University opens new Tech Station

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Like in a Google laboratory station, students are engaging with technology at the University’s new $3 million Tech Station.

Located in Parking Garage Six, the station serves as a technology hub for students to be actively engaged with technology learning experiences. The 8,000 square-foot facility opened Aug. 26.

It includes high-tech classrooms, “team rooms” where students can work on group projects, advising centers, research and computer labs, a hardware lab and open-labs, a hardware lab and open

3D printers, which are available for use by students, inside the Hardware Room of the Tech Station.

Lycengar, SCIS director and Mark Weiss, SCIS associate director, collaborated in creating the vision for the facility about a year ago.

The station was created in hopes to expand, provide further in-depth advanced training for students, allow students to optimize their thoughts and be more efficient for active learning, said Luis.

Luis said the station’s location in the garage was a “smart choice” because it is directly across the street from Engineering and Computer Science building.

“Overall, we’ve asked for a better location,” he said. “It makes the continuity of our operation so much easier.”

The hardware lab gives students opportunities to physically tear equipment apart and figure out how to put them back together. An advanced training room, which expands 48 machines, allows students to work with instructors and mentors from different companies.

Luis said that the University was awarded with a Targeted Educational Attainment grant and an Information Technology Performance Funding grant to purchase the facility. Build it with equipment and Japanese Sata-tania-uture furniture. The funding is referred to as IT performance funding.

The project was approved April 2014.

Everything in the Tech Station was designed a certain way for its different features. For example, the advising rooms are integrated in the open to better identify student struggles and to help each student reach optimal performance.

“Interventions take place in the study rooms or team rooms where students may find study groups, peer lead discussions or teacher assistants,” Luis said. “This is another way to maximize student learning and academic variation.”

The classrooms are designed with removable seats and experimental models. The station is open to all students who use lab resources and experience what it is like to actually develop technology, said Luis.

Elliot Moncrieff said he has already worked with other students on homework assignments and has received help identifying computer coding on a technical project in the station.

“None of my classes have required me to go to the technology station yet, but I am anxious to get in there,” said Moncrieff, a junior computer engineering major.

“I like being able to stand up and ask anyone in the room about coding or breaking down a model and more than likely everyone in the room can help me because we all share the same common major and interest,” he said.

Although the technology station was designed with efforts of program technology enhancement and advance training, it is open to all students.

“We would like to see all students get involved in creating technology,” Luis said.

Board of Trustees update strategic plan

CAMILIA FERNANDEZ & PHILIPPE BUTEAU
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While the University celebrated recent accomplishments at a Board of Trustees meeting on Thursday, Sept. 10, Provost Kenneth Furton gave an update on student performance funding.

The amount of state funding the University receives depends on student success rates on different measures common to all Florida state universities.

Measures include percent of graduates employed full-time in Florida or continuing their education in the U.S. one year after graduation and their median wages one year after graduation.

Also, average cost per bachelor’s degree; six-year graduation rate for first-time-in-college students; academic progress rate; bachelor’s degrees awarded within programs of strategic emphasis; percent of undergraduates with a Pell grant and academic progress rate; bachelor’s degrees awarded within programs of strategic emphasis.

Programs of strategic emphasis includes majors within the science, technology, engineering and mathematics fields.

Furton said the University will focus on three key initiatives, which are the Graduation Success Initiative, enhancing STEM success and preparing students for the workforce through internships. These points will help to improve academic quality, operational efficiency and return on investments, he said.

The University’s plan calls to add more hybrid and online education – 67 percent face-to-face with professors, eight percent hybrid and 25 percent online to 80 percent face-to-face, 30 percent hybrid and 40 percent online by 2020.

Student internships from 4,637 to more than 6,000 annually will be added.

FRI had the largest summer graduation ceremony this year with over 3,600 graduates, according to Sandra Gonzalez-Levy, External Relations senior vice president. Furton said the City of Miami Beach and the City of Dover will expand paid internships by 30 to 40 additional internships every semester.

Expanded 133 part-time internship opportunities with FRI’s Power Program is included. The University will also continue to further efforts through the Graduation Success Initiative to increase a 6-year bachelor’s degree graduation rate to 60 percent, Furton said.

An agreement between the board and the Lienents Benevolence Association, a labor

Adventure Recreation, getaway trips

SUDEEN NAVARRETE
Staff Writer
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The Wellness & Recreation Center at the Modesto A. Maidique Campus celebrates its 10-year anniversary. But the center’s Adventure Recreation program has been active for over 12 years.

The program offers opportunities for students to socialize outdoors and experience getaway trips outside the University.

According to the program’s website, it allows students to visit a certain place and enjoy what’s there – all at a discounted price.

