Bahad and Nyman discuss SGA platform

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Stefan Bahad and Kristen Nyman, the presidential and vice presidential candidates of the FIUnite party met with Student Media last week to discuss their platform for this year’s Student Government Association at the Modesto A. Maidique Campus elections.

Established in 2012 with the help of various student leaders at the University, the party was created with the goal of leading a student-centered student government, according to Bahad. Bahad and Nyman’s platform, titled, Innovate FIU, contains eight items, compared to that of their opponents, Alexis Calatayud and Tiffany Roman-Biffa, which contain six.

The items include a go green initiative, and initiatives on public safety and resources, leadership development, community outreach, student engagement, student mentorship and education, student involvement and an item focusing on a social issue.

According to both members of the FIUnite party, they wish to focus some of their energy on advocating for issues that they believe didn’t receive much attention during the current administration of Calatayud and Roman-Biffa.

Although Bahad, a junior international business and finance major, believes that the University’s office of sustainability is doing a great job, he believes that tasks concerning environmental awareness can be taken a step forward.

One idea that Nyman suggested is creating fully online syllabi, all in an effort to avoid using paper. Bahad also brought up the topic of potentially offering fully electronic forms, which may expedite communication between University departments.

Both candidates made it clear that although they cannot promise to meet every single point on their platform, they will work toward advocating actively for them.

“We don’t want to promise the sun and the stars because we can’t give it,” said Nyman, a junior political science and international relations major.

Both candidates spoke on the possibility of creating a go green fund, which has been previously housed at Florida State University. The plan is to have it exist as part of the Activity and Services fee budget that SGA has control over.

Providing mentorships with the help of alumni is also part of their plan.

Bahad provided the example of students in Greek and business organizations who have access to various connections, in contrast with students who may not be part of these organizations and don’t have access to the same resources.

Considering that the University has over 500,000 alumni, Bahad and Nyman want to make use of these individuals, with the potential help of the Alumni Association and other appropriate departments, to create a mentorship program between alumni and current students.

Rather than simply encourage alumni to donate to the University, Bahad and Nyman want to engage them with current students to potentially provide internships and other opportunities.

“We see it as a new way of donating to the University,” Nyman said.

Both candidates admitted that although their platform consists of eight items, it is not limited to just the eight listed.

One tenant of theirs is innovation, the notion of constantly coming up with something new for the University, and their current platform items serve as guidelines that will direct their efforts if they happen to be elected, according to Nyman.

See SGA, page 2

New York Times journalist to visit University

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A prominent journalist has something to say on the importance of journalism.

As such, the international managing editor for the New York Times is coming to the University for a discussion.

During his time with the New York Times, Michael Slackman covered a variety of international subjects, among them the ongoing conflicts between Israel and Palestine, the Middle East’s interpretation of the terrorist attacks of Sept. 11, the bombings in Morocco and the persecution of Jews in Yemen.

According to Slackman, his discussion, titled, “Bearing Witness,” will be addressing a common theme that ties subjects together: the significant role that a journalist often plays in the process of gathering and sharing knowledge so that the public can develop its own global perspectives.

“Oftentimes, the journalist is mistaken as an advocate for cause,” Slackman told Student Media via phone interview. “When in reality, the journalist is more of an advocate for encouraging the free, open exchange of ideas and views.”

In 1997, Slackman was part of the Newday news team in Long Island, New York, that was awarded the Pulitzer Prize for Spot News Reporting for the active coverage of the crash, and aftermath, of the Trans World Airlines Flight 800, which exploded over Long Island, New York 12 minutes after takeoff, according to CNN and the University of Wisconsin’s Center for Journalism Ethics’ website.

Slackman, who described himself as a true believer of the power of journalism, thinks that the job of a journalist is “very important, meaningful work.”

According to Eric M. Feldman, coordinator for the Office of Global Learning Initiatives, Slackman’s presentation on “Bearing Witness” will not be an event directed solely for those with an interest in journalism.

“…to have someone who has firsthand experience in not only the issues and news stories themselves, but also on the importance of reporting them makes it something that not only students in journalism or writing should be interested in,” said Feldman, “Any student interested in being a citizen of the world should be interested in [this lecture].”

Some members of the University’s student body agree with Feldman’s sentiment.

