FIU professors research treatment for prostate cancer

SUDYEN NAVARRETE
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Prostate cancer has one of the highest death rates in the United States. According to the American Cancer Society one in seven men are diagnosed with prostate cancer.

University researchers are on a mission to find a way to battle the deadly disease.

“Mortality rates for the castrated mortality system are very high,” said Yuki-Ching Tse Dinh, director at the Biomedical Science Institute at the University and professor in the Department of Chemistry and Biochemistry. She added that there was a real need for this kind of treatment that can be offered to patients in need of it.

Tse Dinh, biochemist Yuan Liu and cell biologist Irina Agoulnik, from the Herbert Wertheim College of Medicine, are working a scientific method to corrupt and terminate the cancer cells that cause prostate cancer.

“The research is a new approach to finding a noble therapy to treat prostate cancer,” Dinh said.

The research is focused on castrated resistance prostate cancer meaning men who are castrated will benefit from the treatment.

According to Dinh, the team is working on developing an essay system which will allow them to determine which chemicals are the ones that can stop the cancer cells.

“We can identify chemical entities that will be effective in preventing the cancer from repairing the action of the anti-cancer drugs,” Dinh said.

In other terms, a human’s DNA is the best place to experiment.

The teams of scientists have come up with strategies that are yet to be tested, but they seem optimistic.

One of the ‘most’ important strategies is to intentionally introduce the DNA damage in a massive amount,” Liu said. “That way, we kill (the cancer cells) by damaging their DNA so severely that they cannot survive.”

However, the cancer cells can build a stronger resistance to prevent their destruction.

“They won’t stand still, they will fight back,” Liu said.

Besides being a researcher, Liu is also a professor teaching biochemistry at FIU. She’s an expert in DNA damage repair.

“I’m responsible for creating and developing a method to measure the ability of a cancer cell and how to repair the DNA damage,” she said.

Some of the procedures after developing a method for prostate cancer are to test out the method into cells.

“Once we develop a method, we’re going to test it with a prostate cancer cell,” Liu said.

Tse Dinh’s group will be in charge of screening the new drugs and Agoulnik will photo test the new drugs.”

Alexander Agoulnik is a professor in the Department of Human and Molecular Genetics.

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Yuan Liu
Biochemist
Herbert Wertheim College of Medicine

A Forum for Free Student Expression at Florida International University

JAZZ HANDS

Jim Hacker, director of the studio jazz big band, conducts the band on Wednesday, April 8 at the Jazz at the Wolfsonian Series: Swingin’ with the FIU Studio Jazz Big Band and the FIU Jazz Vocal Ensemble performance.

University awaits appointment of new director of the Wolfsonian

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Members of the University community await the appointment of the next director of the Wolfsonian-Florida International University, a museum located in Miami Beach.

The previous director, Cathy Leff, stepped down in January of last year, following a 17-year term with the museum, according to previous reporting from Student Media.

The search for the next director is led by the Office of the Provost, with the ultimate decision of who becomes the next director falling into the hands of University Provost Kenneth G. Furton.

Among the members of the Search and Evaluation were William R. Valerio, Min Barzaga, a junior majoring in health care administration, said that she feels the same way as Barzaga.

“I feel excited about this,” she said. “It won’t be easy to find a cure or treatment but it will be a great discovery if they get to find the treatment.”

The research received a $50,000 grant from The Community Foundation of Broward.

“It has supported us,” Liu said. “That way, we can put effort from different groups of research societies that have students that would like to participate.”

The research is still at an early stage and can take up to two years to complete.

Until clinical trials bring accurate results, the research will come to a stop or continue for another approach.

On Tuesday, March 31, the top three candidates for the position visited the University to explain their qualifications for the position and share their vision.

The three candidates that were up for evaluation were William R. Valerio, Min Jung Kim and Timothy Rodgers.

According to its website, the Wolfsonian-Florida International University is a multifaceted facility. A museum, library and research institution, the Wolfsonian houses art and other artifacts from the height of the Industrial Revolution to the conclusion of the Second World War.

It contains around 150,000 objects, and among these a variety of paintings, prints, furniture, ceramics, rare books and periodicals.

At present, it has an annual operating budget of $6.1 million, according to its website.

Among the responsibilities of the director are to provide intellectual and artistic leadership to ensure the success of the Wolfsonian’s mission.

