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City of Miami Beach installs sunscreen dispensers

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Despite the fact that people like Stephanie Fernandez are aware of the dangers of sun exposure, the number of those affected by skin conditions in Florida is only increasing.

In an effort to control the spread of these skin conditions, the City of Miami Beach and the Mount Sinai Medical Center have partnered up to decrease the Sunlighte State’s skin cancer rates by installing 50 sunscreen dispensers in public pools, parks and various access points around the beach.

According to an interview in the Miami Herald with Jose Latryka, the director of the melanoma program at Mount Sinai Medical Center, Florida has the second highest number of melanoma—type of skin cancer that forms pigmentation cells in the skin—incidents in the nation.

Framil, a sophomore majoring in journalism, is conscious of the importance of healthy skin.

"Your skin is very important," she said. "It is your largest organ and it pretty much explains your health."

Eighty percent of skin cancer deaths are due to melanoma and the best ways to prevent the skin condition is by avoiding long exposure to intense sunlight and to practice sun safety, according to the Florida Society of Dermatology and Dermatologic Surgery.

Framil never forgets her sunscreen and takes precautions to minimize her exposure to the sun.

She stated that she sees a great benefit in the installation of the public sunscreen dispensers because they are free and they give the community easy access to a very important product.

The funding for the sunscreen dispensers was appropriated from the City of Miami Beach’s partnership with Destination Brands to create a line of sun care products.

The products are sold in stores around the city and can also be found online. The Miami Beach brand is also the brand being used in the sunscreen dispensers.

At a sun protection factor of 30 (SPF 30) the MB-Miami Beach Triple Action Sea Kelp Sunscreen Lotion is water resistant and made in the United States.

Carmen Victoria Framil, a nurse practitioner at the University’s Nicole Wertheim College of Nursing & Health Sciences, sees many benefits in the installation of the sunscreen dispensers, but emphasizes that reaplication is key to sun protection.

The remaining fifty sunscreen dispensers will impact the community.

"People have to take personal responsibility," Framil said. "I’m sure that there are a lot of people like me who just forget [about sun care] or others that simply don’t care."

Professionals like Framil and Aline Green, a nurse practitioner in University Health Services, question the extent of how much the sunscreen dispensers will impact the community.

They believe that education on sun exposure and care is much more important than the availability that these sunscreen dispensers will provide.

"Are they going to be appropriately storing it so that the potency of the sunscreen effect is not diminished?" Framil said. "Are there instructions on there saying how much you should use? Because if there aren’t, then it isn’t going to do much of a difference."

Nonetheless, they see positivity in that it is free and the City of Miami Beach, along with Mount Sinai Medical Center, are making this staple product accessible to the community.

The inauguration of the first sunscreen dispenser was on Friday, March 13, on 21st street, Miami Beach. The dispenser was unveiled by City Manager Jimmy Morales.

The remaining fifty sunscreen dispensers will be installed in the following weeks.

Students design recycled material for fashion show

CAMILA SAENZ
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The College of Architecture and the Arts will present its second annual Eco-Couture Recycled Fashion Show at the University. Kelly Meyers, an office assistant in the Department of Architecture, was involved in last year’s show.

"The event had attracted an audience of more than 500 people," she said. "The goal for this year’s fashion show is to attract a broader audience."

Amira Ajlouni, an alumna of the College of Architecture and the Arts, started the fashion show last year, allowing all students at the University to submit their designs of outfits created from recyclable material.

Once the winning designs are picked, the designers are able to recreate their ideas into actual clothes, which will be displayed by models on a runway.

The models are provided with hair and makeup assistance at the show.

Ajlouni had wanted to create this project a few years back, but she lacked resources and preparation.

"Once thesis time came rolling around, I remembered this idea of a project promoting sustainability, which I had had a few years back," she said. "Even though I would not have an abundant amount of resources, I now had enough to start the project."

The fashion show allows for an entertaining medium of creativity for those involved in the project and for those who participate in the audience, said Ajlouni.

According to her, the modern world has had a shift.

Now the public has become more ecologically aware and more inclined to protect the environment from depletion.

Ajlouni believes that this project can become a popular event, bringing attention to a popular and current issue: recycling.

In her mind, recycling is becoming more of a trend and she thinks that there is a great movement to reuse materials.

For her the couture portion of the show exemplifies the fashion-forward designs that are submitted, all with the goal of promoting sustainability and creativity within the community.

