It’s On Us campaign faces challenges

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With several buttgrabbing incidents and an alleged rape from an FIU football player, the University continues to push for an end to sexual assault.

“Last year, FIU embarked on the It’s On Us campaign that focuses on changing campus cultures around the issues of sexual assault and sexual violence,” said Cathy Aiken, dean of students at the division of student affairs.

“We want to encourage students to all share the responsibility for changing the culture and that happens as a result of people becoming educated,” Akens said.

In April, the alleged rape victim and a female friend met with a football player at an on-campus cafe and then followed him to a dorm, where she was raped, according to ?News. The victim was a 19-year-old freshman.

“This is a nightmare that I’m still living in and I’m still going through,” she told ?News. “I’m still in shock that it happened to me.”

About four rapes have occurred on campus since January, according to Alexander Casas, chief of the police department. FIUPD complies with Title IX, a federal law that prohibits discrimination on the basis of sex in any federally funded education program. The police also work independently from criminal investigation. A special victims unit, one investigator and one victim’s advocate that is a school counselor, works with the victim.

The last arrest made to a sexual assaulter was two and half years ago,” said Casas. He said a lack of physical evidence means a low number of arrests.

“It doesn’t mean it didn’t happen,” Casas said.

He also said that any evidence or fact is thoroughly evaluated. The information can be sent to an attorney’s office to then make a possible arrest.

The University’s sexual misconduct program has stepped up in late June, slapping the buttrocks of a female student. Similar reports in the past indicate a man riding on a bicycle as the assaulter, according to FIUPD.

“Right now, [the buttgrabber] is not a threat to the FIU campus,” said Casas. But it’s a significant concern that I’d want to communicate with the community. Now we have a pattern. It’s happening more often than just a random incident.”

The victim was walking towards the Green Library at 9:25 p.m., according to the case file. The male suspect rode off she sat down in the middle of the Green Library breezeway waiting for police to arrive.

The suspect returned five minutes later and started to blow kisses at her and then rode off to the Chemistry and Physics building.

The female student described him as a white male with dirty blonde hair, thin and with raccoon eyes “as if he had lack of sleep.”

SEE CAMPAIGN, PAGE 2
Foiled train attack adds to concerns over refugees

After three Americans thwarted a gun- and knife-wielding attacker on a French train Aug. 21, Belgian Prime Minister Charles Michel said that it might be time for security checks at his nation’s borders with its European neighbors.

“It might be time to adjust the Schengen agreement,” he told Belgian public television, referring to an accord between 26 European nations to allow passport-free travel. “The agreement is important, but we now find ourselves confronted with a new threat scenario in Europe.”

In a statement to McClatchy, which first reported on Monday the allegations released by Syrian rebels that the Nusra Front had been alerted by the Turkish government, the executive secretary of the National Center for Sexual Education in Turkey, Shukri Akens, said the government had been “misguided. She said that, while dealing with sexual assault on campus, but that the University’s Nature Center, beginning Aug. 3, is online only through the semester. Open registration is paid that statement

The Turkish government Tuesday denied accusations by Syrian rebels that it’s intelligence service had tipped off an al-Qaeda-linked group that then abducted the commander and 20 members of a U.S.-trained group of Syrian fighters about to confront the Islamic State.

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“Free classes mean more access for students and not just financial fitness,” said Sara Holtzman, the WRC coordinator. Holtzman said the center received a lot of feedback from students asking for classes to be free of charge.

Last spring, students paid a one-dollar fee for all the classes. Previously, classes were offered free in the mornings and two dollars in the evening when classes were fuller to balance out attendance.

“Paying an athletic fee in tuition with the addition of fitness class fees was an inconvenience for students,” said Holtzman. Due to the budget at the time, the fees were used to pay instructors but now classes are being offered.

Despite the free classes, the center’s no-show policy is more strictly enforced than in the past.

After students register and do not show up to a class more than three times, they will no longer be able to take classes for the semester. Open registration is online only through the center’s website one hour prior to class start.

Students can register at the desk, but there is a risk of a full class like the popular Zumba.

