The fight to save the Everglades from oil drilling

YOEVELYN RODRIGUEZ
Contributing Writer
new@fiusm.com

The fight to save the Everglades from oil drilling continues. Despite the legal and political hurdles, activists are still fighting to protect this vital ecosystem. The Everglades is home to many rare species, but oil drilling has put these species at risk. The fight to save the Everglades has been ongoing for decades, and activists are determined to keep fighting for its preservation.

The White House visits

CAMILA FERNANDEZ
News Director
camila.fernandez@fiusm.com

President Clinton will be visiting the White House and the news will be covered in local news outlets. The visit is expected to generate a lot of interest among the local community.

U.S. and Cuba renew their diplomatic relations

BARBARA VALENCIA
Contributing Writer
new@fiusm.com

The United States and Cuba announced on December 17, 2014, that they have reached an agreement to reestablish diplomatic relations. This is a historic step in the normalization of relations between the two countries. The United States and Cuba have not had diplomatic relations for more than 50 years.

The announcement was made during a meeting between President Obama and Raúl Castro, the President of Cuba. The meeting was held at the United Nations headquarters in New York. The meeting was a historic moment in the relationship between the United States and Cuba. The two countries have a long history of conflicts, but the meeting shows a new willingness to work together.

The agreement includes the opening of embassies in Havana and Washington. The two countries will also work together to address issues such as human rights, drug trafficking, and the Cuban economy.

The agreement is a significant step in the normalization of relations between the United States and Cuba. It is a positive development that could have a positive impact on the region.

The fight to save the Everglades from oil drilling continues. Despite the legal and political hurdles, activists are still fighting to protect this vital ecosystem. The Everglades is home to many rare species, but oil drilling has put these species at risk. The fight to save the Everglades has been ongoing for decades, and activists are determined to keep fighting for its preservation.

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This guy has it all figured out

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Glue failure endangers fish in GC

JOVANY BETANCOURT
Contributing Writer
news@fiusm.com

Fish also suffer from post-traumatic stress and may end up in the toilet if they go through a harrowing enough event, like suddenly hitting the floor of the Graham Center pit. After an apparent glue failure, one of the panes became detached causing water, fish, and corals of the aquarium to splash out July 16, according to Carlos Carrasco, GC’s director of operations.

He said no students, faculty or staff members were hurt from the accident. Immediately after the fish hit the floor of GC, customers at Bustoerd heard the commotion and arrived at the scene with empty cups to save as many fish as they could as they splattered all over the floor, according to Carrasco in a followup interview. Students attempt to salvage fish after a pane detached from the Graham Center aquarium.

The tentative plan is to have a tank rebuilt by the start of the fall semester. But to recreate an aquarium setting that is as close to nature as possible—which includes the coral and bacteria—could take a couple weeks or more, Carrasco said.

He said years went into cultivating the fish tank which held live fish, a blue hermit crab, a snail, two types of coral, and button polyps. “It’s a terrible loss,” said Carrasco.

Several weeks after the fish were lost otherwise,” Jung said.

The embargo to the Cuban people is the voice of the people of Cuba because people in Cuba have no voice.” Nevertheless, the international community has great hopes for the renewed U.S. and Cuba relations.

Many rights groups believe that the regularization of diplomatic relations rather than continued isolationism will help the human rights enforced in Cuba to improve. welcoming the announcement made on Dec. 17, Secretary General of the Organization of American States, Jose Miguel Insulza said, “Cuba is undertaking a process of economic reforms that will, I hope, lead to political reforms.” In accordance, Cuba’s conditional freedom in the 2015 Summit of the Americas in Panama could lead to a new era of political relations.

Additionally, presidential candidate Hillary Clinton said in a speech she delivered at the University on July 31 about the renewed relations, “Engagement is not a silver bullet. But, again and again we see that it is more likely to hasten change, not hold it back. The future for Cuba is not foreordained, but there is good reason to believe that once it gets going, this dynamic will be especially powerful on an island just 90 miles from the wealthiest economy in the world. Just 90 miles away from one-and-a-half million Cuban Americans whose success provides a compelling advertisement for the benefits of democracy and an open society.”