The director must also handle the fundraising initiatives of the museum.
NATION & WORLD BRIEFS

Pakistani leader’s Saudi ties make it hard to say ‘no’

Pakistan’s soft-spoken prime minister, Nawaz Sharif, is in a difficult bind as his Parliament debates how to respond to Saudi Arabia’s request that it send troops, warplanes and naval vessels to join the Arab coalition fighting Houthi rebels in Yemen: He’s really not in a position to say no.

That’s because he owes his career path, business interests and possibly his life to Saudi Arabia’s royal family, say analysts who’ve followed Sharif’s 34-year political career.

“Sharif would be wise to heed the advice of Don Vito Corleone, who said in ‘The Godfather,’ ‘A refusal is not the act of a friend,’” said Arif Rafiq, president of Vitez Consulting, an adviser on political and strategic risk in the Middle East and South Asia.

Photos show China’s ‘Great Wall of Sand’ in South China Sea

The pace at which China is building islands in the South China Sea has been shown by satellite photos lending weight to claims by U.S. Pacific Fleet Commander Harry Harris that China is building a “great wall of sand.”

The photos, published by an initiative of the Washington-based Center for Strategic and International Studies, focus on China’s reclamation efforts in the Spratly Islands on Mischief Reef, a feature also claimed by Vietnam, the Philippines and Taiwan.

Artificial islands could help China anchor its territorial claims in waters that host some of the world’s busiest shipping lanes. Disputes over the South China Sea, of which China claims about four-fifths under a so-called nine-dash line drawn on a 1940s map, have escalated as China expands the reach of its military.

Two journalists in Turkey face jail time over Charlie Hebdo cartoon

Two Turkish journalists could face up to 4 years in prison for publishing a cartoon from the French satirical magazine Charlie Hebdo featuring the Islamic prophet Mohammed, the reporters said Thursday.

Ceyda Karan and Hikmet Cetinkaya were both accused of spreading false news and insulting religious values.

Awaiting the reveal of new Wolfsonian director

WOLFSONIAN, PAGE 1

taking into account the overall management of its operations, which include the museum’s exhibitions, human resources and connection to the University.

William R. Valerio, is the Patricia Van Burgh Allison director and chief executive officer of the Woodmere Art Museum in Philadelphia, PA.

Valerio holds a master’s degree in art history from the University of Pennsylvania, and a doctorate in art history from Yale University in 1996. He served as the curator at Queens Museum of Art in New York.

Kim serves as the deputy director of external relations at the Eli and Edythe Broad Art Museum in Michigan State University, who was part of the negotiation team with Deutsch Bank in the Guggenheim Museum.

Timothy Rodgers, on the other hand, has served as director of Scottsdale Museum of Contemporary Art for the past six years. And prior to that, he was the chief curator for the New Mexico Museum of Art in Santa Fe.

According to the description of responsibilities for the director position, the candidates must have a minimum of three to five years of experience with museum operations, leadership and governance, or at least leadership experience in a field with similar needs as a public arts organization.

The potential candidate must also hold a bachelor’s degree, and a strong commitment to art, design, and the specific mission of the Wolfsonian.

Among the concerns of the faculty members present at the candidates’ interviews was the candidates’ abilities to incorporate the active collaboration of University faculty members with the research opportunities of the Wolfsonian.

Kim admitted that, unlike the Wolfsonian, which takes a strong approach to research in addition to serving as a museum, the Eli and Edythe Broad Art Museum serves as a museum for the most part, not placing a strong emphasis on research.

Rebecca Friedman, a professor in the Department of History, admitted that several faculty members in the University would love to have a new director to strengthen the connection between the Wolfsonian and the University.

She added that the University needs a new director who will fight for resources, as well as faculty interaction, considering that the Wolfsonian is a great resource for the University.

Kim cited various experiences working with faculty members at Michigan State University in order to help put together various exhibitions and projects at the Broad, saying that the skills gained from these meetings are something she will apply with University faculty if given the opportunity to become the next director.

When prompted to speak on her fundraising experience, Kim cited her time at the Guggenheim working with Deutsche Bank and also with the Guggenheim Abu Dhabi, a project that generated millions of dollars for the Guggenheim Museum.

According to her, she also has experience working with corporations and bringing in exhibition sponsorships. Rodgers brought in different qualifications.