Currently, only University students are allowed to submit designs and participate in the event.

"I wanted people to see recycled materials in a different light, and I think that worked out [last year]," Ajlouni said.

"I also wanted people to be inspired, and… that worked. Finally, I wanted to start a tradition."

The Eco Recycled event will also display artwork promoting sustainability.

It will be held on Thursday, April 2 at the Paul L. Cejas School of Architecture building courtyard. The event will begin at 7:30 p.m. with a cocktail hour and live music.
NATION & WORLD BRIEFS

Iranian-led Shiite militias fighting as US joins battle

Iraqi Shiite Muslim militias, angry that the government of Prime Minister Haider al-Abadi has asked for American help in ejecting Islamic State fighters from the central Iraqi city of Tikrit, began Thursday withdrawing their forces from the battle, the first major break between the Iranian-trained militias and Iraq’s military establishment since the Islamic State advance last year.

Whether the militias, which have formed the backbone of the Iraqi response to the Islamic State group since Iraq’s army collapsed last summer, would continue to participate in the fighting was undecided. Militia members told McClatchy that their commanders were meeting to decide the issue.

Details of Germanwings copilot’s life, death emerge; friends are shocked

The silence in the cockpit during the last eight minutes of doomed Germanwings Flight 9525 was broken only by the co-pilot’s even breathing. Measured and controlled, the exulting picked up by the cockpit voice recorder were enough for investigators of Tuesday’s crash in the French Alps to conclude that Andreas Lubitz was conscious and deliberate in directing the Airbus A320 to divert from its cruising altitude into a sharp and fatal descent.

Lubitz’s employers, German and French authorities, his friends at a private flying club and his acquaintances and neighbors were speechless at the news that the 27-year-old who had craved pride in his piloting job could have intentionally killed himself and all 149 others on board.

Yemenis flee capital as Saudi warplanes blast Houthi rebel targets

Saudi warplanes bombarded a military airbase at Sanaa’s civilian airport and struck at other strategic locations in a sudden air campaign aimed at halting the advance of Iran-backed Houthi rebels.

Residents packed their cars and fled the capital by every available route, and local news outlets reported at least 20 people killed and 50 wounded by the air assault, which involved more than 100 aircraft and hundreds of bombs. Houthi authorities responded to the air raids, which began about 1 a.m., at first with silence and then with a series of moves that seemed unplanned and panic-stricken. Thursday evening, Houthi backers began arresting local and foreign journalists.

Sanib Arabia said it had acted in response to a plea from Yemen’s internationally recognized president, Abed Raboo Mansour Hadi, to the Arab League to “immediately use all means necessary, including military intervention, to protect Yemen and its people.”

International Conference comes to University

EDISON ESPINOZA Contributing Writer news@fiu.com

The Department of Modern Languages at the University has organized its International Conference titled “Literature and Crisis.”

“This international symposium will encompass all of what is currently happening in the world and how it relates to literature.”

Maya Boutaugh, assistant professor in the Department of Modern Languages and in the Center for Women’s and Gender Studies, is one of the key figures who is organizing the conference. She hopes to achieve a conversation within the University community.

“I hope that this conference solicits a discussion on how world literature reflects and responds to ‘crises,’” said Boutaugh.

But she does not just want to stop there.

“Seeing as how people live in the Miami area, Boutaugh thinks that the city of Miami is one of the most culturally diversified areas in the nation because the people are a link between both Latin America and other parts of the world.

She believes that this unique space in which people reside could harvest some of the greatest conversations about how literature affects everyone.

According to her, students should be interested in attending because it will provide the opportunity to engage in activities that are happening around campus and that can open students’ minds to new ideas, new ways of thinking and seeing things through different perspectives.

Boutaugh believes that this behavior is what University President Mark B. Rosenberg describes as “Worlds Ahead.”

She, along with her team, have brought in several speakers from around the nation to come for the panel discussion.

Among the speakers are Ana Vepsalainen from York University in Toronto, Canada, Justin Wiesinger from Yale and several other professionals of the topic.

Literature is also really important and I think I’m just curious to see how these speakers plan on relating literature to crisis,” he said.

Eduardo Mora

Miami Herald

Keynote Speakers also include Milhoko Suorik of the University of Michigan, who will be opening with his piece, titled, “Antigone’s Example: Women’s Political Writing and Civil War” and Joshua Landy of Stanford University, who will be closing the event with a talk titled, “Slight Expectations: Literature in a Crisis.”