“I feel like they’re going to be packed now,” said student Roman, a Zumba instructor.

“They just come out and keep on putting up about other things all the time. They’re wonderful. If you’ve got to see it in people’s faces,” said Melenz. “So not having to worry about that is the best way,” she said.

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Cultural appropriation: What you need to know

RACHEL YOUNG
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Cultural appropriation is a term used to describe the taking over of creative or artistic forms, themes, or practices by one cultural group from another. The conflict and malice comes when the culture being appropriated is one that was oppressed or continues to be oppressed.

Cultural appropriation, instead of cultural appreciation, is more present in today’s society given how easy communication has become through social media usage, as well as how easy it is for common people to be misinformed via the internet.

Cultural appreciation occurs when the person makes an effort to learn about and respect a certain culture, as opposed to simply taking bits and pieces of the culture that appeal to them. Unfortunately, many people are appropriating cultures when they should be appreciating them.

On the bright side, many people are learning from others’ mistakes. When television celebrity Kylie Jenner posted a picture of herself with cornrows, Mexican themed days as part of schools that plan out spirit weeks are for common people to be misinformed via the internet. When the person makes an effort to learn about and respect a certain culture, it is for common people to be misinformed via the internet.

When thinking about cultural appropriation in action, I always think back to the trips I’ve taken to Guatemala. Meeting indigenous families and visiting communities where the culture is alive and well resonated with me. I visited two Mayan communities, immersed myself in the culture.

At the time, I wasn’t aware of the term “cultural appropriation,” but I was soon introduced to the concept. When I looked into it more, I felt a range of emotions because there was so much I didn’t know, and I couldn’t help but believe I must have offended someone in the past without even realizing the harm I was causing.

Cultural appropriation does not mean lack of cultural appreciation. As I mentioned before, there is a difference between cultural appropriation and cultural appreciation – that distinction is what I hope people can take away from this. Cultural appreciation is when someone of a given culture educates themselves about another culture and supports the appreciation of that given culture but not informing others about the culture instead of modeling themselves after it for personal gain.

Drawing the line between appropriation and appreciation is difficult because one can’t label someone as a member of a certain culture just by looking at them. For example, if someone who was not Jewish was gifted a torus, or hand of Fatima, is thought to be Jewish, the person would not be appreciated. However, if someone who was Jewish was gifted a torus, the person would be appreciated. Thus, differences are difficult to make for people who aren’t familiar with the concepts of cultural appropriation and appreciation, but society is slowly getting there.

It is important to be aware that cultural appropriation exists and when it is happening. It affects them negatively. It is important to be aware that cultural appropriation exists and when it is happening. It affects them negatively.

The non-profit organization, Planned Parenthood, is working toward becoming more toward Medicaid. The organization provides services to 2.7 million patients annually. Beyond providing medical services, Planned Parenthood offers educational resources that require asking questions, remaining open-minded and overall respecting all cultures.

Regardless of your stance on abortion, Planned Parenthood isn’t the thing you should scrutinize. Across the country, pro-life activists and lawmakers are rallying to cut government funding of the non-profit organization, Planned Parenthood. With over 700 health centers, the organization provides services to 2.7 million patients annually. Beyond providing medical services, Planned Parenthood offers educational resources that require asking questions, remaining open-minded and overall respecting all cultures.

According to the March Government Accountability Office report, 79 percent of the individuals who went to Planned Parenthood in 2014 had incomes at or below 150 percent of the federal poverty line. With Planned Parenthood providing 97 percent of its annual services to women who need contraceptive and treatment for sexually transmitted diseases and infections.

The government funds the organization through two programs: Medicaid and Title X. Medicaid is a health care program that helps lower-income U.S. citizens, while Title X is a family-planning program aimed toward the same demographic. Since 2011, six states have attempted to defund Planned Parenthood. Earlier this month, three states funded for the organization while others threatened to cut its funding from Medicaid (which is federally illegal).

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From Cathy Akens, dean of students

The Dean of Students Office, in the Division of Student Affairs, creates a culture of care for students, their families, faculty and staff by providing proactive education, consultation, resources and response to distressed students or students in crisis. The Dean of Students will provide a monthly column in the Beacon, to acquaint students with some of the important campus resources in place to support their success.