In her speech, Clinton urged Congress to put an end to the economic embargo. She praised the work that Obama and Secretary of State John Kerry have accomplished by renewing diplomatic ties and altered Congress that, if the embargo is not dropped, the progress made could faltter.

However, Laura Vianello does not agree with this notion, as she speaks for Cuban exiles, members of Vigil Mambisa and herself. “We don’t want the embargo to be lifted because that would give more to the lifeline of the Castro’s,” she said. “That would make the Castro regime stronger.”

Read the complete story at fiusm.com

The Cuban Embargo controversy continues


cuba, page 1

of Congress, who still remain hesitant to repeal them anytime in the near future.

Dr. Ranu Jung, appointed interim dean of the College of Engineering, continues to find ways to improve the lives of thousands of people who use prosthetics or have damaged nervous systems.

Jung, professor and chairwoman of the University’s Department of Biomedical Engineering, has worked on treatments for spinal cord injuries and designs for modern neuro-prostheses, prosthetic systems that connect or interact with the host’s nervous system.

Jung and her team have tested a method for promoting recovery after a partial spinal cord injury through electrical stimulation of the paralyzed muscle that exploits its plasticity and speeds up recovery time.

She said her team’s data suggests that employing this stimulation therapy allows for the neurons to remain active and may preserve signaling pathways between the spared spinal cord circuits and the motor neurons.

“We are sending back sensory information that would be lost otherwise,” Jung said.

Interim Dean Ranu Jung’s work focuses on spinal cord treatments as well as neuro-prostheses designs.

FIU Health and SHS integrated

PHILIPPE BUTEAU
Staff Writer
philippe.buteau@fiusm.com

FIU Health, which manages clinical practice, integrated with Student Health Services on July 1st.

Clinical services provided by SHS will be managed by FIU Health; however, students can still visit SHS to receive basic services, vaccinations, screenings or physical examinations - and for treatment of minor conditions, illnesses and injuries.

For conditions that require ongoing care of more than 30 days, healthcare navigators will refer students to providers in the community and FIU Health will be an option. Health navigators are located at both the Modesto A. Maidique Campus and the Biscayne Bay Campus as part of the integration.

According to Amy Metula, the former director of quality management for FIU Health, FIU Health and SHS working together is due to the new “healthcare landscape” the Affordable Care Act has created. The law, which was enacted in 2010, states that young adults can stay on their parents’ health insurance until they reach the age of 26.

An aspect of the integration plan is to divide money generated from the student health fee. A portion remains with FIU Student Affairs to pay for areas such as student health insurance, and another for FIU Health.

If successful, the new model could produce healthier students, while simultaneously reducing the uninsured rate among them.

Interim Dean gives hope to amputee patients

JOVANY BETANCOURT
Contributing Writer
news@fiusm.com

The arm that reaches for a pen, the legs that help a runner during a morning jog and even the digestive tract, are all controlled by the nervous system.

Dr. Ranu Jung, appointed interim dean of the College of Engineering, continues to find ways to improve the lives of thousands of people who use prosthetics or have damaged nervous systems.

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Brain over brawn, a case for art in the Olympics

JOHN SUTJIA
Staff Writer
john.sutjia@fiusm.com

The 2020 Summer Olympics scheduled to take place in Tokyo, Japan are years off, and we still have the Rio Summer Games between now and then. But Thursday, June 18, was the last day for new disciplines to apply for 2020. After two years, 26 disciplines are candidates, but only one can be approved – a decision to be made before the June 22.

The entries are: Gridiron (American) Football, Baseball and Softball – both formerly Olympic disciplines, Korfball and Netball – relatives of Basketball – Racquetball, an Olympic discipline from 1910 to 1920 – Rock Walling, Sumo Wrestling, polo – Roller Derby, Surfing, Water Skiing, Wake Boarding, Free Diving, Spear Fishing, Indoor Hockey, Airports – which could mean Ballonning, Hang Gliding or Parachuting – Ultimate Frisbee, Bowling and Lawn Bowling, Billiards, Tug of War – which was the pentathlon was comprised mostly of professionals.

That means that out of 10,000 submissions, only three ever being sheltered isn’t enough to be considered a success by publishing companies. In traditional publishing, there are production costs that need to be covered.

Editors need to be paid, materials need to be purchased and the potential for sales need to be high in order for a publisher to consider a manuscript. The book must also have enough selling power to repay the cost of its delivery which could range anywhere from $20,000 to $150,000.