Anais Torres, a junior majoring in education, is particularly excited that the Department of Modern Languages decided to bring experts to campus.

“When we talk about crisis, we’re not just talking about a specific thing,” she said. “We’re talking about social, political and environmental crises. I think that the fact that we’re bringing experts from such prestigious universities says a lot about FIU as a whole. This is good.”

The two-day conference will begin on April 9 at 9 a.m. at the Modesto A. Maidique MARC Pavilion. It’s free and open to the public.

“You won’t want to miss these speakers, as they will be some of the most memorable,” said Boutaugh.
The shrub hub: involving students in the conservation of the environment

DARIAH PADRON
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Last semester, graduate teacher assistant, Andrea Salas, was taking a walk on campus when she saw that her favorite native shrubs were being removed. Salas was angered because, as an environmental scientist, she knows the shrubs provide homes for caterpillars and nectar for ants. They are a key component that drive various biological interactions. The shrubs that the landscaping crew replaced were the threatened native plants known as the Bahama Senna. These are currently scattered around South Florida because their endemic pine rockland ecosystem has suffered serious habitat fragmentation.

Because the fragmented pine rocklands are located in close proximity to agricultural and urban sites, it is important that the University encourages conservation outside of designated “protected areas” through the reintegration of threatened native species. In other words, our landscape must reflect our commitment to species preservation.

In reality, the new plants are not invasive. Some of them are native and others are non-native or exotic. Chusias are now planted where the Bahama Senna once stood. Although the plant is native, it is not a threatened species and it presents new issues for its surrounding environment.

“This happened between ECS and the Greenhouse. You can see the Chusias there,” said Salas.

She said that the Chusias are going to grow large enough to obstruct sunlight for other plants in the enclosed area outside of the greenhouse. In fact, an undergraduate student was using the outside edge of the greenhouse for a plant experiment, but the Chusias’ shade will prevent her plants from growing. The prettier plants have already begun to disrupt a campus habitat.

The problem at hand stems from a lack of understanding. Most students and faculty probably do not have the knowledge to do so, are endowed a sense of responsibility and a source of frustration even. Salas spoke to her advisor, a Botanist who also studies the Bahama Senna and its interactions with other organisms and one way or the other, she managed that landscapers no longer be allowed to plant by the Greenhouse.

The ecological victory, however, was short lived. On separate occasion soon after, gardeners unknowingly removed plants in the butterfly garden of the Greenhouse that were host plants for pollinators—incest bees and butterflies that spread seeds which are also our biggest agents of biodiversity. This just goes to show that protecting species is a tricky business.

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“...”

The morale of the shrub hub tale is that University students are situated on a unique ecosystem that they must cherish and protect. If students were to inform themselves, their communities then defending endangered native species would be much simpler.

Our landscapers would already know. Salas was able to explain the importance of the shrub and other threatened native plants to landscaping crew members. The man continue to apologize to her each time they see her. She learned that the University employee in charge of hiring them also knew about removal and selection process—choosing plants that will make the school look nicer. Usually, many of the same shrub species are planted to create a uniform aesthetic and it further decreases biodiversity.

Like Salas, University students can protect native species from a distance if they spread the word and volunteer. They can do this by volunteering at the Greenhouse, supporting research projects related to conservation, removing weeds they can recognize, planting natives and keeping themselves informed about current threats to endangered species.

FRANK & IRENE

Is education hurting students?

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The first two years of college should be reevaluated in order to really help students better decide what kind of future they want to have.

For those students who enter college unsure of their future occupational goals, the pressure of deciding on a specific path is more than daunting. From elementary through high school, students are taught the same curriculum: reading, math, science, etc. However, college is a whole other game and it’s not so clean cut.

As it is, the first two years of college are a waste of time. Entering university, students are required to take a certain number of credits from specific classes. These classes are an extension, if not an exact replica, of classes they took in high school.

Students choose a science class, a math class, a literature class and an elective class for fun. By this time in a students’ education it is a pretty established fact which subject they enjoy taking and which one they hate. It is then from these broad subjects that students are expected to nail down their future.

Many college graduates speak of all the times they changed their major before they finally settled on one they were really interested in. While this is a good option to have, there is not enough time to take advantage of it. Even if a student knows what they want to study before entering college, they still need those first two rudimentary years.

Many college graduates speak of all the times they changed their major before they finally settled on one they were really interested in. While this is a good option to have, there is not enough time to take advantage of it.