He commenced his discussion by saying that he is not the type person to impose a vision on a talented and ambitious group of people because it’s not going to lead to success, adding that he wants to work effectively with different types of people in order to come together and develop a shared vision so they can move forward.

Calling attention to the importance of a strategic plan, which the Wolfsonian revised in 2013, Rodgers said that when there is no director in place it’s hard to move a strategic plan forward and very hard to get resources necessary.

He mentioned that one of the most important parts of the Wolfsonian’s strategic plan deals with its real estate holdings.
Why FIU should be angry about sexual assault

MEGHAN MACLAREN
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If someone asked you to look back over the past year and pick out something you were proud of achieving, what would you say? Making a 3.5 GPA? Completing a marathon? Re-establishing some family relationships? Even just starting something new? One thing that I don’t think should make the list is having good eyebrows, smooth skin or manicured nails. They’re great things to have don’t get me wrong, but is that really that thing that defines who you are?

Miami is a city where image is possibly more important than anywhere else. Spring break ready? Summer ready? In a place where females probably spend more time in a bikini on South Beach or in a tight skirt at one of its adjacent clubs, the pressure to have a perfect body is almost insurmountable.

If you’re not comparing yourself to your friends, you’re being forced to compare yourself to the impossibly flawless line of models being paraded through the television, music videos and magazines to name just a few.

“For anybody whose once-normal, everyday life was suddenly shattered by an act of sexual violence, the trauma, the terror can shadow you long after one horrible attack. Yet, in the line of fire, where you don’t know where to go or who to turn to, it’s there when you’re forced to sit in the same class or stay in the same dorm with the person who raped you; when people are more suspicious of what you were wearing or what you were drinking, as if it’s your fault, not the fault of the person who assaulted you.”

Political Science and Women and Gender Studies student Laura Hernandez, shared her opinion.

“It’s On Us is a great initiative and I’m glad that the school took it on. However, I think the administration needs to take it seriously. It’s as if the campaign is aiming for an all end all for sexual assault on campus but it’s not. There is much underreporting because of how people joke about rape on campus. It makes women lose confidence in the administration and police. The language they use is normalizing violence and how we should avoid being raped rather than actually teaching men not to rape.”

It’s about the way we discuss sexual violence in everyday language like hearing “I said no several times, and he continued.”

“At the launch of the It’s On Us campaign, President Barack Obama spoke of The Beacon Editorial Board. These views are separate from editorials.

The beauty industry teaches us that once you’ve got the interest of the people at the table, you don’t have any more work to do. But make those people at the table think that you’re not just your face. I’m betting you have a lot more to offer than that.

The more people achieve things, the more they should think about the actual significance, the more society will be forced to recognize those people. We need more role models who get to where they are because of determination, hard work, kindness and humility rather than role models who get to where they are because of some implants and plastic surgery.

I’ll leave you with one more thing to think about. If the whole world was blind, how many people would you impress?”

Image and self-worth: not the same thing

FRANK AND IRENE: Explain it, Science

The opinions presented within this page do not represent the views of The Beacon Editorial Board. These views are separate from editorials and reflect individual perspectives of contributing writers and members of the University community.
The future of solar power is the present

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On Monday night April 6 at 8:15 p.m. on MMCC campus in the Ryder Business Building student organization G.L.A.D.E.S. together an event in order to bring awareness to the benefits of solar power and propose including solar panels into future FIU constructions. The event brought focus on the technical aspects of solar power along with the challenges to solar energy in South Florida.

City of South Miami’s Mayor and FIU professor of biology, Dr. Philip Stoddard prepared an informative lecture regarding solar power and its significance. There was also a special guest speaker, Darren Goldin founder of Goldin Solar, LLC.

Solar power is the process of sunlight converting into electricity directly using photovoltaics and indirectly using concentrated solar power systems.

The event began promptly. Stoddard was first to speak and he jokingly said he had garden to grade and bribes to prepare so he was not waiting.

“I put my money where my mouth is last summer, I put solar ram on my house,” said Stoddard. Stoddard explained how he and his family installed a 7,800 watts solar ram with grid tie system and each panel has its own tracking system. As a result he family cut their electricity bill in half. Solar power is cost efficient and one can receive several percent return on investment. If one considers putting solar panels on the roof of the house it can be a benefit against taxation. With solar power one does not pay taxes.