Straight, blonde, attractive protagonists are considered traditionally because they have worked for publishers and pulled in the most revenue, so publishing houses are reluctant to push anything out that doesn’t reflect previous successes. However, the audience reading young adult books today are not the same audience from the past. This audience has newer ideas, more grounds to explore, more diverse realities.

We desperately need that book with a black teen dealing with gender and sexual identity, a chubby protagonist who loves their body and a young adult woman who simply isn’t perfect, because all of these people exist.

Diverse books are not meant exclusively for children to directly relate to the character, they are for the world. It is all of our responsibilities to understand each other. For the longest time, people have been using stories to teach children about the world, so why couldn’t we do this as well with these books that don’t fit?

There have been a few authors and novels stirring the pot of diversity. Rainbow Rowell – primarily a contemporary author – writes about real people falling in love and features characters that are realistic, whole and human. Her newest book, “Carry On,” will be released Tuesday, October 6. “Carry On” presents a magical world where the protagonist is a gay “chosen one” faced with an evil doppelganger.

“I’ll Give You the Sun” by Jenny Nelson is another great YA novel with diversity. It features LGBT themes and deeply flawed characters that move the hearts of its readers.

Representation in all media is important because all media has influence. When we don’t bear the voices of the people in fictional worlds, we are perpetuating the erasure of the real world.

It is time to make a change and broaden the candidates for who gets to be a protagonist, who gets to be a hero, who gets to be heard.

We all have a voice, so let us speak.

Minority voices should be heard in young adult fiction

NICOLE STONE
Contributing Writer
opinion@fiusm.com

The human experience: we all have one, an individual story we are all telling without words.

For something so governed by specific circumstances, it is obvious to think that no two people are the same. None of our stories has the same hero because we are the only one of ourselves.

Physical books are manifestations of these experiences - little parcels of life.

So why is it so rare to find black protagonists, to find a physically disabled protagonist or one without a romanticized self-esteem problem?

This is frustrating in all genres of literature, but especially so in the young adult section of the library, where the target audience is one grappling with identity and searching for confirmation of their own validity.

In a world becoming more and more diverse for youth, it is high time YA writers got serious about who they’re talking to. Teens and pre-teens are in a formative part of their lives, one when they begin to find out what or who they feel comfortable being.

Where is the Asian Harry Potter, Hispanic Katniss Everdeen or African-American Trix Prior? How about the gay Edward Cullen? Unfortunately, they are hiding behind an outdated marketing bias that straight, white characters sell, and that anyone else does not.

While there many authors are working to diversify their work, main characters that are considered outside the social norms are slow to enter the pool of what is widely available to readers.

Publishers already only publish 0.03 percent of manuscripts that they receive. This is frustrating in all genres of literature, but especially so in the young adult section of the library, where the target audience is one grappling with identity and searching for confirmation of their own validity.

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**New on Campus**

**Check out these cool SGA-funded projects**

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Week of Welcome kicks off semester

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

Melissa Camputa still remembers her first week as a freshman at the University. She was scared and nervous about the college environment and anxious about making friends.

On her first day of her college career, she was handed a flyer about the University’s annual Week of Welcome — a full-week of events and activities that go on throughout the week of the fall term.

“I remember not being able to sleep the night before school started,” said Camputa, now a junior nursing major. “I was scared of not being able to put myself out there, but the events at the week of welcome helped break the ice for me and helped me meet a lot of people.”

The Modesto A. Maidique Campus' WOW kicks off today and goes through to Friday, Aug. 28.

Today’s events consist of a CSEO Welcome Back Bash: ‘90s Block Party from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. in the GC Ballrooms. Then, at 6 p.m. in the GC Ballrooms, the University’s Student Programming Council is bringing Wayne Hoffman to campus, a famous mentalist and illusionist.

“I don’t normally care for circus events,” said Sandy Herreiza, sophomore art history major. “But this year’s events look pretty interesting — plus there’s going to be a ton of free stuff and who doesn’t like that?”

On Tuesday, SPC is hosting an event in the GC pit from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m., where they’ll have food, drinks and music for students. At the same time, there will be a FIU off-campus housing fair, also at GC, from 12 to 2 p.m. and a Multicultural Greek Council “Mid-Day Madness” GC pit event from 2 to 4 p.m.