Previous trips include airboat riding in the Everglades, going to shark valley, bike-riding, snowboarding, sea fishing at night-time and paddle boarding at the Biscayne Bay Campus.

The program began in Spring 2002, back when the wellness center was known as the Student Fitness Center and was located inside the arena.

According to Frye, the program works differently than at other universities around the country.

“We piggy-back on existing programs,” he said. “We don’t have a staff of our own people who actually run the trips. Instead, we negotiate with trip providers and arrange the transportation and promote the trips. Once students make it to their destination, local staff take care of them.”

University staff and the general public are allowed to go on the trips if they pay full price.

“We always have a few of our own staff just to be there and help supervise the trip,” Frye said.

This year’s upcoming trips include water rafting in Georgia, football tickets for a Dolphin’s game against the Houston Texas and horseback riding in Davie.

Overall, the whitewater rafting is $390 for University students and $725 for the general public. Horseback riding is $40 for students and $55 for the general public and Dolphin tickets are $35 for students and $490 for the public.

But after a certain deadline, prices increase.

Costs include transportation and for the out-of-state trips, it includes hotel and equipment rental.

The costs for students and other participants help the program defray part of the expenses – according to Frye.

“If anybody wants to go anywhere, we’re open to suggestions and we’ll always try to look into it,” said Michael

SEE BOT, PAGE 2

SEE REC, PAGE 2
Panel to speak on Haitian issues

JULIE WALSH
Contributing Writer
news@fiu.edu

The Steven J. Green School of International and Public Affairs is hosting a panel discussion about the current border and migration issues between Haiti and the Dominican Republic. The panelists will include directors and professors among the FIU community, as well as a professor from Colorado State University.

The Dominican Republic’s citizenship was ruled by the court that anyone of Haitian descent, born inland since 1929, is not eligible for a status. Local and nationwide news sources have been burning about the ongoing tensions, deportation threats and potential international trade crisis between the D.R. and Haiti.

Dominican officials have said that mass expulsions of ethnic Haitians in the D.R. will have begun summer 2015.

A court ruling in 2013 took away the citizenship of several thousands of ethnic Haitians that resided in the D.R.

The D.R. has decided to end its longstanding practice of recognizing Dominicans of Haitian descent as citizens, and is not considering anyone who was born in the country as automatic citizens. This would apply to anyone born after 1929 — according to an article by the Washington Post.

In response to the Washington Post, Rodriguez thinks that the D.R. is undergoing the current crisis of deporting Haitians in order to stabilize, save and improve the country's financial status by decreasing its population.

The rioting began on July 25 when a Haitian was killed inside a bi-national market in Jimani, D.R., located on the opposite side of a gate on Haitian soil.

Following the death, several Haitians took the body to Haiti and claimed it was killed by a Dominican, which sparked riots and Haitian protests.

According to the Miami Herald, all traffic into Haiti was then suspended until further notice, as a result of the passage from D.R. into Haiti being deemed unsafe. As a result, the flow of commerce and trade was paralyzed.

The panel discussion will indepthly explore the border and migration issues between the D.R. and Haiti. This will offer students a chance to be knowledgeable, and acutely educated on issues around the world.

This event is free and open to the public. It will be held at the Modesto A. Maidique Campus MARC Pavilion on Tuesday, Sept. 22 at 2:30 p.m.

Visit fiu.edu for full story

Board of Trustees talks performance management

The board also welcomes two new BoT members appointed by Gov. Rick Scott: Leonard Brood and Michael Joseph will succeed Sukrit Agrawal and Marcelo Cautre.

The Florida Senate must confirm the appointments, however.

Board is the founder and chief executive officer of Son Capital, which invests in lower to middle market established companies. He is also a member of the Celistics Holdings Sl BoT and studied at the University of Miami.

Joseph is the east Florida division president of Tricorp Corporation of America. He also studied at the University of Miami.

If the Florida Senate confirms his appointment, Joseph will be another member of the University’s BoT who holds a high-ranking position in a healthcare related company like Chairman Albert Maury.


Students explore with Adventure Recreation

REC, PAGE 1

Prcniak, assistant director of intramural and club sports, said that the first thing they do is check into the levels of risk to assure safety. Then, they check if it’s affordable or not.

Prcniak said that the trips always tend to fill up — depending on its destination.

"The trips are limited in numbers, like the White Water rafting is limited to 20 students and it’s depending on its destination."

Frye said that for many students it’s a way to get away from the burden, due to lower prices.

"I believe it’s an amazing program because an average family is able to learn and learn through different means," said Frye.