Students usually start taking classes geared toward their major in their third year. These introductory courses should be offered to second year students.

If the basic classes need to be kept they should act as transitions with the option of taking a couple of major specific courses. The introductory classes for a major are important because, after taking them, students often know if that major is the right choice for them. Right now college is very limiting if students plan on graduating after four years.

If a student reaches senior year with a major they are unhappy with they face two options. The first option would be to change the major and take an additional two years studying a new major, which is expensive. The second option would be to stick with the major and finish out the final semester. Colleges, it seems, are very interested in keeping students in school for as long as possible to make money off tuition.

By taking away those first two years, students only have another two years to figure themselves out. Even if a student has picked a major, the class selection for some of them are so limited students have no choice but to push their graduation date farther and farther back.

Ideally, college should be a learning experience. For most students, college is too expensive for them to really explore all their options.

The first two years of college should be dedicated to providing students with the opportunity to explore different areas of learning to see what subjects really interest them.
Flash and Arrow episodes: ‘exciting’ and ‘incredible’

The Beacon – Monday, March 30, 2015

‘WRITING BETWEEN’

Chris Santiago

‘DC on TV’

Flash

We pick up right where we left off on our last exciting episode of “The Flash.” And it still had that exciting feeling! It leaves off right where Barry ends up a day in the past and is confused and finishing up sentences for a big fight. But it turns out, they got his mind about our beloved Wells/Thawne being not all who he seems to be.

I’m not sure if I approve of it. He said that he would end the two combatants actually crashing and burning. The movie was up against a man without any powers and could fly and was strong, in the suit, going up against a man without any powers and only had tactics and skill sets. Of course, guess who won that bout?

This episode also incorporated the Suicide Squad. If you’ve been keeping up with the show, you know who comprises this team.

This was fun for me to watch because it helps me prepare for the 2016 release of the cinematic version of the Suicide Squad. And I have to say, I’m more psyched for that movie now more than ever!

‘DC on TV’ with Chris is a column covering the latest episodes of the ongoing series The Flash and Arrow.

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Lavender is created

“Redefining Queer: Making Lavender Connections” is a conference that realized this and chose the color as solidarity to the gay men and women who were labeled with pink and black triangles in concentration camps during WWII.

This April, the University will host “Redefining Queer: Making Lavender Connections.” This conference will be the first college and university conference to be held in South Florida.

Just as the colors mix, the conference hopes to bring all students, faculty, and staff together to network. Lesbian, Gay, Bi-Sexual, Transgender, Queer/Questioning and Allies or LGBTQA, college and university students and professionals are invited to learn and share.

The objective for the “Redefining Queer” conference is to promote understanding, acceptance, and appreciation of diversity.

“Everything is generally easy to track and looks good, especially scenes involving hitman Andrew Prince, played by Common, whose laser sight pistol makes an impression. There are a few moments that don’t involve any guns and they’re handled pretty limited.”

The film’s biggest problem can be blamed on…”
The Patricia Frost Museum has hosted a Chinese exhibition “Writing Between Heaven and Earth” in part by the artist Xu Bing, and curated by Professor Lidu Yi. The series displays the “shu” art (meaning books and the act of writing) in his innovative printmaking approaches, marvelous installations, and calligraphy about words with meanings and meanings without words. The Square Word Calligraphy transforms English words by replicating them in the form of Chinese calligraphy. By courtesy of the Xu Bing Studio, his work is attributed with the influence from his revolutionary training during childhood. Ever since the Mao Zedong Revolution, Xu Bing had been driven to scrutinize everything he was familiarized with, including language. It wasn’t until Mao’s death in 1976 which brought all community members to the conference to network. Lesbian, Gay, Bi-Sexual, Transgender, Queer/Questioning and Allies or LGBTQA, college students and community leaders will spend the day learning and sharing. There will also be workshops, panels and speakers. The entrance to the conference is complimentary to all higher education institutions Miami/Broward Area and its students. Registration is highly encouraged because space is limited.

The objective for the “Redefining Queer” conference aims at teaching participants so they can take back to their communities what they have learned and share it with their institutions. It also aims to create a supportive foundation for members of the community in South Florida. Pride Guide will take a deeper look into the LGBT community at FIU and produce a column that will consist of keen analysis within the daily lives of LGBT students and faculty. Make sure to read more and fiusm.com.