Nathalia Abreu, a sophomore majoring in history, expressed enthusiasm considering the theme of Slackman’s lecture.

“A better understanding of global events is good for developing informed opinions about the world around you,” she said. “You cannot develop every thought you have based entirely on what you picked up in your hometown.”

However, Slackman won’t only be lecturing with broad audiences.

“In addition to the discussion, he will also be making appearances in a handful of classes all throughout the University, which will include Introduction to Sociology and Politics of Latin America. Adrian Rahimi, a junior majoring in finance, likes this idea and thinks it’s a lot more convenient for students.

“It is nice to have a public figure like that actually want to get up-close-and-personal with the students for more than just an hour,” he said. “Usually, these guest speakers we have show up to FUU, do whatever it is that they came here to do, then leave.”

Slackman is excited to see how his encounters with the University Panthers will turn out.

“It is good to get out there and actually interact with the students,” he said. “I am delighted at the idea of students showing such an interest in discussing real world issues.”

Slackman’s discussion will be held in the Modesto A. Maidique Campus on Wednesday, April 1 in the Ruth K. and Shepard Broad Auditorium in the School of International and Public Affairs, Room 125.

The discussion will begin at 5 p.m. It is free and open to the public.
China fishing plan in Antarctica alarms scientists

Scientists studying the Antarctic’s marine life received some unexpected news this month: China plans to vastly increase fishing for Antarctic krill, small crustaceans that are a critical food for the continent’s penguins and other creatures. China currently harvests about 32,000 metric tons of krill annually from Antarctica’s waters, topped by only Norway and South Korea. Under China’s plans, detailed in a March 4 story in the state-run China Daily, the world’s most populous country would increase those catches 30 to 60 times, harvesting up to 2 million metric tons yearly.

Rodolfo Warren, a marine scientist and adviser to Antarctic conservation groups, said he doubts China can ramp up its catches to that level. But the fact that China has announced such ambitious plans worries him, partly because other countries might follow suit.

As crowd chants ‘Death to America,’ Khamenei backs nuclear talks

Iran’s supreme leader on Saturday urged Iranians to support their government’s efforts to negotiate a nuclear deal, even while denouncing the United States and other Western governments involved in the talks. In a much-anticipated speech on the first day of Nowruz, the Iranian New Year, Ayatollah Ali Khamenei said all Iranians should support the government of President Hassan Rouhani, even if they didn’t vote for him in the presidential election.

Rouhani has made negotiation of a nuclear deal with world powers a centerpiece of his administration. Khamenei, speaking before a boisterous crowd in the northern holy city of Mashhad, also demanded that a nuclear deal end economic sanctions on Iran at its outset, rather than gradually, as the United States and five other world powers have said during negotiations.

“Sanctions must be lifted immediately,” Khamenei said.

University opens food pantries for students

Because of its success, the SHS is planning on having another fundraising event this year.

“We received so much food. Our pantry was packed. We almost didn’t know where to put so much of our donations,” Virgile said.

According to Virgile, both students, faculty and staff are welcomed to donate. They have several locations around campus. They are at the WUC, Academic Building One, the BB in the Hubert Library and the SHS Wellness Center.

The pantry is currently managed by staff, but they are opened to work with student organizations.

“The sky’s the limit, but right now we haven’t planned on having it a student-run type of pantry, but of course we are open to any type of ideas or student organizations that want to partner with us,” Virgile said.

She also said that even though they had successes, they also ran low in food from time to time.

“I wouldn’t say it’s successful or unsuccessful. We’ve had our peaks and we’ve had our lows, but there is a need for it, the fact of it,” she said.

MMC also has their food pantry which is located in the Deuxième, room 166. It is run by the Center for Leadership and Service food pantry and student volunteers.

“We do have a few of our staff members who work with it, but we rely on student volunteers to actually staff the pantry during the times that it’s open,” said Joana Garcia, Assistant Director for the Center of Leadership and Service.

“I would definitely want to use it. I think it impacts students quite positively,” said Ashley Pomer, a freshman hospitality major.

“Honestly, as college students, we struggle,” said Alansy Alcantara, a freshman on a pre-physical therapy track. “It’s nice to know there’s a food offer that we don’t have to pay for,” Alcantara said.

