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 five.

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 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 moon 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.

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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 information 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.

“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 Rath 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 trawler’s logbook from January, the country will increase its catch to at least 32,000 metric tons annually by only Norway and South Korea.

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 Werner, 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 worlds powers have said during negotiations.

“No sanctions must be lifted immediately,” Khamenei said.

Because of its success, the SHS are planning on hosting 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.

“Although we have only seven that are located around campus. They are at the WUC, Academic Building One, the BBC, 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 have already had successes, they also run 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 always the need for the fact of it,” she said.

MMC also has their food pantry which is located in the Deuxieme building, 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 Joanna Garcia, Assistant Director for the Center of Leadership and Service.

“I would definitely want it. I think it impacts students quite positively,” said Angel Pinares, a freshman hospitality major.

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

The food pantry is open at the BBC 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.

University opens food pantries for students

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Bahad commented on the name of his and Kristen’s party.

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

“I 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 Geographical 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.

Both part of their platform, Bahad and Nyman wish to draw attention to a cause.

TheIR another 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 campus 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.

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 fairground.

On Monday, March 30, a presidential and vice presidential debate between the candidates will take place at 5 p.m. A room has yet to be determined.
Music is more realistic than the media about race

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Guest speakers Douglas Smith - a Rasta priest - and I. Jabulani Tafari, founder and editor of magazines Rootz Reggae and Kuiche joined political science professor Mirsad Krijestorac at his ethnicity and nationalism class Tuesday, March 17.

The goal was to decipher the meaning of Bob Marley and The Wailers' song “I Shot The Sheriff.”

You may be familiar with the song - its infamous lyrics have been readapted and replayed time and time again. In the song Marley admits to murdering a sheriff out of self-defense, but he denies shooting the deputy, a charge he is also being prosecuted for.

“I’m afraid I will, I pay. But if they lock up a black man, a poor man, people of color in America, in anywhere in world, sometimes they pin other charges on you,” Tafari said.

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 Eric Garner and more recently Martese 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 as 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 sells best to their target audience, thereby dulling the seriousness of the crimes themselves.

Bias that exists in our legal system can no longer be separated from the propaganda that surrounds crimes involving minority groups.

People end up asking themselves whether it is institutional racism or consciousness that lands mostly minorities in jail.

Some people will always say a white person killing a minority is a racist act. Not only is this not true, but it is stealing our attention from the actual crimes involving race.

“Blacks and whites often view each other’s reactions [to violent acts against each race] as being motivated by a reflexive form of in-group favoritism and out-group prejudice,” Mark Peffley said in the book “Justice in America: The Separate Realities of Blacks and White.”

The hashtag culture that has ignited today’s youth doesn’t bring the right attention to these palpable issues, either. Rather, it brings a horde of counter-protests such as #blacklivesmatter versus #whiteprivilege and #blacklivesmatter and #blacksprivilege that are all so shrouded in controversy that no one seems to be able to come up with a real solution outside of a tweet or hashtag war.

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.

A study published in “Youth Violence and Juvenile Justice” by Tia Stevens and Merry Morash stated that whether they self-reported low, medium or high involvement in delinquency, black and Hispanic boys were more likely to be sent to a correctional institution than their white counterparts.

A Washington Post article by John Sides stated that about 60 percent of whites believed that minorities deserved to be imprisoned more because they were more prone to commit crimes. According to the Sentencing Project polls, at least 60 percent of people in prisons are minorities. Specifically for black men, I in every 10 are in prison or jail at any given time.

“The only way to end separate racial realities is either to educate whites about the experiences of blacks or, even better, to reduce blacks’ negative experiences with unfair treatment in the justice system,” Sides said.

Whites and nonwhites have been playing against one another by the media when the problem isn’t our differences, but the system itself. That is what Bob Marley’s song is ultimately about - forcing us to see these injustices for what they really are.

The healthy-eating revolution: Why the hype?

RACHEL YOUNG
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The simple act of walking into a Whole Foods Market, or any organic market for that matter, makes one feel healthier already. It must be something in the air. The newest trend amongst the healthy already. It must be something in the air. The newest trend amongst those are whole foods, vegan and vegetarian lifestyles are also glorified.

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.

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.

I applaud the widespread efforts to make a healthier lifestyle, but why the sudden concern? And why have I met more vegetarians and vegans in the past year than I ever have? It’s almost as if the majority of people are taking part in the healthy movement to be a part of the trend; which wouldn’t surprise me. Trends come and go and for the most part, we always look back on them and realize we could have put more thought into our actions. This organic health kick that everyone has been on is one to question.

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.

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I was always supposed to be 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.

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 FIU’s Sigma Alpha Epsilon chapter discussed hiring a hitman to kill a frat rival has drawn the attention of university officials and law enforcement. It’s not the first time the fraternity has found itself under scrutiny.

But it’s one of the largest incidents involving a white fraternity at a public university discussed publicly in recent memory.