Panthers Care

Panthers Care. It’s not just an initiative out of the Dean of Students Office; it’s how we approach our work every day with our FIU Panthers. We are excited to welcome so many new students to the FIU community and we want to make sure all students know about our office and the support we offer for students and their families. At a university our size, it is important that you know many people here care about you and your experience.

College life is both exciting and challenging. You’re here because you are capable of succeeding and reaching your goals to earn a college degree. You envision a life that will be better because of the opportunities a college education will provide you. You are ready for this FIU experience and you should embrace all of the opportunities available to you. Sometimes, though, students will face obstacles along the path toward their academic goals, such as personal distress, anxiety, depression, family emergencies, health issues and more.

There are excellent support services on campus to assist students, with the purpose of getting them back on track toward their goals. The Dean of Students Office can assist students individually by identifying the appropriate campus resources to best help them.

The Division of Student Affairs has many departments in place to support students. We hope you’ve already learned about some of them, including Counseling and Psychological Services, the Victim Empowerment Program, the Disability Resource Center, Residential Life and more. Each of these offices are full of caring professionals who want to help students. You’re never alone on this journey.

It is also not uncommon for peers to be the first person to recognize when a student is in distress. If you see dramatic changes in a friend’s behavior, if you’re concerned about a fellow student, take it seriously and share your concern with someone who can intervene and assist. The Dean of Students can assist in this situation. Students can share their concerns anonymously on our website. Feel free to stop by our office or give us a call. We’re located in Graham Center 219. Our office number is (305) 348-2797 or you can visit our website at pantherscare.fiu.edu. We are available to meet with a student on any of the campuses.

Have a great semester and remember…Panthers Care.

LIFE!

Division of Student Affairs seeks to support students

Above left: Senior biology major and WRGP DJ, Cristina Barros talks to a student about her punk show, Leather Jacket.

Above right: Luis Estopinan, the drummer for SunGhosts, a local garage rock band, plays at the Frost Museum on Aug. 26 for the WRGP Welcome Back BBQ.

Center: WRGP DJs, Roxana Ramirez, a junior communications and French major and Ashley Llanes, a junior communications major, table the bake sale.

Below: A poster board decoration put together by WRGP DJ and junior English major Cindy Hernandez, whose radio specialty show focuses on space and science fiction themed music.

MUSIC MADNESS

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- Uterine Disorders, Menopausal, Hormone Testing and Therapy
- Urinary Incontinence
Calabrese ready to lead University to winning record

DAVID DRUCKER
Staff Writer
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For men’s soccer Head Coach Scott Calabrese, 2015 will be a key opportunity to prove his worth to the program. After joining the Panthers in 2014 following a successful six-year stretch as Head Coach at East Tennessee State, Calabrese coached his team to a 6-6-1 overall record and a 2-2-0 record in Conference USA. Now with a group of handpicked freshmen players as well as a core used to his style of coaching, Calabrese has no excuses in his second season as Head Coach.

After spending his first year adjusting to the conference, Calabrese believes he knows how to improve his odds of landing a bid in the postseason tournament. “I think one of the things that was really clear in our first season was that we surrounded a lot of points against Conference USA opponents in set pieces. Conference USA is a physical league with a lot of exceptional athletes, so the game can’t be so idealistic. We have to be able to match the physicality of teams that we play against, but we also have to impose the way we play on the game. If we get to play our way, then the physique and the set pieces won’t hurt us,” said Calabrese.

Before FIU, Calabrese was the first ever head coach of the ETSU men’s soccer team when the program was started in 2008. In six years at ETSU, Calabrese coached his team to two Atlantic Sun Tournament Championships and four back-to-back seasons of ten wins or more from 2010–2013. Now with a year of experience at FIU under his belt, Calabrese has more time to implement the style of soccer that won him championships at ETSU into the Panthers’ game plan. “I think that when you look at our way of playing, we try to possess the ball. We do that through good movement from our players and try to break teams down using our technique, awareness and our cohesion to try to create chances. We want to try to win the game and create chances, we’re not just here to sit back, soak up pressure and hope to get a goal. That’s hard to do; not all teams make that choice, but I think it’s what our players are capable of doing and we make that choice because I think that’s how we’re going to be successful,” said Calabrese.