The food pantry is open at the MMC Monday through Friday from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. MMC’s food pantry is open Tuesdays at 10 a.m. to noon and Wednesdays from 3 p.m. to 6 p.m.

SGA, PAGE 1

Babad commented on the name of his party.

He mentioned that UNI serves as a platform on words that can be interpreted as, You and I.

“I’d love to meet every student’s needs and talk to every single student, but it’s on you and I...to make sure we have the best student government,” he said.

Referring to a workshop event for their political party that took place earlier in the day, Nyman referred to an activity that required participants to write down something they felt should be changed in the University.

One participant suggested that something be done about the computers inside the Geographic Information Systems lab, as they always crash when students try opening programs.

Nyman said that these issues are ones that are directly affecting students, and issues that can only be addressed if SGA leaders take an active role in speaking with their constituents.

One part of their platform, Babad and Nyman wish to draw attention to a specific cause.

Their cause of choice: drinking and driving.

Both candidates commented that in several elections a lot of focus is placed on the concrete issues that need solving, such as issues with parking or Wi-Fi, but not a lot of emphasis is placed on social issues.

Nyman commented that whether or not someone drinks, one is nonetheless affected by drinking and driving.

Some University students feel strongly about the issue.

“I think drinking and driving is stupid, plain and simple, as it puts your life and the passengers’ lives in danger,” said Felicia Puig, a junior communication arts major.

“Sadly, people will still do it, even if they’ve been told not to do it,” she said.

Babad commented that by virtue of being in a university students will drink.

Although he believes that he and others cannot stop students from drinking, he can nonetheless inform students about the issue and the different resources that they can take advantage of to stay out of harm.

Nyman and Babad plan on taking non-traditional avenues to educate students on this particular issue, considering that both have seen various seminars and flyers on the issue and know what works and what doesn’t.

While both candidates are aware of the changes that are taking place in terms of how the University receives funding from both the performance-based metrics and non-traditional avenues to educate students, they feel that they want to focus their efforts on ensuring that they work toward making the University meet the standards set by these metrics.

“We are not professionals in the education field, but it is our job as, what would be, student advocates to ensure that the provisions that are being put in place, which affect students, are looking out for their best interest,” Nyman said.

One of the other plans that both Bahad and Nyman have in an open-door policy that, in the case that they are elected, will allow students to enter their offices without first scheduling an appointment.

Both also want to make the presence of SGA felt on campus, considering that the general sentiment of students, as they put it, is that the student government representatives are only seen during election time.

This plan is to have an SGA street team, which will walk throughout the University and personally speak to students about their ideas and the changes they wish to be made.

One issue, however, seems to be on the minds of several: University expansion.

Both agree that, keeping in mind how slow land procurement takes, at the moment the most they can do is continue supporting the effort to acquire the fairgrounds.

On Monday, March 30, a presidential and vice presidential debate between the candidates will take place at 6 p.m. A room has yet to be determined.
Music is more realistic than the media about race

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The song references injustice in a legal system that works in favor of the privileged.

Listening to the explanation of this song and its ties with Rastafarian culture, I was reminded of the past tragedies involving minorities that gained global attention in America: the Trayvon Martin trial, the Ferguson shooting, the death of Eric Garner and more recently Maritess Johnson’s beating outside of a pub in Charlottesville, Va. It’s surprising that a song written in 1973 can relate to what is happening today, but injustice existed then and it does now.

Whether these examples are completely separate events that do not show a correspondence between injustices towards minorities and bias in the American legal system, one thing’s for sure — the media has created stereotypes of minorities by over-representing them as the aggressor in crimes.

The media doesn’t work on truth though, it cherry-picks and distributes whatever it wants to accommodate for to sell its self-defense, but he denies shooting anything in the air. The newest trend amongst young people is the hashtag culture that has ignited today’s youth doesn’t always have the privileged.

The problem with this vegetarianism and veganism becomes a fact, if you will, that people aren’t really educated on the issue, and as a result don’t go about the lifestyle change the right way.

Yes, we’ve all seen Food, Inc. and we all stray away from McDonald’s anything unless it’s completely necessary, but why don’t more people question the organic food industry? Not only is the organic community put on a pedestal for being “fresh” and clean, but the vegetarian and vegan lifestyles are also glorified.