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The film’s biggest problem has to be its story, which can be blamed on the direction.

Neeson in usual brooding-but-butt-kicking form. Kinnaman does a real good job in convincing me of who he is and that his past is a bit of a troubled one.

Ed Harris as Jimmy’s old friend and eventual enemy is very good, too, although it’s not like this role is some sort of breakthrough for him or anything.

Still, like Neeson, he does a good job with the material he’s given. One of the actors that did surprise me was Common, mainly because he played the role so well. He may just be playing a hitman with no backstory or characterization, but it’s clear who he is and what he plans to do. He also manages to be memorable, thanks to what he wears and the weaponry he uses.

The film’s biggest problem has to be its story, which can be blamed on the direction. The story, for the most part, is fine, but this sort of material probably could have been handled better, because the film moves at a brisk pace, and the editing made me feel like it was all in a hurry, with scenes sometimes moving too quickly.

However, there are also scenes that take their time, feature good camera positions, editing and the like. I think Collet-Serra felt the action scenes needed to be frantic when they really didn’t have to be, but at least it none of it ever gets disorienting.

“Run All Night” is an alright film, one that’s enjoyable, but not worth writing home about.

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MOVIE: Run All Night
RATING: 3/5

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Rios leads Panthers with offensive punch

CAPTAIN’S CORNER

Entering the part of the season where Conference USA games will be played, it is crucial for the Panthers to get as many wins as possible.

By getting many wins they will receive a high seed when they enter the C-USA tournament and other schools will notice that FIU is a tough school to beat.

To become a team like this every game counts and to be a force in the conference it’s all hands on deck no matter what your role is on the team.

One specific player that stepped up in the team’s first C-USA home series against Charlotte was junior Edwin Rios.

For his historic offensive performance, he was named the Conference USA Hitter of the Week for the week ending March 22.

His numbers speak for themselves. Rios had a .389 batting average and hit four home runs and eight RBI for the Panthers in a four game span.

He made his biggest mark in the Charlotte series in the second game when Rios went a perfect 4-for-4, including a double and three home runs with six RBI.

He was the headline player for that game as FIU beat Charlotte by an astonishing score of 23-1.

His six RBI were a career-high and the three home runs in that game tied the FIU school record for most home runs in a single game.

He also became the first C-USA player to record three long balls in a game since Rice’s Anthony Rendon on June 5, 2010.

He followed up that amazing performance by going 2-for-4, including another home run and two RBI in Sunday’s series clinching win, 7-5.

Overall, he had an amazing series one that he will never forget as he led his team to a series victory with a .583 batting average in which he collected seven hits four of which were home runs to go with eight RBI.

He finished the weekend with 20 total bases and a slugging percentage of 1.667 and an on-base percentage of .643.

With having multiple players hitting the way Rios has been as of late, this can be one very dangerous FIU lineup that many opposing pitchers could fear.

By the way Rios was hitting last week, fans and opponents wouldn’t think he was in a slump prior to the Charlotte series.

Rios entered the series hitting a measly .214. After the series, he improved his batting average 54 points during the three-game set and is now hitting .268.

Rios is one of the players on this talented squad that is heavily relied on to be a leader on and off the field. Even though his batting average doesn’t say much he still makes a positive impact on the team.

This season, Rios has driven in team-high 21 runs and has recorded team best six home runs.

Those types of numbers are very impressive especially since conference play has just begun. Hopefully Rios can continue this in C-USA play and other players can follow his exciting play.

With having multiple players hitting the way Rios has been as of late, this can be one very dangerous FIU lineup that many opposing pitchers could fear.

This is the first time Rios receives this award and is the second time C-USA Hitter of the Week honor has been given to a FIU baseball player.

Last year’s standout catcher and best hitter hands down, Aramis Garcia, was the first one to get it on March 10, 2014.

Infielder Edwin Rios fields a ground ball during the game against the University of North Carolina at Charlotte 49ers during the series opener on Friday, March 20. Although the Panthers last Friday’s game, they got their revenge on Saturday by winning 23-1 where Rios broke the FIU single game home run record.

Parma Rios
Marlins linked to anything but baseball... shocking

BY ALEJANDRO AGUIRRE

Being in existence for only 22 years, the Miami Marlins are still a pretty young team for MLB standards. Given that this franchise hasn’t been around for such a long time, they are still known for making some jaw dropping decisions and have had some head scratching moments as well.