“If the power company decides to raise cost of electricity, you protected you already paid for your power for next 30 years,” said Stoddard.

Solar is the only good ecological thing to do but in suburbs. Suburbs are good for farming on roof top. Cities can’t make enough solar power to run themselves but the suburbs can make enough energy to run not only themselves but also cities.

“Today its becoming more mainstream. Solar power is the best technology for environment protection, expansion of renewable energies and sanction of future energy supply.”

Goldin used a software to create a hypoethical image of the solar power here at the University.

“Solar power would be a student driven process.”

Finally Goldin offered his card and told students, “It would be an honor to come work on FIU campus and bring solar power, I just don’t know who to speak to regarding it.”

The event was an insightful lecture for students and local community residents. Students had comment to follow.

“I came for the free food, however I did learn a lot this evening it concerns me that most people are not involved and working to be more solar like,” said Amanda Gonzalez, sophomore undecided major.

“I am not a science person but this makes me want to learn more and protect my environment.”

“Goldin is helpful to bring a closer work relationship with FIU and bring more great days to the campus.”

Kendrick Lamar reaches into the African American experience with third album To Pimp A Butterfly

Jeff Pierre
COLUMNIST

To ears accustomed to witty and, at times empty, wordplay over the sounds of a hand-drumming beat, Kendrick Lamar’s third studio album, “To Pimp A Butterfly,” might appear incomplete. The album is far from a trendy, reserved or an easy listen.

Lamar, branding both his African and Compton roots, delivers an album on his terms. He departs from his contemporaries and reaches back to old-school boom-bap beats and jazz-infused instrumentation.

The album, at times, is nostalgic, ultimately ending in a conversation between Lamar and his mentor, Dr. Martin Luther King Jr., and Amara Shaker. The two men indulge in a conversation about race, politics, and the longevity of black people.

“Sh*t, I think that n***a’s tired a grabbin’ sh*t out the stores and next time it’s a riot there’s gonna be bloodshod for real,” Tupac says to Lamar in the album’s closing track, “Mortal Man.” “I think Americans think we was just playing and it’s gonna be some more playing, but it ain’t gonna be no playing. It’s gonna be murder, you know what I’m saying, it’s gonna be like Nat Turner, 1831, up in that mother’s."

The conversation, although fictitious, aggressively scrutinizes the plight of the black archetypal, a theme Lamar explores throughout. The album with black America on one side, Lamar refers to an “enemy” and ultimately controls the rapture’s fate.

At times, the enemy appears to be the exploitation of blacks through American capitalism (personified by Uncle Sam); at other times, Lamar refers to Lucy, a female representation of the devil and the world’s evils.

Lamar greatest moment of reflection and comes to terms with his personal depression and turmoil, Kendrick finds his place in Heaven. His selfishness, to which he attributes his success, eventually comes out most in his interactions with the homelander.

At that point, the man reveals himself to be God — his selfishness and unwillingness to give the homeless man a dollar has cost him his place in Heaven.

Kendrick then reproves in the outro, asking God for forgiveness. It’s only now he’s free of Lucy and Uncle Sam — he had to be humbled to be healed.

Pointing out that the figurative value of a dollar is far higher than the literal value of a dollar.

Track Twelve: This song deals with racialized self-hate. Taken together the two songs contradict each other, though this kind of double-consciousness has always been part of African American experience.

Jeffrey Pierre is the host of garage rock show, Distorted Dreams, Tuesdays 8-9 p.m on WRGP: FIU Student Radio.

Kendrick Lamar’s third album, “To Pimp A Butterfly,” breaks bold new ground in rap music with the African American experience. Never before has the genre explored so deeply the topic of race in America.

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Track Twelve: This song deals with racialized self-hate. Taken together the two songs contradict each other, though this kind of double-consciousness has always been part of African American experience.
How society erases the bisexual identity

When a person identifies as bisexual a lot of people assume there is an element of choice, or of self-deception. The bisexual will be seen as someone who hasn’t “made up their mind yet” or is “confused” about their orientation—which this seems to stem from the human proclivity towards binaries, to be able to easily compartmentalize and define people. A lot of people view bisexuality as the antecedent to homosexuality, which undermines the “bisexuality is now, gay later fallacy.”