There are some nutrients we need and cannot get by simply eating vegetables and meat substitutes. Sure, vegetarians and vegans make up for their lack of calcium and iron by taking supplemental vitamins, but that can’t be enough.

According to research conducted at Brown University, vegetarians are at a lower risk of developing heart disease, diabetes, obesity and hypertension, among others. The problem with this vegetarianism and veganism becoming a fad, if you will, is that people aren’t really educated on the issue, and as a result don’t go about the lifestyle change the right way.

The problem is that legal discrimination against minorities are starting not to go unnoticed, but to be swept under the rug and shrugged off as insignificant coincidences. Injustice toward minorities in our predominantly white legal system exists, but when I try to bring to light this problem today people think I have the mentality that every white person is racist.

Are there healthy commercial food eating people, there are healthy commercial food eating people. The same goes for vegetarians. I can attest to this because I myself was an unhealthy vegetarian. This lifestyle change is one that requires a lot of discipline and tends to work better when you live with people who are also vegetarian. The first two months of my vegetarian endeavor were glorious and invigorating. I stopped at Whole Foods, made a range of colorful salads, and took my five vitamins every morning.

I’m not going to lie; it felt a little empowering to be able to say I was a vegetarian. It wasn’t until I started to get lazy with my cooking, I caught a bad cold and to top it off my Abuelita came to visit from Panama. So I knew there would be some sort of meal I wouldn’t be able to resist at every meal, and who could say no to that adorable four foot ten inches ball of happiness? After consulting with my doctor, she advised me to go back to my previous eating habits until I felt better and then take it from there.

Like I said before, the lifestyle isn’t for everyone. A vegetarian could be as unhealthy as someone who downs a Big Mac within minutes. The idea of eating clean should not automatically mean adopting vegetarianism into your diet.

Moral of the story: do your research before you go on posting pictures of your green kale smoothie along with the recipe.

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Bad behavior at fraternities ignites discussion on system

FRANCO ORDOÑEZ
 McClatchy Washington Bureau

The secret Facebook page where members of Sigma Phi Epsilon at State University allegedly posted and commented on pictures of naked, unconscious women is just the latest in a spate of publicized incidents that have cast a shadow over fraternities nationwide.

The controversy, including racist singing at the University of Oklahoma and allegations of hazing at the University of Houston, have triggered deep soul-searching on campuses in recent days as administrators and students seek answers to stop the bad behavior.

But they've also led to larger questions about Greek life itself, whether the campus organizations have become incubators for dangerous behavior and whether the problem has gotten so bad that some students should rethink membership - or at least drop the Greek letters from their resumes.

Marc Bourne, vice president of Know It All Intelligence Group, a Philadelphia area firm that offers employment screening, said companies are looking more closely at the activities students are involved in. Even a distant association with one of these fraternities in the news can have a detrimental impact on a job candidate, he said.

"We'd like to say in a perfect world that you wouldn't judge someone at a different campus based on what happened at another campus," Bourne said in an interview. "However, we know that's not true. You hear of SAE and the first thing you think of is the incident of the chanting and racist remarks."

Earlier this month, after the 50th anniversary of civil rights demonstrations in Selma, Ala., a nine-second video emerged of Sigma Alpha Epsilon members at the University of Oklahoma singing a racist song to the tune of "If You're Happy and You Know It." The fraternity chapter was suspended and David Boren, the university president, expelled two students.

On Wednesday, the University of South Carolina's Pi Kappa Alpha fraternity was suspended as police investigated the death of one of its members. As of Friday, the circumstances of the death had not been reported.

People need to stop acting surprised when these things happen, and segregated organizations behave poorly, said Matthew W. Hughey, who studies Greek life as an associate professor of sociology at the University of Mississippi.

"We really need to move the discussion away from good or bad apples and toward a question of what's going on with the orchard," he said.

Fraternities were created for the "craze de la creme de society" back in the 18th and 19th centuries, he said. The exclusive clubs, Hughey said, had the specific purpose of protecting and fostering white power, wealth and status.

To some extent, it's worked. Forty-four percent of U.S. presidents and 31 percent of U.S. Supreme Court justices have been members of a social fraternity, according to the North American Interfraternity Conference. Nearly 40 percent of the last class of U.S. senators and 24 percent of members of the House of Representatives were part of a fraternity or sorority.