The secret Facebook page, founded in 2013, was created by a member of the Sigma Alpha Epsilon chapter and had 136 members at the time of its discovery. It included a discussion thread about hiring a hitman to kill a rival frat’s member who had been involved in a fight.

The page also contained discussions about hazing, alcohol use, and racist comments. The page was discovered by university officials after a tip from a concerned student.

FIU officials say they are taking the matter seriously and are working with law enforcement to investigate the allegations.

“This is a serious matter and we take it very seriously,” said FIU President Mark Rosenberg in a statement. “We are working with law enforcement to determine the facts of this allegation and will take appropriate action.”

The FBI and the Secret Service are also reportedly investigating the case.

In the meantime, FIU has suspended the Sigma Alpha Epsilon chapter and removed its Greek life status. The university has also suspended all Greek life activities on campus.

The fraternity has denied any involvement in the alleged activity and has released a statement expressing regret for any behavior that may have violated university policies.

“Sigma Alpha Epsilon does not condone any behavior that violates FIU’s code of conduct or is not consistent with our values and mission,” the statement reads. “We deeply regret any actions that may have been taken in violation of these standards.”

The fraternity has also expressed its commitment to working with the university to address any issues that may have arisen.

This case is just the latest in a series of incidents involving fraternities at public universities across the country. Recent incidents have included hazing, alcohol abuse, and racist behavior.

“Fraternities and sororities are supposed to be a positive influence on college campuses,” said FIU Student Government President cookies. “Instead, we’re seeing incidents like this that mar the reputation of our Greek life community.”
The void has proven itself as the art show locals around the city do not want to miss.

**RIVAS REVIEWS**

**VINCENT RIVES**

Dubbed as “your muse’s favorite party,” The V oid 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, V oid 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 a good portion of the crowd would be dressed in the latest street fashions, and described as “cool.” The crowd was able to blend into any A$AP Rocky music video.

Music-wise, The Void hosted talent from a diverse array of genres. The crowd was treated to reggae stylings from Nelson Serieux while the band called SunGhosts brought their rock element to the show.

Serieux while the band called SunGhosts were treated to reggae stylings from Nelson Serieux while the band called SunGhosts. The title of the show stemmed from the trippy psychedelic movie. “Enter the Void” after Event Coordinator and DJ, Sean Bang, spent the night at local rapper Denzel Curry’s home in Carol City a few months back.

With the current state of hip-hop going through its own psychedelic phase through the music of Flatbush 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 ABREU**

“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 distressed to Carol about possibly having sex with Melissa, as well as his failed attempts at even talking 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 finally 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 them, 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 failures 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 will then want to climb up Conference USA standings as they played against the University of North Carolina at Charlotte who was also a struggling team with a record below .500.

The Panthers ended after seven innings due to the Conference USA mercy rule. Junior Edwin Rios had a game that he will never forget as he drove in six of FIU's 23 runs and made school history belting three home runs in that game. He tied the single game school record for most home runs in a game. He was a perfect 4-for-4 with six RBI and was extremelyglied that he finally hit the ball well and was able to lead the team to a victory. “All my power is to the opposite field and I’ve been pulling the ball lately so I was finally able to do what I do.”

Jorge Corrales
Sports Director
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Infielder Edwin Rios fields a ground ball during the game against the University of North Carolina at Charlotte on March 20th. Although the Panthers lost Friday’s game, they got their revenge on Saturday by winning 23-1 where Rios broke the FIU single game home run record.

BASEBALL

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The golf team had made its mark this past weekend despite finishing in second place overall this past weekend at the Mountain View Collegiate. The tournament took place in Tuscon, Arizona and was hosted by the University of Missouri. The Panthers were one of twenty schools competing in the tournament. The team was led by Junior Meghan MacLaren, who shot seven under par, which gave her her third tournament victory. MacLaren shot a three-round total of 209 to reach seven under; her best mark of the season. Her previous best came at the Pat Bradley Invitational last November. This was the fourth time this season that MacLaren finished in the top ten. Freshman sensation Katerina Kravosva finished in the top ten with a total of 214, two-under par for the tournament.

SOFTBALL

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The FIU softball team (20-14, 3-6 C-USA) got swept this past weekend by the North Texas Mean Green. Junior Corinne Jenkins (12-7) pitched the first game of three. A hard fought 6-1 innings with four strikeouts. She allowed 11 hits and sophomore Brianna Bartuccio came into relief the final two-thay innings and struck out one. Jenkins struggled early in the first giving up a solo home run to North Texas' Monique Garcia. Jenkins settled down, getting into her zone with two strikeouts before giving up another solo shot in the third. The Panthers fought back as the Mean Green led 2-0 in the bottom half of the third. Senior Rebekah Sanchez reached on a line drive to third base and sophomore Ashley Leon (2-0-4) battled back from two strikes and lined a base hit back up the middle. Sophomore Gabby Spallone (1-0-2) loaded the bases with a walk and put FIU in a good position, but they were ineffective in taking advantage of the situation and stranding the runner. Junior Aleima Lopez led off the bottom half of the fourth with a single to the left side. Redshirt sophomore Marissa McGinty pinch ran for Lopez and scored when freshman Ashley Belans got a single to center field and advanced to second on the throw to home. Leon made it a two-hit day when she singled to center field in the bottom half of the fifth. She advanced to second on a wild pitch and sophomore Stephanie Texiera clipped the outside pitch for an RBI single to center.