Tuesday’s events will end with a sorority and fraternity welcome BBQ in the GC Lawns from 7 to 9 p.m.

“Being in sorority is great,” said Camputa. “You get to network and what better way to start than to fire up the BBQ?”

Wednesday’s events will commence at 4 p.m. with a Student Government and Residence Hall Association meet-and-greet at Everglades Lounge. Then, at 6 p.m. in the GC Ballrooms, SPC will be presenting a comedy show with the cast members of Wild’N Out.

On Thursday, these festivities continue with a transfer student meet-and-greet at 12 p.m. in GC 243 and, at 7:30 p.m. in the GC Ballrooms, a yard show — hosted by the National Pan-Hellenic Council.

Thursday’s events will conclude at 5 p.m. in the Housing Quad with the Trail of the Torch, a University tradition that includes a pep rally, music, food, free giveaways and dancing.

“The trail of the torch is usually my favorite event. I go every year,” said Jason Kennine, senior business major. “It symbolizes a whole new beginning for the University, especially important for the freshmen.”

On Friday, the WOW’s festivities will end with three different events.

The first is a Panther Camp Reunion, where students and staff members who attended the camp throughout the summer will be reunited. The reunion will be held in GC 243 from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.

Then, at 5 p.m. in GC 140, SPC will be screening Furious 7 and, following that, the University’s Black Student Union will be hosting an open mic night at 8 p.m. in the GC Ballrooms.

“I think that the week of welcome can help freshmen tremendously in that it can smooth their transition into college,” said Camputa. “But I’ve learned that it’s not just about the freshmen.

It’s a celebration of the start of a new year — of new possibilities and opportunities that FIU has to offer.”

WOW events are hosted by the Department of Campus Life and student leaders. They are free and open to the public.

Local bands revive South Florida’s metal scene

COLUMNIST

NAOMI RODRIGUEZ

From venues such as the Talent Farm closing down to well-known bands breaking up, Florida’s local alternative music scene has faced numerous struggles over the last few years. Yet, it seems that the scene is in the process of being resurrected by charming, enthusiastic individuals.

At Black Sheep House, located in Little Haiti, the bands Irra’s One and Eunoia are determined to bring back rock ‘n’ roll to South Florida’s stage. Irra’s One doesn’t have an album out yet, but already the four-man metal band has faced their fair share of struggles.

“Our main struggle as a local band was our income. When you first start off and you work full-time, you sacrifice a lot of things and it takes a toll on you,” said Rafael Dello-Strologo, an English major at Florida International University.

“Finding a venue is hard too. Talent Farm closed, Tobacco Road closed, they’re closing, The Fox Lounge in Coral Gables. We even had a scare with Churchill’s,” said Charles Waldron, the guitarist of Irra’s One. “All the great venues that were around when I was around — we finally found the click we were looking for and are now plugged into a band so that we can finally perform.”

Although all the members of Irra’s One proclaim themselves to be metalheads, their music doesn’t fit the stereotypical mold. Their songs are both personal and story-telling, composed of heavy riffs and emotional verses.

“I wrote one of our songs “S.C.A,” it’s about my son’s condition, sickle cell anemia. I wrote the song in the hospital with him. It was like an out of body experience. Everything in the room was just so significant, I started penning it down,” Waldron said.

Irra’s One is planning on going on tour soon, but are currently working on their image and having a full-length album coming out soon.

“We are working with other bands, Wicked Party from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m.

We’re working with other bands, Wicked Party, Irra’s One, Walzgon. We need to help each other.”

A feeling of unity began to seep into the conversation and Gregory explained the meaning of the band’s name. “Eunoia means clear-headed and beautiful thinking,” Moreno shared. “I’m good at music, but I’m awful at drums like crazy. Without any one of these things I wouldn’t sound the same,” explained Moreno.

“The last key we were missing was Zach.”

According to Moreno, “People rather go to a club and the artistic value of music in South Florida is being lost.” This is a disappointment to him because he mentioned that it’s difficult to compete with the club’s music popularity as an original band. The band rehearses in a warehouse and the members have to deal with more than putting together songs. “We have maintenance costs, travel costs. We aren’t rich, it’s tough. We’re all from the bottom,” said Gregory. However, Gregory shared that there are many that want to join forces with the band.