Greek organizations have a long history of battling ugly stereotypes associated with alcohol-fueled parties, racist and ethnic insensitivities, hazing and sexual assault of young women.

The Sigma Chi chapter at the University of Houston was suspended this week following allegations of hazing.

Another Sigma Alpha Epsilon chapter, at Clemson University, was suspended last year after some of its members threw a gangster-themed holiday party dubbed "Clemson Christmas." That year, Sigma Phi Epsilon closed down its University of Mississippi chapter after members placed a noose and a Confederate flag around the statue of the school's first black student.

Kappa Sigma suspended its Duke University chapter in 2013 after students hosted a controversial Asian-themed party. It's not just the boys.

In 2014, the Chi Omega sorority closed its Penn State chapter following the circulation of a photo of members wearing fake mustaches and sombreros with a sign that read: "Will mow lawn for weed and beer."

Supporters of the Greek system say the actions of a few do not detract from the positive contributions of the hundreds of thousands of fraternity members nationwide.

The North American Interfraternity Conference, a trade association representing 74 member fraternities, says members raise tens of millions of dollars annually for charitable causes and volunteer millions of hours in their communities.

Pete Smithshiser, president and CEO of the conference, cites statistics that show fraternity members earn higher grade-point averages than their at-large peers.

In a statement, Smithshiser said he expects those involved to be appropriately disciplined.
The visual and musical journey of “The Void”

DUBBED REVIEWS

Vincent Rives

Dubbed as “your muse’s favorite party,” The Void brings together artists of all mediums from around the city. Painters, graffiti writers, photographers and more filled the LMNT venue this past Friday.

Rather than just curating different visual artists, The Void combines live musical performances, alongside the art displayed, creating a premiere party in the heart of the Wynwood area.

The vibe at The Void can only be described as “cool.” The crowd was dressed in the latest street fashions, and described as “cool.” The crowd was able to blend into any A$AP Rocky music seconds. With the current state of hip-hop going months back. With the current state of hip-hop going through its own psychedelic phase through the music of Flabrush Zombies, Chance the Rapper and Joey Bada$$, Bang felt “The Void” would be the perfect fit for the show.

After a solid turnout on Friday, The Void has proven itself as the art show locals around the city do not want to miss.

The Last Man on Earth brings in a new rival

Rafael Areu

“The Last Man on Earth” has quickly become my new favorite comedy show. It manages to take an old premise and make it fresh with great writing, great characters, and unexpected twists. I’ve noted that the show is full of surprises and that each new episode changes things up one way or another. Well, it looks like this sitcom shows no signs of slowing down as things only get more and more complicated.

Episode 5: “Dunk the Skunk” begins with a red convertible driving down a gray and drab road as someone gets out of the car to read a sign that says “ALIVE IN TUCSON." This vehicle shows up periodically throughout the episode as a sort of reminder that things are about to change yet again. Phil continues to try and find a way to have sex with Melissa, but his marriage to Carol is seen as sacred by everyone but him.

Seeing him trying to devise a way to make sex with Melissa viable, we see more of Phil as a scumbag and he actually becomes less likable. He’s still enjoyable and fun to watch, but it’s becomes clearer that he’s not really a great guy. Him pretending to act distraught to Carol about possibly having sex with Melissa, demonstrate this best.

While he believes his logic to be sound (having sex with someone else so that his and Carol’s children don’t have sex with each other), it’s clear to Carol and Melissa that, no matter how sound his plan may be, Phil’s really only thinking about himself.

“Dunk the Skunk" works really well as its own episode, especially with the ever recurring presence of the red sports car. However, I felt it worked even better as a direct precursor to the following episode, “Some Friggin’ Fat Guy”.

This episode starts with fully introducing Todd, played by Mel Rodriguez, a man who would have left Tucson if it weren’t for Phil’s fireworks display. Needless to say, Phil is less than thrilled, doing his best to make Todd look bad, only for everything to backfire on him. Todd is charming, sweet, a nice guy, and of all things, getting really friendly with Melissa. They instantly hit it off, and while Carol is absolutely happy for Phil, Phil is — you guessed it — jealous as can be.