Calabrese has also had a chance to handpick a group of freshmen and transfers in his second year. This ten-man group includes a mix of true freshmen as well as transfers from overseas colleges and even a transfer from Calabrese’s previous university, ETSU. “I think the [group of freshmen and transfers] all have a fantastic attitude. I wouldn’t say that they’re one above any other since it’s very early, but I think they complement our core very well. I’m happy about the spirit of the team right now,” said Calabrese.

This year, the Panthers have a steady core and a settled coach headed into the season - only the season will be able to tell how much that’s worth in C-USA.

FOOTBALL

Key injuries could affect Panthers’ first game

PETER HOLLAND JR.
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As we get closer and closer until opening night, it’s a real opportunity to prove his worth to the program. After joining the Panthers in 2014 following a successful six-year stretch as Head Coach at East Tennessee State, Calabrese coached his team to a 6-6-1 overall record and a 2-2-0 record in Conference USA. Now with a group of handpicked freshmen players as well as a core used to his style of coaching, Calabrese has no excuses in his second season as Head Coach.

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After spending his first year adjusting to the conference, Calabrese believes he knows how to improve his odds of landing a bid in the postseason tournament. “I think one of the things that was really clear in our first season was that we surrounded a lot of points against Conference USA opponents in set pieces. Conference USA is a physical league with a lot of exceptional athletes, so the game can’t be so idealistic. We have to be able to match the physicality of teams that we play against, but we also have to impose the way we play on the game. If we get to play our way, then the physique and the set pieces won’t hurt us,” said Calabrese.

Before FIU, Calabrese was the first ever head coach of the ETSU men’s soccer team when the program was started in 2008. In six years at ETSU, Calabrese coached his team to two Atlantic Sun Tournament Championships and four back-to-back seasons of ten wins or more from 2010–2013. Now with a year of experience at FIU under his belt, Calabrese has more time to implement the style of soccer that won him championships at ETSU into the Panthers’ game plan. “I think that when you look at our way of playing, we try to possess the ball. We do that through good movement from our players and try to break teams down using our technique, awareness and our cohesion to try to create chances. We want to try to win the game and create chances, we’re not just here to sit back, soak up pressure and hope to get a goal. That’s hard to do; not all teams make that choice, but I think it’s what our players are capable of doing and we make that choice because I think that’s how we’re going to be successful,” said Calabrese.

Calabrese has also had a chance to handpick a group of freshmen and transfers in his second year. This ten-man group includes a mix of true freshmen as well as transfers from overseas colleges and even a transfer from Calabrese’s previous university, ETSU. “I think the [group of freshmen and transfers] all have a fantastic attitude. I wouldn’t say that they’re one above any other since it’s very early, but I think they complement our core very well. I’m happy about the spirit of the team right now,” said Calabrese.

This year, the Panthers have a steady core and a settled coach headed into the season - only the season will be able to tell how much that’s worth in C-USA.
Hassan Whiteside raises 2K rating

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With the rapid growth of the NBA 2K video game franchise, it’s become somewhat of a tradition to see players decidedly anticipate their overall rating in the game every offseason. Players from every team take to Twitter to ask Ronnie “2K” Singh, the franchise’s digital marketing director, what their rating will be.

One player has been publicly obsessed with improving his 2K rating, and that player is in the Miami Heat’s own Hassan Whiteside. After appearing seemingly out of nowhere as a standout player last season, the big center has gone on record saying he wants to increase his in-game rating on multiple occasions.

This season, Whiteside’s wish is coming true.

The release of NBA 2K16 is just a month away, and players are beginning to receive their official ratings for the new game. With the new rating system that judges each player’s stats to those of all-time greats, only 50 players were awarded ratings above 80 on a 1-99 scale. Whiteside is one of those players, as he was awarded with an official rating of 81.