“We have video DJs, photographers, interviewers who want to work with us, we’re just trying to get by. We’re taking back South Florida and bringing the scene back. We’re working with other bands, Wicked Playground, Irra’s One, Walzgon. We need to help each other.”

platform courtesy of irra one

platform courtesy of eunoia

platform courtesy of eunoia

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platform courtesy of eunoia

platform courtesy of irra one

platform courtesy of eunoia
Paul Rudd took the role of Scott Lang, our underdog who land on a super suit and can then shrink to the size of an ant. Much more than this, Ant-Man also has superhuman strength when at his small stature and can use his size to be virtually undetectable. On paper this sounds like an incredibly lame power but on the big screen, it is actually quite enthralling. The movie has one last hurrah at a number of endangered species like the Florida Panther, the Florida Bonneted Bat and the Florida Leafwing Butterfly. The swampland is also known for contributing to South Florida’s water supply and flood control. “People only think about the chemicals that are being put into a system, but there are a number of layers to consider,” said Rand. “Also, aside from drilling, there are aspects related to the management of the operation that could disrupt the environment.”

Rand and Gardinali provided toxicology support during the Deepwater Horizon oil spill, also known as the BP oil spill. “Remember, there are species in these systems that have never been in contact with people and suddenly you are bringing physical disruption, noise, etc. which disturb habitats,” said Rand. Aside from the BP oil spill, Rand has been responsible for evaluating environmental and mammalian data for toxicity and risk evaluation posed by chemical wastes in the Love Canal disaster, which became national news when the city of Niagara Falls bought land belonging to the Hooker Chemical Company to build new schools and homes. The site had been used to store chemical waste by the Hooker Company and was unsuitable for human habitation. Rand has witnessed the magnitude of damage caused to the environment by waste from oil, gas and chemical production. “You can tell me there is enough oil for the whole world to keep taking. It’s a good girl’s night (or boy’s night) on the job,” said Rand. “They only think about the chemicals and pollutants they are putting into a system, but there are a number of layers to consider.”

“Magic Mike XXL” is really yummy! (Boy’s night movie, and that all it aimed to be.)
Veteran golfers tee up for last season

**GOLF**

Former football standout becomes major money maker

**SOCCER**

Junior goalkeeper Sophia Trujillo returns to Miami after playing two years at San Diego State.

**HOUSHDOWN**

Junior goalkeeper Sophia Trujillo returns to Miami after playing two years at San Diego State.

**COLUMNIST**

REYNALDO LLEIREA

When the 2015 FIU women's golf team tees off in late September, it will mark the beginning of the farewell tour for three veteran golfers. M e g h a n MacLaren, Sophie Godley and Carla Jane, are all seniors on this season's golf squad and will not be eligible to compete after this season.

However, the aging roster will force head coach Joe Vogel to attract a whole new team of golfers to FIU before the rest of his current team graduates.

MacLaren is perhaps one of the most accomplished golfers in FIU history. She capped off an outstanding 2014 season with a 25th place finish at the 2014 NCAA Championship at the NCAA championships this past spring.

She was the first golfer to reach the NCAA Championships since Moira Dunn in 1994, a span of 20 years. As a result of her outstanding season, MacLaren was named to the NCAA St. George All-Region Team for her performance in the NCAA championships.

But MacLaren's 25th place finish at the NCAA championships was not the sole highlight of her 2014 campaign.

Over the course of the season, MacLaren went on to place first overall in four tournaments out of the 10 that FIU participated in last season.

Along with her four first place finishes, MacLaren racked up ten top ten finishes and 12 top 25 finishes with a scoring average of 72.43. Lastly, MacLaren shot even or under par 16 times out of 35 rounds total.

Carla Jane, another seasoned veteran is also in her last season at FIU. A native of Chile, Jane has been a solid contributor to the women's golf program since she started in 2012.

As the fifth starter for the majority of last season, Jane posted a respectable scoring average of 76.5 over her 28 rounds. In her 28 rounds, she only had three rounds of even par or under.

Her lowest round of the season occurred at the Johnine Lims Invitational, where she shot one under par in the second round of the tournament.