“Some Friggin’ Fat Guy” is one of the funniest episodes yet, mainly due to Phil’s fail-urts at trying to woo Melissa, embarrassing Todd, and convince himself that there’s no way Melissa could ever be into Todd. This episode also shows just how much of a scumbag Phil really is: spying on Melissa and Todd, always referring to Todd’s weight, and saying stupid things. Example: Phil says that his favorite movie is “The Shawshank Redemption” only because it’s Melissa’s.

However, this episode also ends with Phil demonstrating a bit of humanity, confessing that his behavior has been awful and that he still may be having trouble communicating with other humans. It took me by surprise, thinking that Phil would just continue to be a jerk, but it seems he may have had a mini-breakthrough. Only time will tell if Phil becomes a better man after all this.
Offense in full swing for series win against 49ers

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Coming into this series the baseball team was on a three game losing streak and had their record well under .500. Going back to their home field, they and then went on out pinch hitter Mitchell Robinson was able to get another RBI single to pull FIU within one. Unfortunately junior Ray Perez struck out and senior Julius Gaines was walked to lead to a third inning FIU C-USA loss. What really hurt the team was a five run fourth inning by Charlotte and FIU wasn’t able to respond. This is the Panthers’ sixth loss of their past seven games and Head Coach Turtle Thomas wasn’t pleased with the team’s performance. “We’ve got to swing the bat much better. No question about it. A hundred times over.”

The next day for game two the team would fulfill Head Coach Thomas’ wishes as they exploded to score 23 runs on 20 hits. The game went a perfect 4-for-4 with senior Julius Gaines as a pinch hitter. This game was well played and was able to lead to the victory. “All my power is to the opposite field and I’ve been struggling to get my power to the opposite field. We’ve really had a great game and backed up Soria’s offense going into the eighth inning to lock down the game and earned the save while striking out five.”

The FIU softball team continued to struggle on Sunday as Jenkins tossed 5.1 innings in the loss before giving the ball to Dwyer who closed out the final 1.2 innings. Leon led off for the Panthers and reached on a walk, advanced to third and was eventually stranded on third. North Texas’ Monique Garcia carried a no hitter into the fourth but was snapped by Sanchez when she hit a leadoff single. She too would be left stranded in scoring position.

The Panthers faced off against a struggling team with a record below .500. This three game series started off on a sour note for the Panthers as they dropped game one 5-4 but made things interesting in their last at bats in the bottom of the ninth inning. FIU was losing 5-2 going into that inning and were able to load the bases with no outs. An RBI single by sophomore J.C. Escarra cut the deficit to two and then with two outs pinch hitter Mitchell Robinson was able to get another RBI single to pull FIU within one. Unfortunately junior Ray Perez struck out and senior Julius Gaines was walked to lead to a third inning FIU C-USA loss. What really hurt the team was a five run fourth inning by Charlotte and FIU wasn’t able to respond. This is the Panthers’ sixth loss of their past seven games and Head Coach Turtle Thomas wasn’t pleased with the team’s performance. “We’ve got to swing the bat much better. No question about it. A hundred times over.”

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The Panthers faced off against a struggling team with a record below .500. This three game series started off on a sour note for the Panthers as they dropped game one 5-4 but made things interesting in their last at bats in the bottom of the ninth inning. FIU was losing 5-2 going into that inning and were able to load the bases with no outs. An RBI single by sophomore J.C. Escarra cut the deficit to two and then with two outs pinch hitter Mitchell Robinson was able to get another RBI single to pull FIU within one. Unfortunately junior Ray Perez struck out and senior Julius Gaines was walked to lead to a third inning FIU C-USA loss. What really hurt the team was a five run fourth inning by Charlotte and FIU wasn’t able to respond. This is the Panthers’ sixth loss of their past seven games and Head Coach Turtle Thomas wasn’t pleased with the team’s performance. “We’ve got to swing the bat much better. No question about it. A hundred times over.”

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Fresh off a record breaking indoor season, FIU’s track and field team got the chance to feel the fresh air as the team competed in the Hurricane Invitational this past weekend at the University of Miami. The team came to the meet looking to excel against non-conference schools such as the Miami, Virginia Tech, Boston College, and Florida State University and a 71-68 upset of No. 9. The Panthers on top and throw Georgia State Head Coach Ron Hunter off of his chair. The Panthers’ magical run ended; however, when Xavier University 75-67 topped them in the round of 32. Xavier will go on to play No. 2 University of Arizona, a team that has yet to win by less than 15 points.