"The mission" is to get students exposed to nature and outdoors, said Frye. "For example, many students have never seen snow before with our snow ski trip they get to experience that.”

Prcniak agrees and thinks it’s a great way for students to make friends and get away from school.

"It’s a stress-relief for students,” Prcniak said. "It gives them an opportunity to see and experience new things.”

Without knowing how,” said.

Breylis Rech, freshman chemistry major, thinks the money for these trips are no longer a burden, due to lower prices.

The Beacon – Wednesday, September 16, 2015

NEWS

fiu.edu

NATION & WORLD BRIEFS

White House launches new online tool to help families make informed decisions on college

The Obama administration on Saturday unveiled a new online search tool that is aimed at helping potential college students and their families learn much more about schools, including the financial aid they offer and how much their graduates earn later in life. Although the new “College Scorecard” will allow consumers to compare various colleges on a variety of factors, it will not provide any ratings or rankings on the bases.

California court makes it tougher for music, movie industries to take down Web postings

For a Pennsylvania mom who has waged a closely watched Silicon Valley legal battle for nearly 10 years with the music industry, it appears, perhaps, her baby should have simply been allowed to dance to a Prince song on YouTube after all. A federal appeals court on Monday made it tougher for copyright holders such as the music industry or movie makers to secure so-called “takedown” letters that quickly force Web providers, in this case YouTube, to take down material.

With China buying too, iPhone 6S online orders could take weeks to ship

The iPhone 6S could set a sales record for Apple in large part because it was made available in China from Day One. The company announced Monday that online orders of the iPhone 6S, including the bigger-screened Plus variety, are on pace to exceed 10 million over the new two weeks, set to surpass the record first-few-weeks sales mark the iPhone 6 hit a year ago. The iPhone 6 wasn’t available in China for about the first month.

Iran’s top leader keeps his distance from deal

Even as the White House celebrated a victory over Republican-led efforts to block the nuclear deal with Iran, concern persists over possible opposition from a different source: Iran’s supreme leader, Ayatollah Ali Khamenei. It has been assumed in Western capitals, and in the D.R. as well, that the deal to curb the Iranian nuclear program in exchange for sanctions relief would never have sealed on July 14 without the blessing of Iran’s top official.

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Prcniak said that the trips always tend to fill up — depending on its destination.

"The trips are limited in numbers, like the White Water rafting is limited to 20 students and the snow-ski trip was 48," he said. "Each trip kind of varies with how many students are allowed to go.

Adrian Pichs, junior liberal studies major, thinks the money for these trips are no longer a burden, due to lower prices.

"I believe it’s an amazing program because an average family is able to learn and learn through different means," said Frye.

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Borrowing the earth breeds progress and failure

NICOLE STONE
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opinion@fiusm.com

Our world is submerged in sacred messages, debates and symbols. Religion is the way we humans - as dwellers of the earth - rationalize the vertical, unexplainable forces of our world.

We are the only creatures on the planet who are aware of our souls. Consequently, we live in the dissonant shadow cast from both the natural and the spiritual.

We have instinctive, satisfiable needs such as the need to eat, sleep and reproduce, though, we also have philosophical needs. Among these exist the need to find purpose, the need to understand our existence in terms of environmental preservation, to thoroughly understand our surroundings and think about the social, political and spiritual powers in our world. This elevated thought is a massive part of what makes us human.

Religion as something intangible, cannot be described in any way that is sufficient to portray the strong, metaphysical experiences felt by its people. Humans have an anthropomorphic language - we can only explain things in human terms.

Unlike science, religion is not observable, only the practices are. This, in combination with the ambiguity of religious texts, creates skepticism to those who don’t understand it.

How can they? Religion is a language in itself. To attempt to decipher something so abstract is comparable to trying to understand a language you don’t speak.

In order to comprehend these religious views of the universe, humans process its concepts through a network of metaphor, symbol and ritual.

Just as a writer provides a communicative experience through the english language, the symbols and metaphors in religious scriptures are vessels to understanding the “greater truth” of human existence.

But whatever this “greater truth” has created a lot of heated conflict about what it means to exist, or whether it means anything at all. All of this conflict is primarily rooted in the misunderstanding that there can only be one “greater truth.”

The “truth” is simply that no one is going to experience life in the same way. Life is the unfolding and folding of our individual experiences.

Some of us will live grabbing the branches that we see in front of us, some of us need to invent the branches as we climb and some may not even climb up or down this metaphorical life-tree.

There is not one meaning to life, nor is there one sacred truth. There is not one interpretation to religion, but many individual ones.

Age-old tension between opinions of what the will of the greater power is has bred terrorism. Such is most infamously known to the American individual as the attack of Sept. 11. This tragedy resulted in the death of 2,977 innocents in al-Qaeda’s declaration of holy war against the United States.