You can add another one to the list as now the Marlins could have a potential “gamble” on the team. Another moment in Marlins history that just makes you want to say What?

Right handed pitcher Jarred Cosart is accused of violating MLB’s gambling rules. The MLB and the Marlins’ front office became aware of this situation this past Tuesday, March 24.

According to MLB guidelines it states, “Players are allowed to legally gamble on sports other than baseball. But if it is proven that he was betting on baseball, there are stiff penalties. If he bet on a baseball game he wasn’t involved in, it’s an automatic one-year suspension. If he bet on a game he was involved in, he’s banned for life.”

Cosart still isn’t a household name to Marlins fans compared to other players on the roster. That’s due to him being acquired by the Marlins at the trade deadline last July.

Once in a Marlins uniform he instantly made an impact on the pitching rotation and helped push for a wild card berth. Now he is making an impact on the team off the field as he coincidently deleted his official Twitter account Tuesday night.

The reason for this was screenshots of a conversation from himself to a gambling expert were leaked by a third party using the same social media outlet.

MLB has taken full control over this and is still investigating this issue. MLB spokesman Pat Courtney confirmed Wednesday morning the commissioner’s office was investigating the matter.

The main issue that is still up in the air is whether or not Cosart gambled on baseball or he betted on another sport.

Any true baseball fan when hear the word “gambling” always thinks one of the greatest players ever, Pete Rose. You can say that he was probably one of the greatest hitters in all of baseball history but even with all the hits and awards he received his reputation will forever be tarnished for betting on baseball games.

At 24 years old, Cosart has a long and hopefully successful career ahead of him. But all it takes is one knucklehead move to change one’s path from great to mediocrity and hopefully this isn’t the case for Jarred Cosart.

Twenty-two years in the league and the Marlins are known for fire sales, corrupt front offices, having no fan base and now a player that gambles.

Even with having one of the younger teams in baseball there is nothing innocent here with this ball club. Can’t they do anything right on that team and not have any drama for once? Only in Miami.

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Wildcats continue historic season with win over Mountaineers

BY DAVID DRUCKER

Staff Writer david.drucker@fiusm.com

The University of Kentucky has been a machine this season.

After completing a perfect regular season, no team in the tournament has finished within 23 points of them at buzzer besides Cincinnati.

Kentucky set records in their win over West Virginia University on Thursday and will continue its historic run into the Elite Eight.

Not everyone was riding the Kentucky bandwagon going into Thursday.

West Virginia University freshman guard Daxter Miles Jr. downplayed their opponent before their Sweet 16 matchup, acknowledging Kentucky as a worthy opponent but also warning that they were going to become 36-1 when the two teams met.

He also stated that the Wildcats “don’t play as hard as we play.”

Kentucky, however, did not pay mind to any of the trash talk.

The Wildcats not only defeated the Mountaineers, but also doubled their record books at 37 wins on the season.

The team would join teams such as Kentucky’s 2012 squad in the record books for most wins in a single season with 38, which the Wildcats would tie them for with a win over the champion of the West in the Final Four.

No team in Division I NCAA men’s basketball history has ever gone 39-0 in a single season, but Kentucky can achieve the feat with a win in the championship game.

With every game, the stakes rise not just for Kentucky, but also for college basketball history.

Only time will tell if they will be able to cement their place in the record books.

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SGC-BBC Presidential Candidates push for more campus life

CAMILIA FERNANDEZ
BBC, Managing Editor
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More student-campus involvement, on-campus class options and Greek life are concerns being tackled by Biscayne Bay Campus Student Government Council presidential candidates.

Allhan Mejia, a junior business major and Christopher Morisset, a senior biology and hospitality and management major, face each other to be the next SGC-BBC President for the 2015-2016 year term. Mejia, who has been involved in the SGC-BBC since fall 2013, said his main concern is making the council more accessible and transparent to students.

He said students are not informed enough about what is being made available for them.

“Sometimes students don’t realize what we need to do and they kind of just see us like [the] office in the third floor of the Student Center.”

In the same way, Mejia said the council needs to be more up to date on student needs. As President, he plans to establish a group called Street Team, much like the one at the University of South Florida’s Student Government, to help promote student government involvement, projects and initiatives.

“My reason behind being President is so that I can make this as student-friendly as I possibly can, and I know I’ll have a limited amount of time to do it. Although you only have a year term, you can plant the seeds for future things,” Mejia said.