Baylor aside, most of the top teams in the West have yet to falter. The No. 1 Wisconsin University Badgers took care of No. 16 Coastal Carolina University and No. 8 University of Oregon in the first two rounds and will face No. 4 University of North Carolina in the Sweet 16. Although the Tar Heels barely moved on past No. 13 Harvard University in the round of 64, they took care of No. 5 University of Arizona in the next round and should be ready for a fight against Wisconsin. Now that the first couple rounds of the tournament are over, some anticipated matchups of the tournament will finally be realized in the Midwest. Just like brackets foretold, the No. 1 University of Kentucky remains perfect in the tournament.

The Wildcats cruised to double-digit wins over Hampton University and the University of Cincinnati and will face off against No. 5 West Virginia University in the Sweet 16. The Mountaineers have increased in the tourney so far, with a 69-59 win over No. 4 University of Maryland being their most recent accomplishment.

Atlantic Coast Conference champion Notre Dame has also excelled. They defeated No. 6 Butler University 67-64 in the round of 32 and are matched up against Wichita State in the Sweet 16. The Shockers are coming off of a stunning 78-65 upset of the No. 2 University of Kansas Jayhawks. The Sweet 16 in the Midwest will be a round worth watching. Now that the typical craziness has played out, it is time to get into college basketball’s finest square off with one another. The first couple rounds of the tournament are always exciting and maddening.

What comes after, however, is where champions are forged.

HN CIAA BASKETBALL

NCAA Tournament’s Sweet 16 offers even better basketball drama

PETER HOLLAND Contributing Writer sports@fiusm.edu

The NCAA Tournament’s Sweet 16 offers even better basketball drama

In the women’s javelin, Bejai Fray finished second in the men’s javelin with a mark of 7.11 meters. If he can repeat that performance of his personal best with a time of 48.65 seconds in the finals mark. In her collegiate debut, Celine Murton finished four spots behind Fray at 25.11 meters. FIU’s top performer was senior Raqurra Ishmar, who posted a toss of 51.77 meters in the hammer throw. On Saturday, March 21, the competition heated up as the team wrapped up the day with a huge momentum. Coach Heberling expected the team “to compete and produce big numbers” at Saturday’s event, and that’s what they did.

The men’s side, both Alton Eliphar and Brandon Ballard set the tone on the 400-meter dash, finishing back to back, with Eliphar running four seconds off his personal best with a time of 46.85 seconds. In the discus throw, Raqurra Ishmar took second place, finishing in third place. In the Discus throw, Raqurra Ishmar took second place, throwing for 41.84 meters. FIU’s fastest female throw, Raqurra Ishmar made a huge impact herself by finishing in the top three in the women’s high jump. She was just shy of the mark she posted at last place in the women’s high jump. She was started the event on top by tying for first time 15:17.97 seconds in the 5,000-meter run. Ronny Greenup finished the day with a 43.74 meter toss. Impact freshman Jamal Dorvilier made a huge impact himself by finishing in the top three in the women’s javelin, Bejai Fray led the way by throwing 30.69 meters in the 400-meter hurdles race on Saturday, March 21 at the Hurricane Invitational Meet at the University of Miami. They will compete again this upcoming weekend at the UCF Invite at the University of Central Florida beginning on Friday, March 27.

The women’s side, Tikierra Reaford had a 43.74 meter toss. Impact freshman Jamal Dorvilier made a huge impact himself by finishing in the top three in the women’s javelin, Bejai Fray led the way by throwing 30.69 meters in
**Students in need receive help at food pantries**

**DESTINEY BURT**  
Staff Writer  
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Ludovica Virgile, program assistant for Student Health Services at the Biscayne Bay Campus, said that some University students can’t afford a plate of food.

In response to their poor diet, the BBC Student Health Services, the Center for Leadership and Service and the Students for the Poor Club opened a food pantry on December 2013 when these students receive support. It has since then expanded to the Modesto A. Maidique Campus.