Sophie Godley, meanwhile, is aiming to rebound after a tough 2014 season. She only played in nine rounds last season and her scoring average stood at 82.6, ten more strokes than MacLaren.

In order to combat the aging roster, coach Vogel must step up his recruiting efforts in order to keep the program running.

Those statistics are outliers compared to what Godley has been able to accomplish at her time at FIU. During the 2012-2013 season, Godley was named to the Sun Belt Conference's Women's Golf All-Conference First Team and All-Tournament Team.

During the 2012-2013 season, Godley posted her best ever tournament score, finishing with a two under par 214 at the 2013 Sun Belt Conference Invitational. Her best finish of 2014 came a few weeks later at the Amelia Island Collegiate, where she placed third with an even par score for the weekend.

Perhaps the successor to MacLaren, Serrano broke out in her freshman season, securing the title of C-USA Freshman of the Year in 2013.

She followed her initial outing with a consistent season, scoring top 10 while tallying six total top 25s. In her 28 rounds, she posted a scoring average of 75.61, good enough for third on the team in scoring average.

However, a problem arises in the near future. FIU opens up the fall season with only one new player, Ana Maria Rengifo, a freshman from Colombia. Besides Rengifo, the rest of the golf roster is comprised of seniors, with the exception of Krausova, who is a sophomore.

In order to combat the aging roster, coach Vogel must step up his recruiting efforts in order to keep the program running. I would expect that Vogel will sign a player or two for the winter portion of the season. Until then, the FIU team will head into the 2015-2016 with only one freshman on their roster.

FIU begins play in late September at the Golfweek Conference Challenge in Wolcott, Colorado. The schedule also includes a trip to Las Vegas for the West Coast Invitational during the leap year weekend in February.

The two teams have not announced what course will play host to this matchup. The fall season will finish in early April with the SMU Invite in Dallas, Texas. The spring season begins two weeks later with the 2016 Conference USA Championships.

**REYNALDO.LLEIREA@**

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**Soccer**

A Miami native and experienced college goalkeeper, Sophia Trujillo is happy to be back home playing for the Panthers.

Trujillo enters this season as a junior after spending her first two years of NCAA eligibility playing across the country for San Diego State. But taking a play out of “The Wizard of Oz,” Trujillo discovered there’s no place like home and decided to come back to the heat and humidity of South Florida to don the Blue and Gold this season.

This is Trujillo’s first season with FIU yet she finds herself the most experienced goalkeeper on this team’s roster. This experience has not gone unnoticed and with that comes the hype of finally solidifying what is arguably the most important position on the pitch.

But rather than playing to live up to her hype, her plan is simple. “I’m going to give my 100 percent so I don’t let this team down,” Trujillo said.

That team first attitude has been prevalent throughout the offseason work this team has been putting in. However, being the new kid on the block, Trujillo is still working to earn the starting keeper position. To her, the experience she has means nothing when deciding the depth chart.

“A lot of people think San Diego is the same as Miami but it’s really not. It is a lot hotter and more humid in Miami than it is [in California],” Trujillo said.

“I know nothing is going to be given to me,” she added. “I’m going to work hard for it. To break this starting lineup won’t be impossible, but Sophia Trujillo plans on contributing to this team immediately. She capped off an impressive past spring.

She was the first keeper position. To her, the experience she has means nothing when deciding the depth chart.

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Dolphins scrimmage at FIU offers preview of season to come

PETER HOLLAND JR. Contributing Writer

Just days away until the Miami Dolphins first pre-season game against the Chicago Bears, there was a lot of positives than there were negatives during the scrimmage at FIU.

With opening day a month away, the dolphins showed progress on both phases of the ball. Now what did we learn?

Ryan Tannehill came a long way.

Tannehill looked very confident at the pocket. He was poised. Him and his receivers were on the same page and he took command of the offense. He finished the scrimmage 11-17, 102 yards, two touchdowns and two interceptions.

The two TDs came from tight end Jordan Cameron, who they signed this past offseason. It's clear to me that Cameron can be an extra receiver to make plays up the middle.

Tannehill can make deep throws if you give him the right weapons like Jordan Cameron, Greg Jennings and Jarvis “Juice” Landry. At the end, Tannehill got a little careless and threw two interceptions.