Bisexual erasure is the tendency towards dismissing, ignoring or falsifying bisexuality; an extreme example of erasure would be the denial of the existence of bisexuality. This biophobic sentiment is also present within the LGBTQ community, a community that advocates for acceptance and tolerance. And there are many gay and lesbian individuals who will refuse to date a bisexual.

On the dating website OkCupid there is an option to only view profiles of gay individuals, which allows a person to exclude the profiles of bisexuals. The media is also guilty of bisexual erasure. In 2014, the New York Times ran an article that questioned the legitimacy of bisexuality, asking whether it even exist. Slate’s Dear Prudence advice column advised a bisexual woman to refrain from coming out. The Gay and Lesbian Task Force has erased bisexual people from its own name, and published “Bye, Bye, Bi, Hello Queer,” which dismissed bisexuality. However, due to complaints it has recently changed the National LGBTQ Task Force.

According to scholar Kenji Yoshino there are three main motivations for bisexual erasure. The first is sexual orientation stabilization. Orientation is simplified and dichotomized. Second, bisexuality threatens the importance that is placed on gender—it shifts sexual attraction away from gender. Third, the maintenance of monogamy; bisexuals are perceived to be less monogamous and “greedy.” This argument presupposes that all bisexuals are disloyal mates and have incorrigible sexual appetites.

Erasure is also treated differently among men and women. A man that identifies as bisexual will often be treated as a gay man who isn’t fully out of the closet; while a bisexual woman will be told acts of intimacy with other women are “just a phase.” Language also reflects the trend of erasure. If a bisexual person is in a relationship with a person of the opposite sex they are said to be in heterosexual relationship, while a bisexual is in a relationship with a person of the same sex they are said to be in a homosexual relationship. And while these terms have certain level of accuracy, these definitions undermine a person’s sexuality, and ignore the complexity of sexual orientation. You can be in a homosexual relationship and not identify as homosexual. An op-ed in the Advocate discussed the discrimination bisexuals face.

“This discrimination is pervasive on the face of marriage statutes, which define marriage in terms of sex; moreover, sex discrimination is the most acute form of discrimination suffered by bisexuals because they are denied marriage rights only when they have fallen in love with someone whose state views as the wrong person.”

One solution to the problem of erasure is using the Kinsey scale to define sexual orientation. Whatever I am asked about my sexual preferences, I say one of the numbers on the spectrum, and it has differed at different periods in my life. The benefit of using the Kinsey scale is that it shows the gradations of sexuality while avoiding binaries. It forces people to view sexuality on a continuum, rather than discrete identities.

“Males do not represent two discrete populations, heterosexual and homosexual. The world is not to be divided into sheep and goats. It is a fundamental of taxonomy that nature rarely deals with discrete categories...The living world is a continuum in each and every one of its aspects,” wrote Alfred Kinsey. The scale recognizes and allows for change, a person who fell at a three out of six on the Kinsey scale can move to a four or to a two easily because there isn’t a change in label. They don’t have to start referring to themselves with a different epithet—there’s no stigma of going from bisexual to gay, or the other way around. The scale recognizes shifts in sexual preference throughout a person’s life. Since it avoids labels it does not limit or attempt to define an individual.

Not everyone will feel comfortable using the Kinsey scale, there will be situations that require definitions, and people who feel their sexual identity is fixed and not fluid, therefore there needs to be more inclusion and discussion of bisexuality, especially from LGBT organizations. Everyone has to start treating bisexuality with the same legitimacy as the other orientations in order to erase erasure. Pride Guide will take a deeper look into the LGBT community at FIU and produce a column that will consists of kwen analysis within the daily lives of LGBT students and faculty. Make sure to read more and fiusm.com.
C-USA scoring champ reflects on collegiate career

DAVID DRUCKER
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For senior guard Dennis Mavin, leading all Conference USA players in scoring wasn’t the goal - it just came with the territory of being a leader.

The Gainesville native entered the 2014-2015 men’s basketball season with high expectations to score often enough to replace players like Tynnell Murphy, but the pace he set ended up becoming a C-USA best mark of 17.2 points per game.

“[Being a leader] is something that me and Head Coach Anthony Evans talked about at the beginning of the season. My role was going to be bigger this year and I embraced that,” Mavin said.