“There are times when students just don’t know where their meal is going to come from for the week, let alone just tomorrow, and we are here to help them out,” Virgile said. “We make sure they have their breakfast, (that) they have their proteins [and that] they have carbs.”

Students in need can pass by the Wolfe University Center room 407 and collect a week’s worth of nutritionally balanced food items. A nutritionist leaves a guide chart that is followed for each donation.

According to Virgile, they have had aid from BBC Campus Life and the WUC administration. They have also made community partnerships from which they have received food donations.

However, she said they have yet to receive full funding support from the Student Government Association. According to a message from BBC Student Government Council Chief of Staff, Elina Sbony, this may be due to budget hearings and state allocations for the University.

Last semester, according to Virgile, the SHS Wellness Center held a food pantry challenge which brought in the largest amount of donations.

Many departments participated in the challenge, bringing in non-perishable food items such as grains and canned foods. The winner was the BBC Enrollment Center which was prizéd with a catered lunch.

‘Listen, learn, connect’ with journalists and zombies

**NADINE RODRIGUEZ**  
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Being a journalism student in Florida International University means a diverse, intense curriculum and benefits that surpass many other programs in the region.

The Society of Professional Journalists at FIU is taking over Friday of Communication’s Week with their event. “Listen, Learn and Connect: SPJ-FIU Media Conference.”

The event runs from 9 a.m until 5 p.m. on March 27, at FIU Biscayne Bay Campus, in WUC 244AB.

“This is our second time doing this conference, we are making it an annual event. There are many reasons why we do it,” said SPJ President, Kathleen Devaney. “We want to offer something within the School of Journalism that the actual school doesn’t provide. As a student chapter we want to excel providing resources for the students.”

The event gets different people to event. “The event gets different people to.”

SPJ will be bringing some local journalism professionals, such as Steve Rothaus, a reporter for The Miami Herald specializing in LGBTQ news.

Students attending this event will have a chance to meet professionals in the field and gain knowledge and advice from their experience.

“A lot of cards were exchanged between students and professionals last year,” Devaney said. “It’s an intimate setting.” Devaney says.

The conference is split into six sections. The first section is an introduction which includes complimentary breakfast.

Then the conference begins a series of panels about covering communities and a panel about ethics when covering places in turmoil.

Devaney, along with her SPJ FIU team, came up with the topics.

“We tried to mostly have people who cover communities that are not their own,” Devaney said. “For example, we have a religion reporter who is not religious, but there are people who cover communities they can relate to, such as Steve Rothaus.”

Following the Covering Communities panel is an ethics panel about covering countries that are under political turmoil.

Among journalists speaking at this panel are Jacqueline Charles, and brother and sister Alejandro Aguirre and Helen Aguirre Ferre.

“Alejandro was president of the Inter American Press Association for one year, and Jacqueline is from The Herald,” Devaney said. “She mainly covers Haiti. She covered the earthquake, presidential issues and the government. The panel will talk about what to do in these situations, what procedures to take in order to cover people in these countries…it’s a different environment from the press in the United States.”

Attendees will be provided lunch and then move into what could be the most exciting part of the conference, the “Break-Out Session.”

“Unlike any other conference at FIU, this one has undead journalists. “The event gets different people to dress up like zombies. The journalism students interview the zombies and wear white shirts…the zombies squirt the white shirts with blood if they ask a ‘bad’ question,” Devaney said.

Last year, one of the winning questions included “What does a human brain taste like?”

The shirts will be provided at the event and registration to play “Zombie Stories” will be available at the sign-in desk.

Professional journalists, interesting topics and zombies. “Listen. Learn. Connect” is an annual conference students should mark down on their calendars.

Lori Todd, social media manager for the Orlando Sentinel and Sun Sentinel, and Associate Dean Allan Richards listen as Miami Herald Caribbean correspondent, Jacqueline Charles, speaks at the social media panel at last year’s Listen Learn Connect, media conference on Friday, March 21, 2014.

**GIRL POWER**

From left to right: Dr. Ya Hui Chang from Taiwan, Mihaela Plugarasu from Romania, Yanina Yefimova from Ukraine, and Dr. Carolin Luby answer questions from students about their experiences as women living in their home countries and in the United States at the International Women’s day celebration on Wednesday, March 18.

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Kathleen Devaney
President
Society of Professional Journalists FIU