“I definitely feel offensively, we weren’t as crisp as I’d liked to be,” Tannehill said. “It was my fault that he’s the cream of the crop, so Sundays are going to be easier.”

Rookie left guard Jamil Douglas showed flashes and looked very comfortable working with the first team left guard. He created a big hole for LaMichael James to rush 20 yard run.

Ndamukong Suh is unblockable

Still believe $114 million was not worth it? It has only been a couple weeks and Ndamukong Suh is the most dominating force in the Dolphins’ defense. Every time he penetrates and disrupts offense, 16,000 people yell out the word “Suh.” He might just have to get used to that.

LaMichael James is in the running back rotation

LaMichael James set the tone at kickoff return when he had a 80 yard run. He carried the load that night and finished the game with 11 carries for 41 yards.

The offense now have options on who will be in the rotation. It will come down to James or rookie RB Jay Ajayi.

Young, Talented Rookie DBs

The Dolphins have been active trying to find who can start at cornerback opposite of Brett Grimes.

So far incumbent return starter Jamar Taylor and free agent signee Brice McCain took first team reps during the series and both showed what they can do.

However, it just got interesting when two late round rookie corners made a name for themselves that night.

Bobby McCain, fifth round pick out of Memphis showed his playmaking ability, making pass breakups after pass breakups. His big finished was when he caught an interception threw by Ryan Tannehill during goal line plays.

“It was a big step,” McCain said. “It was the real evaluation, game-challenging type thing.”

It just keeps going from here. He finished the game with three tackles, three pass breakups and one interception. Watch out for this rookie to sneak in the starting rotation in a nickel or dime package.

That solves our cornerback problem.

Overall the dolphins now have options and whoever makes the final 53 man roster, clearly is the best player on the field.

Even the kickers competing for the starting job looked great.

The first pre-season game is this Thursday, Aug. 27 against the Chicago Bears. We’ll find out the latest depth chart after the game.
PANTHERS RETURN TO PROWL

Campus Life invites students to participate in WOW

ALEXANDRA MOSQUERA NETZKARSCHE
BBC Managing Editor
alex.mosquera@fiusm.com

The first week of the fall semester will start off with the Week of Welcome and this includes a variety of events offering free food and giveaways. Campus Life planned an event for each day of the week. These events will serve as group building exercises and will give new students a sense of the FIU community they will now be a part of.

To kickoff this eventful week, on Monday, a barbecue will take place in Panther Square with all new and returning students. There will be burgers and vegetarian options upon request. There will be t-shirts and other giveaways during this event.

On Tuesday morning, the traditional Blue & Gold Breakfast will take place in Panther Square with a visit from the university’s president, Mark B. Rosenberg. “My favorite part of WOW is when I can interact with students in a more relaxed environment such as the Blue and Gold Breakfast,” said Sanjay Dhawan, senior academic advisor at the Chaplin School of Hospitality and Tourism Management. Rosenberg will also be a part of the 8th Restaurant and Business Fair that will take place in the WUC Ballrooms on Wednesday. This event will not only be open to the community but will give students the opportunity to get a taste of different dishes from a variety of restaurants that are available around campus.

According to Andres Bermeo, the account manager of Campus Life, this is “one of the most popular events at BBC.”

“For this year’s Restaurant and Business Fair we decided to focus more on quality than quantity, as opposed to other years,” he said. “Students had complained about businesses not being relevant, so we took that feedback into account and adjusted the list of this year’s restaurants and businesses to be within the interest of our student groups.”

He also confirmed that there will be live music and interactive performances by Polynesian/Hawaiian dancers, Polynesian-inspired lunches, as well as a photo booth and giveaways for guests.

“We saved the most expensive giveaway of the year for this event,” said Bermeo. “Marie Samba, a senior majoring in business education, believes that the best part of WOW are the performances, where students get to interact with the dancers and are brought up on stage.

“Events in which the entire FIU community is present and is able to participate are the ones that make WOW special,” said Samba.

For Friday’s event, the spirit council in Campus Life organized the Panther Power Hour in Panther Square to boost school spirit among students. This event will include FBIY trivia and giveaways for attendees. The council encourages students to wear FBIY gear to help promote panther pride.

As part of the spirit council, Marketing Coordinator Michael Aquino said, “What better way to end the week than with this event on Friday?”