Mavin’s team finished the season with a 17-15 record and a dramatic victory over the University of Texas at San Antonio Roadrunners, the Panthers were eliminated in the second round of the C-USA Tournament by the University of San Antonio Roadrunners, the Panthers

In addition to scoring, Mavin led FIU players in assists with an average of 3.1 per game.

The senior guard wasn’t the Panthers’ only impact player this season. Mavin attributes some of his success to the play of junior forward Adrian Diaz (13.0 points per game, 6.9 rebounds per game).

“What you have a high-level player like Diaz, it automatically draws a lot of attention to him. It made teams double Diaz, which opened up the floor for me” said Mavin.

What may be the biggest moment of Mavin’s career so far came in the final seconds against UTSA in the first round of the C-USA tournament. After the Roadrunners tied it up at 54-54, Mavin had less than three seconds to throw up a shot and avoid overtime.

“I know I only had time to get one or two more dribbles. I just wanted to have the ball in my hands because I knew I could get it to half court. It was a crazy shot - I can’t really put it into words,” Mavin said.

Coach Evans hardly seemed surprised that Mavin was awarded the Conference USA scoring title.

“Me and some of the guys mess around a lot going through different scenarios. We’ll throw up a lot of half court shots, messing around with a countdown like ‘5, 4, 3, 2, 1,’” said Mavin.

Now that his career at the University is complete, Mavin is ready for his next venture - professional basketball.

“I’m talking to different agents and should be signing with one in the next week or so. I’m getting ready to pursue my professional career,” Mavin said.

“It’s been an amazing year. I’m grateful for all of the achievements I accomplished in a short amount of time. I appreciate all of the coaches that worked with me and definitely [Head Coach] Evans, who trusted me enough to lead the team,” he said.

New leadership coming to the Lime Court

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FIU did something on Wednesday, March 8 that they had not done in 35 years - hired a women’s basketball head coach.

Former University of Maryland Assistant Coach, Marlin Chin will be the program’s sixth basketball head coach, which will be his first tenure as a head coach.

Despite this lack of head coaching experience, his résumé shows no signs of a lack of talent.

In his six year career with Maryland, Chinn helped lead the Terrapins to a 34-3 record last year and a compiled record of 132-70.

In this time, Maryland also notched a Big Ten Championship Title, a No. 1 seed in the NCAA tournament and a Final Four appearance.

There, Maryland fell to the toughest of opponents in the University of Connecticut, who eventually went on to win their third consecutive National Championship.

Prior to his stint with Maryland, Coach Chin was sought out by Mount St. Mary’s and Seton Hall, where he served as an assistant coach for both organizations.

There he spent a combined 11 seasons.

At Mount St. Mary’s, Chinn helped lead the Mountaineers to two Northeast Conference regular season championships and was instrumental in the recruitment of five NEC All-Rookie Team selections, including the 2005 NEC Rookie of the Year. Chinn continued this winning pattern and top-notch recruiting techniques in his next assistant coaching job at Seton Hall.

In four seasons with Seton Hall, he displayed his abilities as a top assistant coach, and further showcased his talents as a recruiter.

Chinn recruited a pair of Big East All-Rookie Team selections, and recruited and coached two Big East All-Conference performers.

Overall he helped achieve a nationally ranked top-30 recruiting class in his second year with the program.

Now he joins an FIU program which focuses on the rebuilding process after a tumultuous season.

Although the Panthers hardly encountered any wins this season, the school got a glimpse of the rising talent surrounding the team.

“It’s an exciting time to be here at FIU,” Chinn said.

Just to see the potential here and growth that is waiting to explode, I think South Florida and the surrounding areas are huge as far as rich in recruiting. It’s a hot bed for talent here in Florida, and we are going to attack it and be very aggressive with it. I’m looking forward to it. I’m very excited.”

There is no doubt that the Panther community will have something to look forward to in the upcoming seasons of women’s basketball from a talent perspective.

Not only will there be a wave of fresh new talent to come but there will also be a pool of young talent returning next season.

Headlining the talent is the Conference USA Freshman of the Year, Kandra’s Pound.

“This is so exciting,” said Pound. “He has come from such a successful program at Maryland. I think he is going to take this team to the next level. He’s been to the Final Four two years in a row, and he has worked with some top talent. He knows what it takes to get to the next level and he is going to take us there.”