Families lost mothers, fathers, brothers, sisters, daughters and sons, and the United States lost the heroes who rushed toward the chaos, not away.

Another instance exists in the way United States citizens obtained their homes. This land was not always ours, as is common knowledge, but what we don’t always think about is the murder of the Native American empires that were here first. They were forced to change their “savage” ways “in the name of God.” A god that was not their own, but in the eyes of the Europeans, the only god.

It is easy to say that the Native Americans were more honorable than the Christian empires that came to build churches and plant croses in order to perpetuate their idea of truth. These are both extreme situations where the clashing of religious truths has occurred.

Today, we live in an age where science, politics and religious pursuit continue to live alongside each other. This has proven to be a dangerous mix, especially with so many opinions of what is right and what is wrong.

With the changing world and its advances, like the legalization of gay marriage, religion is also being forced to change and adapt. These social reforms will challenge the set notions of many religions. Those who struggle to broaden their views will undoubtedly resist change.

There is an ancient Native American proverb about earth’s conservation: “We do not inherit the Earth from our ancestors, we borrow it from our children;” and to take control of one’s emotional reality. Whether we manifest this as a spiritual journey, victim empowerment measures, group counseling, workshops and testing for those struggling academically, among other services made available to all registered FIU students.

For those afraid for their privacy, they can be assured that CAPS is completely discreet. Anyone at the office will assert that you pose immediate danger to yourself or others, they will not share any information exchanged between patient and counselor.

There is such a stigma that larks around the acknowledgement that one might need a little help dealing with their lives as it comes. Conditions like anxiety and depression are touchy subjects, both culturally and personally.

This board is of the opinion that no one should feel ashamed at being unhappy, nor that anyone should suffer alone when so many services are made available to them.

Admitting to oneself that something is wrong is often the most difficult part of the healing process. And that’s just what healing is - a process.

We are living on the brink of cultural reform. As college students, it is our duty to take our vision of a better world a reality. Whether we manifest this as a smile to a stranger, voting, or action through campaigns such as the “It’s On Us” movement, it is our turn to meet the world with open eyes and minds.

The conditions we breed will pass into the hands of our children, and they, in turn, to their children; for we all can only borrow the earth.

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OPINION

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Have something on your mind? Send your thoughts (400 words maximum) to opinion@fiusm.com or drop by our offices at either GC 210 or WB 124.

With your letter, be sure to include your name, major, year, and copy of your student ID. The Beacon will only run one letter a month from any individual.

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Editorials are the unique voice of the editorial board, which is composed of the editor in chief, managing editor, and editor of each of the five sections. The Beacon welcomes any letters regarding or in response to its editorials. Send them to opinion@fiusm.com.

Mental health: It’s okay to seek help

Mental health in college is a difficult thing to maintain for many students.

According to the Chronicle of Higher Education, in a report they titled “An Epidemic of Anguish,” 58 percent of college campuses have seen a rise in anxiety disorders, while 89 percent have seen an increase in diagnoses of clinical depression.

Caught among stress, relationships, lack of sleep and, for most, being away from home for the first time, it’s no surprise when these statistics come to light.

This editorial board wants the students of FIU to know how and where they can get help.

Whether they need to relax, get some thing off their chest or even receive regular counseling sessions, Counseling and Psychological Services at FIU is an invaluable resource for students.

On the second floor of Student Health Services building on MMC, and in WUC 320 on CBC, CAPS offers free, one-on-one short-term psychotherapy, victim empowerment measures, group counseling, workshops and testing for those struggling academically, among other services made available to all registered FIU students.

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SPC celebrates Hispanic Heritage

LAURA GONZALEZ
Entertainment Director
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With more than half of the Miami population being Hispanic or Latino, FIU is never far behind in events that showcase the diverse group of students that attend.

The University is currently gearing up for Hispanic Heritage Month, from Sept. 15 to Oct. 15, by having a month full of events that bring awareness to and celebrates the multi-ethnic aspect of the University.

The Student Programming Council started celebrations early, in the beginning of September, and they will continue until Sept. 25.

On Monday, Sept. 14, they held a Hispanic Heritage Pit Event in the GC pit, in which they gave out food and SPC merchandise to promote upcoming hispanic heritage events.

“SPC is responsible for making these events and what we wanted to do today was bring a mix of cultures with decorations and food,” said Andres Macias, one of the SPC directors in charge.

When asked about the importance of events that celebrate hispanic and latino culture in universities he said, “Even though we’re technically a minority, at FIU, since we’re an international school, we’re a majority. It’s about making the hispanic community feel respected.”