The game tied 4 headed into the seventh inning. North Texas drove in the go-ahead run on a bases-clearing double. The Panthers fell 6-4 in the final game of the series and struggled to pick up any momentum for the second game right after. Freshman Rachel Dwyer (2-0) pitched 4 innings with three strikeouts before giving the ball to senior Shelby Graves (4-7) who came in for 1.1 innings and got the crucial final out in the top of the seventh with two outs. The Mean Green pulled ahead early off three runs in the first inning as North Texas' Strunak hit her second first inning home run. Freshman Kaitlyn Munua ended the top of the frame with a caught-stealing toss out at second. The game ended after seven innings due to the Conference USA mercy rule. Junior Edwin Rios had a game that he will never forget as he drove in six of FIU's 23 runs and made school history belting three home runs in that game. He tied the single game school record for most home runs in a game. He was a perfect 4-for-4 with six RBI and was extremelyglied that he finally hit the ball well and was able to lead the team to a victory. “All my power is to the opposite field and I’ve been pulling the ball lately so I was finally able to do what I do.”

The Panthers offenssence couldn’t get any flow going in its first two chances as the plate, at two reached base and failed to get past first base. Freshman Jessica Hallett walked after a ten pitch at bat and Belans hit a single that left two runners in scoring position for Sanchez to lay down a sacrifice bunt to score the both of them. Leon led off of the sixth with a triple to right field and scored off Texiera's sacrifice hit. Spallone tied it up 4 at 4 after her fourth home run of the season. The game went into extra innings and North Texas sent another home run out in the top of the eighth. Texiera and Spallone both hit singles to left and center field but failed to put the Panthers on the board and fell 5-4 against the Mean Green, to end the day 0-2. 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, but was eventually left stranded. 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. Spallone made a great diving catch at second to end the inning.

The Panthers would take the 4-0 loss to North Texas to end the weekend but look ahead to tonight, March 25 as they take on University of Central Florida at Felsburg Field at 6 p.m.

The FIU Golf team is looking to keep the momentum going as they get ready to compete for the Conference-USA Championship on April 20 in Fort Myers, Florida.

North Texas Mean Green sweeps softball

Jinette Garcia/the Beacon
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 Boise State. Florida Atlantic University and a couple of lower division schools.

On Friday, March 20, Chris Sullivan finished second overall and took on his personal best with a time of 48.65 seconds. Meanwhile, Ballard was on his tail with the time of 48.90 seconds. In the 400-meter hurdles, making his career debut, Pablo Espitia finished with a time of 57.88 seconds. In the discus throw, Chris Sullivan led the team by posting a throw of 33.94 meters.

On Friday, March 20, Chris Sullivan continued to produce big numbers. He also said that he expects the team to break more conference records and produce big numbers.

The first couple of rounds of the tournament so far have been nothing short of spectacular so far, but the best action is yet to come. The Sweet 16 opponent will be a No. 8 North Carolina State University program that picked up a first round win over No. 9 Loyola Maryland University and a 71-68 upset of No. 1 Villanova University.

One team that has been taking care of business is No. 3 University of Oklahoma. The Sooners beat the Albany Great Danes 69-60 in the round of 64 and went on to defeat the University of Dayton 72-66 in the round of 32. Their Sweet 16 opponent will be a Michigan State team that took down the No. 2 University of Kansas 67-64 in the round of 32.

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The No. 4 University of Louisville will be a Michigan State team that took down the No. 2 University of Kansas in the Sweet 16.

The Mountaineers have increased in the tournament so far, with a 69-59 win over No. 4 University of Maryland being their most recent accomplishment.

The Panthers opened the season on a high note. However, Coach Heberling believes that there is always room for improvement technique wise.

"I think the team has natural abilities," Heberling said. "We just need to get in tune with our technique."

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Students in need receive help at food pantries

DESTINEY BURT
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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 where these students receive support. It has since then expanded to the Modesto A. Maidique Campus.

“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 where 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, Elisa Sihony, 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 priz ed 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 day-long 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.”

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

Photo courtesy of South Florida News Service

From left to right: Dr. Ya Hui Chang from Taiwan, Mihaela Plugarasu from Romania, Yanina Yefimova from Ukraine, and Dr. Carolin Luby from Germany 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.

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.

We want to offer something within the School of Journalism that the actual school doesn’t provide.”

Kathleen Devaney
President
Society of Professional Journalists FIU

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.