Clearly, the general consensus is that the surrounding the FIU community and it should be with all the potential that Coach Chin can offer the team.
59 years ago, discrimination law and sports intersected

FRANK FITZPATRICK
The Philadelphia Inquirer

The national controversy that clouded the run-up to a Final Four that included Monday night in Indiana was the ferocious collision between basketball and civil-rights politics.

In the spring of 1956, as in Indiana 59 years later, a four-team basketball tournament involving a favored Kentucky team was engineered in the NCAA, though the division issue then was race and not sexual preference.

And as in Indiana, where a religiously fervent, financially strapped conference, the SEC, was attempting to unionize, and as time has shown, much of your enthusiasm for the movement has been genuine, but the fact that certain sports don’t generate television revenue is an issue that the NCAA is facing.

The other side of the argument states that the advantage athletes receive is too much, as the advantages are seen as unequal.

The debate on paying student athletes continues

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The National Collegiate Athletic Association (NCAA) seems to always be under national scrutiny for its various rules and regulations against their student-athletes in order to give all of the institutions and players getting in trouble for receiving improper benefits, the question has been raised of whether or not collegiate athletes should be paid.

Personally, I go back-and-forth on the issue, and can never come to a complete decision. Both parties bring up great arguments, and while players certainly deserve to be compensated for all of the hard work and revenue they generate, one could also argue that the free education is an acceptable return.

Those who argue in favor of paying the players have gained a lot of steam as of late, as a growing push for the compensation of student-athletes has begun in the last few years. These people cite numerous facts to back up their claims, many of which are hard to argue against.

Advocates of paying the athletes make the point that the NCAA makes almost $1 billion a year in revenue, yet none of that goes back to the players. Athletics departments at universities across the country make profits from players and their likeness, yet the student-athletes are unable to capitalize due to NCAA regulations.

While the NCAA is supposedly "non-profit", the organization benefits greatly on the back of player’s hard work. They work for hours on end and put their bodies on the line, yet the only ones profiting are the universities and NCAA.

The other side of the argument states that players shouldn’t be paid, mainly because the vast majority of student-athletes receive a full scholarship. This allows them to receive an education and live on campus without paying rising tuition prices. Most normal students do not receive this sort of financial aid, showing the advantage athletes receive.

A major gray area that plays a key role in why athletes haven’t gotten paid is the fact that certain sports don’t generate the same amount of revenue as other sports. Football is the most profitable sport at almost every Division-I school, so problems would arise when paying football players compared to those who play less profitable sports.

Regardless of your stance on the issue, it is a real problem, and needs to be addressed by the NCAA one way or the other. Teams like Northwestern are attempting to unionize, and as time goes on, the question will continue to arise.
A hub for gamers and social gatherings, the Wolfe University Center Game Room is scheduled for a makeover.

After a time of students and staff advocating for new gaming systems and a more casual outlook to the room, the Wolfe University Center and the Student Government Association agreed to revamp the area.

According to Jazmin Felix, student government president at the Biscayne Bay Campus, new additions to the game room located in WUC 222 include a pool table and a high definition television screen. There will also be new furniture such as bean bag chairs and new gaming systems like the Xbox One, the PlayStation 4 and the Nintendo Wii U.

Currently, there are two high definition televisions, a Xbox 360 Kinect and a Nintendo Wii. There is also a variety of video games and board games, four chess tables and a ping pong table.

According to Felix, the game room closes this summer for renovations and is expected to reopen during the University’s Fall Week of Welcome.

“There is a huge population of students that use the game room and they’re in there like day and night,” Felix said. “Here are students who use the game room is its fullest capacity. It’s a center for communion so we want to make it as comfortable and as inviting as possible,” she said.

Scott Jones, director of the WUC and SGA, said an estimate price for the renovation is between $50,000 to $80,000. Less than half will be used for furniture while the rest of the funds will go to the gaming systems and the table games.

There will be no changes to the carpet floor nor the lighting of the room.

“Two years ago, the game room was the front burner of the conversation. [Now,] I want to display an event with a keynote speaker of the event. I try to attend every event that Meredith puts on for the forum. I’m tired of seeing the same old carpet, same old chairs,” said Escarment.

Escarment said he enjoys the game room. He always looks forward to small tournament games like ping pong and chess competitions.

“I think it’ll be like something new when you walk into the room. I’m tired of seeing the same old carpet, same old chairs,” said Escarment.