Leilah Collazo, 20, junior psychology major shared sentiments regarding the event.

“Events like this create awareness about the diversity that we have not just in South Florida, but also within FIU,” she said.

The event featured a decoration table filled with straw hats and guitars, a concession table with food like pastelitos, finger sandwiches and croquettes. Across from it was a table filled with SPC merchandise where students could choose from mugs, shirts, water bottles and notepads that had the SPC logo on them as well as Hispanic Heritage and the events that were planned.

Neymarie Rodriguez, junior biology major said, “Events like these are definitely important as they appeal to more cultures. Plus, the food helps!”

SPC’s event prior to this was a comedy show on Tuesday, Sept. 3. Two more events are planned for the month: Noche Latina on Wednesday, Sept. 22 in the GC ballrooms at 5:30 p.m and SPC Movie Night “Instructions not Included” on Friday, Sept. 25.

“Students can expect a lot on Noche Latina,” said Macias, “It’s a more interactive experience. We’re going to have food, a do it yourself maraca station that students can take home with them, a live band, dancing and artists that will draw student’s names.”

Low ages gracefully with new album ‘Ones and Sixes’

ALONE WITH A CD

LOW

The tempo is slow, the mood is melancholy and their vocal harmonies are as strong as ever. What differentiates this album from their previous work is the seamless combination of acoustic instrumentation and electronics.

The world of modern recording techniques and electronics. While Low may be showing signs of their age, their readiness to embrace change will assure them a spot in the world of modern independent music for quite some time.

“Ones and Sixes” is the result of musical veterans attempting to enhance their sound with modern recording techniques and electronics. While Low is not the type of band to listen to on a bright sunny day or at a party, the pace of their songs is too slow to allow that. Low is the type of band you play when you want to cry but the tears won’t come out at 2 a.m. when sleep is no longer a possibility.

In the 90s when bands were trying to be faster, louder and more aggressive, Low served as a complete counterpoint to that attitude. For many of their earlier shows, audience members would sit down on the floor to listen to them. Early critics would label them as “slowcore” or “sadcore”, and with the exception of Mark Kozelek of “Red House Painters”, they are the only act from that sub-category that have remained relevant today.

With over twenty years and eleven studio albums to show, Low’s consistency is admirable. Their ability to maintain such a distinct musical style has led them to have a very dedicated fan base, but at the cost of predictability.

The main issue with Low’s last album “The Invisible Way” is that many of the songs become a chore to listen to due to the lack of instrumental variation.

The decision to draft the Wilco frontman, Jeff Tweedy, to produce the album led to a dull Americana-influenced sound. “Ones and Sixes” marks an interesting new direction for the band. Many of the characteristics that define a Low album are still there. The tempo is slow, the mood is melancholy, and their vocal harmonies feel more like rehashed versions of older songs with a slightly different recording style. “Ones and Sixes” is as the result of critical acclaim and their ability to embrace change.
Super smashing community at University

GIANCARLO NAVAS
Contributing Writer

What started as two students playing a Nintendo Wii on a small CRT TV in the piano room soon became eight people crowded around the aforementioned setup asking, “Who has next?”

Students who just got out of their last class are grabbing on Friday nights to play some pick up Super Smash Bros.

There is a competitive gaming community at FIU that a lot of the student body might not know of. The party multiplayer fighting game series has a pro gaming community that is one of the biggest. It was featured at the Evolution fighting game championships, the Super Bowl of fighting video game tournaments, which had almost $30,000 available in prize money for Smash games and over 3,000 entrants.

FIU is home to some of the world’s best players, including multiple players in the top five in South Florida, a Smash hotbed. Rankings are based off of national and local tournament placeings.

Students flock to the piano room across from the bookstore in GC at all hours to hop on Smash Bros. Wii, wave-dashing, ledge trumping, dash dancing, perfect pivots, L-canceling, crouch canceling, missile canceling, flame canceling and an assortment of other cancels might sound like a bunch of made up phrases, but they are all advanced techniques and strategies for Smash. The YouTube video the Evolution 2015 Super Smash Bros. Melee grand final shows how advanced the game is.

“The game is all about baiting your opponent to do something so you can counter. But always have to keep in mind that your opponent is thinking the same. It’s a game of cat and mouse and it’s all in the mind games,” said FIU alumna Danny Andrews, who still visits campus after work occasionally to play some Smash.

“I miss playing on campus a lot, so it’s nice to come back and visit my Alma Matter. Helps me stay connected with the great Smash community and gives me a chance to visit school,” said Andrews. “It is going to be a fond college memory of mine.”