While Whiteside has accomplished his goal of “getting his 2K rating up,” he still has a lot to prove on the court. 2016 will be an extremely important season for Whiteside and the Heat, as they look to bounce back after missing the playoffs for the first time since the 2007-08 season.

After re-signing future hall of fame shooter Dwyane Wade and the 29-year old point guard Goran Dragić during the offseason, plus Chris Bosh returning from a blood clot in his lung that kept him out for over half last season, the Heat look to finally have a healthy roster in place that has potential to compete in the Eastern Conference. Whiteside, who is under contract until the end of this season, will be a key factor in the team’s success.

Prior to last season’s breakout performance in which he averaged 11.8 points and 10.0 rebounds, called a double-double, in just over 23 minutes per game, Whiteside had only played 19 games in the NBA. Many people, fans and journalists alike, have doubts that Whiteside can have a repeat performance of last season due to his limited experience. However, Heat fans have many reasons to be optimistic that their beloved center can continue playing at a very high level.

It doesn’t take a basketball expert to realize right away that Hassan Whiteside plays with a fire and intensity that few other players in the league possess. That intensity does get him into trouble from time to time, evidenced by his brawl with Alex Len last season and Twitter beef with Draymond Green this summer; however, it also gives him a strong will to win and a refusal to give up on a play.

Was Hassan Whiteside and his incredible season one of the most bizarre stories in the entire NBA last season? Absolutely. Will he ever let himself fade back into irrelevancy again? Absolutely not. This is a contract year for Whiteside and a crucial season for his team, so expect another season filled with dominant performances from the big man from North Carolina.

A season to forget for the Miami Marlins

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Though unclear how it happened, the Fish are drowning. These losses are stacking up like a recurring nightmare that the hometown Miami Marlins fans have to live through just about every night.

The stand are barren, the confidence is low, and right now this squad looks more like a quack, or a scrapbook than a professional baseball team. Players are being witched in wholesale fashion, the glorified general manager Dan Jennings wants them and they have only a unique home run, from a player who was optioned down to the minor league earlier in the season, to be proud of.

Anyone remember Henderson Alvarez? He’s been on the bench for what seems like the entire year sitting next to Jose Fernandez and Giancarlo Stanton looking out from the dugout to watch a team with so much promise just crumble. What seemed like simply an inconsistent team in May has now been revealed to actually be a bad team here in August.

The finger can be pointed at a plethora of reasons behind the team’s demise. One can be their offense. The Marlins have the eighth worst on-base percentage in the league and have scored the second fewest runs. Even the Phillies have scored more than the Marlins.

Maybe point another finger at their pitching? As a team, the Marlins have the third worst ERA in the bigs with 3.97. The Fish also rank 23 in the league in strikeouts, only being able to notch 911 K’s. Lastly they rank second to last in saves with a meager 25 saves against their 41 save opportunities. Those are 16 games the Marlins have watched their fans at the very end.

Finally, injuries have plagued this team from the very beginning of the season. Henderson Alvarez has been out since July after having surgery on his throwing shoulder. Jose Fernandez has only appeared in seven games this year thanks to membership on the DL. And of course, Giancarlo Stanton went on his annual trip to the disabled list right before the All-Star Break. Those are your two best starting pitchers and, at the time, the National League leader in home runs and RBIs.

This team has had a void, an empty space for someone to take a hold of to command this team. That’s the problem someone works hard, steps up and leads their team through adversity. But come on, these are the Marlins.

So here the Fish sit as the second worst team in Major League Baseball. However, nobody sits in the stadium that surrounds the home plate. It seems like nowadays nobody’s doing the fish, no, no, no.
BBC renovations features more modern ambience

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Alex Sierra spent two years taking classes at the Mary Ann Wolfe Theater in the Biscayne Bay Campus. His seat was uncomfortable, and the furniture was old and rusty and his electronics were always out of battery.

"The theater was always a bit depressing," said Sierra, now a senior majoring in journalism. "I never understood why it was so old and uncomfortable, and why there was never an available plug for me to use.

But, now, with the renovations for the theater completed, all that is behind him.