On the other hand, Morisset said he is focused on building a stronger relationship between the Biscayne Bay Campus and the Modesto A. Maidique Campus. He said this would increase campus life involvement at the North Campus.

“If I do get elected, I will still continue [to bring] awareness — actually bringing FIU to the North Miami community a little bit more,” Morisset said. “I think building that would be a great stepping stone for FIU.”

Morisset has been involved in the SGC-BBC since fall of 2011. He said he has learned a lot from different individuals and would like to take on the legacy as President.

In addition to creating the Street Team group, Mejia said he would also like to help bring more classes at the BBC for students in business and administration and the College of Arts and Sciences.

“Throughout the years, we’ve been fighting to get more classes here because some students want to come to this campus but don’t have the opportunity because classes aren’t offered here,” Mejia said.

He said that the possibility of having more classes at the BBC would probably not be resolved in a year.

However, he believes that once student housing in fall 2016, that would open opportunities. Samantha Pierre-Louis, a freshman health service administration major, agrees that not enough classes are being offered at the North Campus.

“BBC has a lot of land. Instead of expanding MMC, which is already huge, look into expanding BBC as a campus so that more people could come,” Pierre-Louis said.

Finally, both Mejia and Morisset said they are interested in Greek life presence at the BBC as a way to improve campus life.

“I feel like if Greek life is here, that would allow or increase student involvement overall,” Mejia. “[I] feel like some students want to do it, but they don’t want to travel to go South [Campus].”

“I don’t think MMC should be the only one to have [Greek life],” said Morisset. “We’re two campuses, but we’re one FIU.”

The final SGA Candidates Debate will take place Monday, March 30 from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. at Panther Square. Voting will take place Tuesday, March 31 from 9 a.m. to 7 p.m. at the Registrar’s Office.

MEET THE CANDIDATES

Students meet President candidates Allhan Mejia and Christopher Morisset at the SGA Meet the Candidates event on Thursday, March 19.

Michael Slackman, international journalist and correspondent to lecture at Biscayne Campus

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The University’s Student Government Association announced that Michael Slackman, International Managing Editor of The New York Times, will be a guest speaker at the Biscayne Bay Campus.

The event is dedicated to Slackman’s experience as a national and international journalist and correspondent.

According to Rafael Zapata, Associate Director of Campus Life and SGA Advisor, the lecture will cover Slackman’s experience at The New York Times.

“I believe one of the purposes of the lecture will be to educate students about the importance of cultural understanding in journalism today,” he said.

Prior to his current position as international managing editor, Slackman served as deputy foreign editor of global coverage with a focus on the Middle East, Europe and Russia. He also worked as Berlin Bureau Chief for The New York Times, covering Germany and Eastern Europe, as well as Cairo Bureau Chief reporting in the Middle East.

Slackman also served as a government and politics reporter in New York covering local, state and national politics -- including the presidential race in 2004. He was part of the team of reporters to win the Pulitzer Prize in 1997 for breaking news.

Larissa Adames, SGA coordinator, thinks that Slackman’s appearance at the University will bring great things for students.

This lecture is an opportunity for FIU students to ask questions to Mr. Slackman about his job outside of the United States and how to be prepared for the working force,” she said. The summit will focus on the importance of covering international news and will be followed by a question-and-answer session with students and the general public. Slackman will also make an appearance on Wednesday, April 1 at the Modesto A. Maidique Campus.

SGA is currently involved in a partnership with The New York Times.

According to Adames, the partnership contributes to the realization of events and lectures related to topics of interest for students.

“Thanks to the partnership between Florida International University and The New York Times, there is a variety of events and recognized guest speakers that provide knowledge and advice to our students,” she said.

Juan Gómez, graduate student of the School of Journalism and Mass Communications, is glad that an event like this is coming to the University.

“This is an interesting lecture, specially for students who are pursuing a career in journalism,” said Gómez.

“While this type of events and the participation of guest speakers, like Michael Slackman, help us to understand the world of journalism, as well as to identify the requirements of becoming a good journalist in this competitive area. Mr. Slackman will provide us tips of how to cover relevant international news,” he said.

This event will take place at the University’s Biscayne Bay Campus Wolfe University Center Ballrooms on March 31. The talk will begin at 3 p.m. It is free and open to the public.

“This lecture is important for FIU students because it gives them the opportunity to hear first hand about international news reporting,” said Zapata.

“Mr. Slackman’s experience and expertise should provide some insights into this particular journalism world.”