Not only does Smash bring alumni back to the university, but it brings people from all over the community.

Daniel Monterrosa, a senior at FIU. “People who are regulars are trying to form an official club going,” said Monterrosa. “We had a head before, but it looks like that didn’t work.”

“The people we have met playing Smash at FIU have been great, they are people I hang out with outside of playing Smash,” said Monterrosa.

“I think about it often, how many friends I have made playing Smash here,” said Luis Rosario. “So many great people that mean a lot to me.”

Popeye’s food goes above and beyond

For years, this Popeye’s has been the place to go for students across campus, my friends and I found a large bowl of red beans and rice and fresh biscuits. When my food arrived, even though it looked pretty, it was seasoned beans, it was hearty of the New Orleans balcony architecture I’ve seen before. It was well seasoned and the batter didn’t overpower the chicken itself.

I have been to dozens of restaurants, my meal was prepared and ready within minutes of ordering. When my food arrived, my friends were oohing and ahhing over the beauty that made my mouth water. It was incredible. Every bite had the perfect amount of crunch and juiciness from the chicken thigh I saw.

Popeye’s serves an assortment of seafood and chicken options at their North Miami Beach location.

“Crawlersout,” “Ungirthed,” “Belispeak” and from their new album and then took seasoned Purity Ring is currently touring the release of their second album “Another Ethnicity”.

Opening for the band was California native HANA who filled the auditorium belting out vocals while manning a mixer. Although most of the crowd was there for the main act, some could be heard singing along to her lyrics. By the end of her set the crowd cheered and praised her performance.

As the night began it was obvious Purity Ring upgraded their stage presence.

Around 9:30 p.m., James took to the stage in an all white jumpsuit and an obvious Purity Ring concert features crowd faves

Canadian music duo Megan James and instrumentalist Corin Roddick, known as Purity Ring, had the audience on its feet as they played from the center. They played from the center.

Her movements were jagged, robotic and then gentle. She looked incredibly natural in her element and reached out to the front row where she engaged and held hands with them. The crowd responded with love and at one point a fan handed her something that looked like a necklace.

The crowd was diverse with people of all age groups and styles, most of which were dancing and drinking.

Between songs, James Roddick made sure to tell everyone how grateful she was for those who came out to the show didn’t sell out and how much fun they had at the beach earlier.

Before ending the show, Purity Ring took it back once more and played the crowds favorite throwback jam “Fineshine” which started a chorus and a small mosh pit.

The encore “Begin Again” which was also the single from the new album finalized the concert and left the audience craving more. The lights turned up and people emptied out from the venue, all that could be heard was the murmuring of how awesome the show was.

LIFE!

The Beacon – Wednesday, September 16, 2015

Super smashing community at University

GIANCARLO NAVAS
Contributing Writer

What started as two students playing a Nintendo Wii on a small CRT TV in the piano room soon became eight people crowded around the aforementioned setup asking, “Who has next?”

Students who just got out of their last class are grabbing on Friday nights to play some pick up Super Smash Bros.

There is a competitive gaming community at FIU that a lot of the student body might not know of. The party multiplayer fighting game series has a pro gaming community that is one of the biggest. It was featured at the Evolution fighting game championships, the Super Bowl of fighting video game tournaments, which had almost $30,000 available in prize money for Smash games and over 3,000 entrants.

FIU is home to some of the world’s best players, including multiple players in the top five in South Florida, a Smash hotbed. Rankings are based off of national and local tournament placeings.

“I have made a lot of close friends playing Smash here,” said FIU student Jose Luis Rosario who is the number three ranked Super Smash Brothers Melee grand final shows how advanced the game is.

“The game is all about baiting your opponent to do something so you can counter. But always have to keep in mind that your opponent is thinking the same. It’s a game of cat and mouse and it’s all in the mind games,” said FIU alumna Danny Andrews, who still visits campus after work occasionally to play some Smash.

“I miss playing on campus a lot, so it’s nice to come back and visit my Alma Matter. Helps me stay connected with the great Smash community and gives me a chance to visit school,” said Andrews. “It is going to be a fond college memory of mine.”

Not only does Smash bring alumni back to the university, but it brings people from all over the community.

Daniel Monterrosa, a senior at FIU. “People who are regulars are trying to form an official club going,” said Monterrosa. “We had a head before, but it looks like that didn’t work.”

“The people we have met playing Smash at FIU have been great, they are people I hang out with outside of playing Smash,” said Monterrosa.

“I think about it often, how many friends I have made playing Smash here,” said Luis Rosario. “So many great people that mean a lot to me.”