Due to the constant demand for more plugs and modernization, the directors of the Wolfe University Center at BBC, Scott Jones, embarked on a project to renovate the Mary Ann Wolfe Theater.

According to Jones, the interior of the theater was redesigned and the layout of the seats changed from a center aisle to two aisles directly off the lobby doorway. The seats now host power and USB capabilities, like plug-in means for students.

"In the past, Sierra always made sure that his computer was fully charged before entering the theater. He had to be late to class one morning and his computer had a battery level of twenty percent. The power had gone out in his house the night before and I couldn’t charge my computer before class," he said. "Long story short, my computer died and I had to record the entire lecture on my phone... Needless to say, I am very grateful for these renovations."

According to Sierra, most students would have abandoned note-taking for the day or would have used paper and pencil. But he believes that, when it comes to studying for tests and making study guides, it’s better to have the notes electronically.

"It’s the twenty-first century," he said. "You should have plugs and a more modern ambience."

And now, thanks to a partnership between the Office of Academic Affairs, the Student Government Association and the Division of Student Affairs, they do.

"We’ve done a variety of things – until he was late to class one morning and his computer had a battery level of twenty percent. The power had gone out in his house the night before and I couldn’t charge my computer before class," he said. "Long story short, my computer died and I had to record the entire lecture on my phone... Needless to say, I am very grateful for these renovations."

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"The theater hadn’t seen this level of upgrade in over 20 years. We’ve pantherized the entire space.""The theater hadn’t seen this level of upgrade in over 20 years. We’ve pantherized the entire space."

According to him, there’s been a lot of attention to detail and they’ve been making sure that every chair has a plug -- either in the form of USB or some other sort of electrical power so students can “power up while attending class.”

"I’m really excited to see the project completed and to see how students are able to use the space," said Jones. "This is another milestone and we’re happy to celebrate it with our students this academic year."

The theater reopened just in time for the start of the new fall semester, finishing its renovations by Aug. 17.

Additionally, WUC has started looking into game room renovations and have started working with Servitas, the housing facility that is scheduled to open in fall 2016 at BBC.

Servitas and WUC have started coming together to create a leasing office, which will be located in the first floor of WUC.

According to Jones, they are scheduled to open sometime in September.

"It’s about time that BBC step up and start renovating," said Sierra. "The other campus has something new and modern every day and we don’t and I’m just glad that I’ll still be here to see what this year has to offer."

WREC center at BBC attracting attention

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The Wellness and Recreation Center experienced an average of about 1,000 students a day during the first week of the new fall semester.

"I’ve seen a lot of students coming into the center in the past few days and it’s pretty full even during the slower hours between 2 and 5 p.m.,” said Jonathan Daley, a junior majoring in journalism.

Daley just started working at the Wellness and Recreation Center at BBC on Aug. 25.

"I work at the front desk and I’ve noticed that most are FIU students, but some are students from MAST high school and Royal Caribbean," said Daley.

On Aug. 26, the Wellness and Recreation Center had 1,032 students make use of the machines and group exercise classes. The number has changed significantly between the end of the summer and the beginning of the fall semester session. The number of students coming into the Wellness and Recreation Center averaged a few hundred and sometimes about 100 per day.

"BBC is filling up and you can see it,” said Elias Bardawil, Director of the Wellness and Recreation Center at BBC.

Compared to the numbers from last year’s start of semester, where the numbers ranged between 400 and 500 per day according to Bardawil. There is an increase of students attending BBC during fall as opposed to the summer sessions or the summer break. This means that more students will be using the machines offered by the center, as well as the group exercises, according to Bardawil.

"Students have expressed their excitement about the new cardiovascular machines,” said Bardawil. There are 12 new cardiovascular machines in the center including ellipticals, treadmills and crossovers. They even allow for the students to choose a location, for example a path way in London, and pretend the student is exercising there with the help of a video showing a scenery of that location on the screen in front of the student.

“People care about the students and want them to enjoy our center and what it has to offer,” said Bardawil.

He also added that there will be a Rec Expo taking place between September 14 and 18 at BBC.