The Wellness and Recreation Center has also organized the Try a Triathlon, an event to finalize the first week back in school with a free workout open to every student, which will take place at the BBC pool deck.

Timon Pressley, a senior psychology major thinks that the Restaurant and Business Fair is “the best part of WOW because it gives students the opportunity to familiarize themselves with the restaurants and places of business around BBC.”

“It can be intimidating to try out new restaurants without knowing anything about them,” he said. “This fair gives students the chance to know more about them and even get a taste of their food.”

Students are in for a first week of school full of different kinds of entertainment.

Have a great week Panthers!

WUC revamped for Week of Welcome

JULIE WALSH
Contributing Writer
jwalsh@fiusm.com

As part of this week’s Week of Welcome, the Wolfe University Center at the Biscayne Bay Campus will be revamping the game room.

The renovations were started in the summer and will be completed within the first week of the fall semester, according to Scott Jones, director of WUC.

“The game room revamp is a breath of fresh air,” said Kentley Jean Louis, vice president for the Student Government Association at BBC. “Over the years, the game room has gone through many changes, but this will be the biggest of them all.”

Jones said that SGA conducted a survey – which read that students were interested in the addition of bean bags.

“This is being achieved, essentially, to transform the room into a fun and dynamic spot,” he said.

The students, via survey, also requested a Billiards and ping pong table, which will be present in the room.

“With the installation of the billiards table comes variety,” said Louis. “The student body now has more options on what they can do.”

Though the renovations are currently taking place, Jones believes that they will be finished by Aug 24.

“There is a goal set for the revamp so that it does not have an impact on students,” said Jones. “Everything has been really successful, and no impact has been made on students who regularly spend their time there.”

The room will feature a new paint job, more-modern carpets and furniture, TV and an electrical gaming system.

“I’ve been to the game room a couple of times with my buddies and I can say it’s a great place to hang out,” said Yenifer Infante, sophomore psychology major. “Even if we don’t play any video games, the environment is just very chill and easy to have fun in.”

Jones believes that the students will love the renovations and both him and SGA have made plans to incorporate tournaments and different interactions for the students who frequent the room.

“We are excited to see how students will use the space,” he said. “Part of the renovation goes back to three years of design with student affairs and there was a lot of collaboration with the student government.”

Run, Panthers, run

If your legs feel tired just by reading the words “cross country running,” don’t worry, you’re not alone. But for the athletes that make up FIU’s Cross Country Team, it has got to be about running a little bit harder.

Between the men and women’s cross country team, there were only two first place team finishes last year, both of which came from the men’s side at the UCF Invitational and FL Runners Invitational.

But winning a couple of invitational meets means nothing when the men and women finish 11th and 12th in the Conference USA Championships respectively.

This year’s Cross Country schedule consists of five meets, concluding with the CUSA Championships on Sunday, Nov. 1 in Bowling Green, Kentucky. And though the schedules match for the men and women’s squads, the storylines couldn’t be any different.

For the men, it’s all about building on last year’s success. Last year’s two most dominant runners on the cross country crew were freshmen Ronny Greenup and Leonel Pozo

These young men proved to everyone that college freshmen really aren’t as bad as they’re made out to be.

Individually speaking, Greenup left three of the five races he competed in with a first place medal. If he can go into this season with his head on his shoulders and commanding this team the way he did last year, he alone will be able to improve this team’s final rankings.

The women, however, don’t share the same optimism in their locker room. The FIU Women’s Cross Country Team was led by senior Catherine Ventura, who had three of her team’s top 5k times last season.

But after a season where the best individual performance couldn’t even crack the top 10 of the meet, someone has to emerge as the true captain of this squad and lead this team into a successful season mostly by leading through example.

Keep an eye out for sophomore Isolada Montiel to emerge as the woman to lead this squad out of the mediocrity they found themselves at the end of last season.

Some say you can’t coach speed. That is exactly what Head Coach Ryan Heberling and his staff must do coming into this season. Hopefully that is exactly what he did throughout this offseason. He, his team, and the entire FIU track team found out with their season starting on Friday, Sept. 4 when the team travels to Boca Raton for the Florida Atlantic University Cross Country Invitational.

bbc@fiusm.com