Popeye’s food goes above and beyond

For years, this Popeye’s has been the place to go for students across campus, my friends and I found a large bowl of red beans and rice and fresh biscuits. When my food arrived, even though it looked pretty, it was seasoned beans, it was hearty of the New Orleans balcony architecture I’ve seen before. It was well seasoned and the batter didn’t overpower the chicken itself.

I have been to dozens of restaurants, my meal was prepared and ready within minutes of ordering. When my food arrived, my friends were oohing and ahhing over the beauty that made my mouth water. It was incredible. Every bite had the perfect amount of crunch and juiciness from the chicken thigh I saw.

Popeye’s serves an assortment of seafood and chicken options at their North Miami Beach location.

“Crawlersout,” “Ungirthed,” “Belispeak” and from their new album and then took seasoned Purity Ring is currently touring the release of their second album “Another Ethnicity”.

Opening for the band was California native HANA who filled the auditorium belting out vocals while manning a mixer. Although most of the crowd was there for the main act, some could be heard singing along to her lyrics. By the end of her set the crowd cheered and praised her performance.

As the night began it was obvious Purity Ring upgraded their stage presence.

Around 9:30 p.m., James took to the stage in an all white jumpsuit and an obvious Purity Ring concert features crowd faves

Canadian music duo Megan James and instrumentalist Corin Roddick, known as Purity Ring, had the audience on its feet as they played from the center. They played from the center.

Her movements were jagged, robotic and then gentle. She looked incredibly natural in her element and reached out to the front row where she engaged and held hands with them. The crowd responded with love and at one point a fan handed her something that looked like a necklace.

The crowd was diverse with people of all age groups and styles, most of which were dancing and drinking.

Between songs, James Roddick made sure to tell everyone how grateful she was for those who came out to the show didn’t sell out and how much fun they had at the beach earlier.

Before ending the show, Purity Ring took it back once more and played the crowds favorite throwback jam “Fineshine” which started a chorus and a small mosh pit.

The encore “Begin Again” which was also the single from the new album finalized the concert and left the audience craving more. The lights turned up and people emptied out from the venue, all that could be heard was the murmuring of how awesome the show was.

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Turnovers, offensive line factors in Panther's loss

With a lot of confidence and momentum prior to facing the Indiana Hoosiers, the Panthers clearly were outnumbered as they came up short in the final score of 22-26. Alex McGough was 21-37 for 249 yards and one touchdown. McGough went down late in the fourth quarter after throwing a pick. Then Indiana’s linebacker, Marcus Oliver, landed on McGough’s head, in result, kept him out the rest of the game. He is still being evaluated by the trainers and probably might have a concussion. Wide Receiver Thomas Owens was the best player on the Panther’s side of the ball as he made nine catches for 166 yards and two touchdowns. So what went wrong Saturday night?

Turnovers

The team started off the weekend with a closely contested win against Stetson. The Panthers beat the Hatters with a score of 26-24, 15-25, 21-23, 25-10.

The first set had a total of 11 ties and three lead changes, but the Panthers were able to hold and start the match off with a 1-0 set lead. However, the Hatters responded, forcing the Panthers to committing five attacking errors and taking the second set. With the sets tied up at 2-2 entering the final set, the team was able to finish the job and improve its record to 5-2 for the season.

In the match, senior, Lucia Castro, recorded her 1,000th kill of her career, becoming only the seventh player in FIU history to reach that milestone. She accomplished this during the fourth set and finished the match with 17 kills and 18 digs, recording her third double-double of the season.

Senior outside hitter, Ashley Levorin was named the setter of the game. For her efforts, she recorded a total of 19 kills, 11 blocks and a .410 hitting percentage, as she recorded a total of 19 kills, 11 blocks and a .410 hitting percentage. She recorded an .800 hitting percentage in the final set, helping the Panthers to a win.

In the second set, the Panthers took a 2-0 lead in the early stages of the game. However, the Hatters fought back, tying the match at 15-15. The Panthers went on to win the set 26-24.

The third set was a close fight, with the Hatters taking a 25-24 lead. The Panthers fought back, winning the set 26-24. The final set was a back-and-forth battle, with the Panthers winning the set 25-23.

Despite the costly turnovers, McGough put up very solid numbers before being knocked out of the game. He completed 21 passes in 37 attempts with 249 yards and three touchdowns. FIU may have to start another quarterback for Saturday night on depending on McGough's injury status, but the team can’t afford to have their sophomore quarterback out for too much longer.

Moving on from the heartbreaking Indiana loss, FIU will take the field again for their home opener this Saturday night as they take on the North Carolina Eagles. Kickoff is scheduled for 6 p.m.
Women defeat Ospreys, improve record to 3-3

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The Panthers held their place in the food chain, dominating against their neighbors to the north, the University of North Florida Ospreys, to earn a second consecutive victory for the FIU Women’s Soccer team. This one-sided 2-0 victory was an important win for this young team that is clearly trending in the right direction.

