tone their bodies. Perez teaches hour-long INSANITY classes Tuesday at noon and Thursday at 6 p.m. in the Group X Studio, inside the BBC REC Center.

This type of group exercise uses MAX Interval Training, designed to work every muscle in the body and get hearts pumping.

However, this is just one of the Group X classes offered in the REC Center at no additional cost to University members. Other classes include Zumba, P90X Cardio and the new addition, Reggae Fit.

Ultimately, Capella said the Wellness Expo is an attempt to promote healthy living habits both on and off campus.