A team that was expected to have a much more defensive and counter attack oriented scheme, unleashing two very impressive straight offensive outings, 1-0 win against Miami (Ohio) and now this 2-0 win against UNF. This FIU squad has definitely found their groove outshooting their opponents these last two games 25-14, only allowing four shots on Friday night’s match against the Ospreys.

Friday night’s game ball definitely goes to junior Ellen Chestnut. She has been firing shots left and right all season but finally found the back of the net for the first and second time against UNF bringing the match’s only two scores to the Panthers.

“I think it was the determination to score,” Crist said after her performance. “At the end of the day, it’s just the desire to score.”

In a game highlighted by offensive firepower, the defense didn’t have much to do throughout the 90 minutes. But they were alert every time they were called upon, this defense answered the call. The Panthers held that egg the Osprey’s laid on the scoreboard at the beginning of the game till the final whistle blew, giving this team their second consecutive shutout win.

The Panthers improved their record to 3-3 and seem to have their eyes set on leaving the days of mediocrity in the past, with the younger talents on offense keeping the ball away from the defense and the defense playing to eliminate most scoring opportunities before the goalie has a chance to get in on the action.

Midfielder Madisen Weinhard blocks to gain control of the ball during the match against University of North Florida on Sept. 11, where FIU won with a score of 2-0.

Yes this team has big plans for the year, but Head Coach Chestnut reminds his team, “It’s not about where you’re going, it’s how you get there.” This team has shown the pieces to do all of that and more. The test now is to keep this success throughout the season. Their schedule only gets harder from here, but a message to their upcoming opponents; this team is also getting stronger.
The killings of unarmed black Americans have been the subject of much media attention. In 2012, Trayvon Martin, a 17-year-old African American, was fatally shot by neighborhood watch coordinator George Zimmerman in Sanford, Fla. as he was walking home from a convenience store. Zimmerman was acquitted of all charges, leaving much of the public outraged. African Americans began to speak up about the injustices that they face, hoping to ignite change.

Since Martin’s death, there have been other African American men and women killed, such as Michael Brown in Ferguson, Mo., who have raised questions about racial tensions in America. As a way to garner support, African American activists and supporters formed the Black Lives Matter campaign. According to their twitter, @blklivesmatter, the campaign is “an affirmation and embrace of the resistance and resilience of Black people.”

They have organized various protests throughout the country to bring attention to the issues faced by African Americans, as well as to seek justice for the deaths.

One of the main problems that activists feel they face is lack of support from government. With the 2016 election in full force, activists have been staging demonstrations at campaign events in order to have their voices heard and prompt candidates to speak out on the issues.

Activists have showed up at events for Democratic candidate Bernie Sanders and Republican candidate Jeb Bush, causing them to be shut down after tensions arose with other attendees.

Thursday, Aug. 20, Iota Phi Theta, a historically black fraternity founded during the Civil Rights Movement, staged a tribute to Black Lives Matter. The president of the fraternity, Johnny Lewis, felt it was very important to tribute the campaign “because of the impact African Americans have in our community.”

“Just recently, I was told that black educated men are the highest known threat to man. If we weren’t, then why is the largest hate organization, the KKK mainly targeting African Americans?” Lewis said. “Better yet, why are they still allowed to hold their rituals and parades across the U.S.?”

In July, tensions arose between the Ku Klux Klan and African-American activists over the Confederate flag outside of the South Carolina statehouse. Lewis said it is important to highlight black lives specifically because they will always be oppressed and feared, not only in this country but in some larger neighboring countries as well.

“Color is everything to a lot of people,” he said.

During the tribute, members of the fraternity wore hoodies with the names of six fallen individuals whom they were honoring. Iota Phi Theta Secretary, Daniel Irving, felt that it was about more than just those individuals.

He said that the organization was founded in 1963 in Baltimore by 12 men during the peak of the Civil Rights Movement when “African Americans were being murdered, lynched, hosed down and worse all in the name of equality.”

This was not only a tribute to the six fallen individuals, but to the founders and the lives that have been lost in the fight for equality. Paul Joasues, a sophomore sociology major, said that everyone is being affected by inequalities. “FIU students are affected because none of them know for sure if they’ll end up as the next hashtag,” said Joasues.

“In my opinion, two things can happen to a person that keeps hearing stories of death. They either become paranoid, desensitized or indifferent; or they want to do something about it to stop hearing such stories because they’re fed up with it.”