University joins national climate change campaign

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Colleges across the country want to help young people know about climate change and how they can create solutions for a better future. “Know Tomorrow” is a national student-led campaign that promotes facts on climate change and how to unify, amplify and synchronize voices to raise awareness.

FIU is among more than 50 campuses who support the campaign. Participants include the University of Miami, Stanford University, Georgetown University and Boston College, according to the project’s website.

Ali Dutton, Office of Sustainability program manager, said she wants students to understand the impact of climate change, especially in South Florida. “If we don’t change our habits and if we don’t reduce our carbon footprint, there will be no tomorrow,” said Dutton.

FIU students commuting account for 42 percent of total greenhouse gas emissions and 35 percent from electricity, according to a 2010 report by the Office of University Sustainability.

The University’s total carbon emission in 2007 was about 127,136 metric tons of equivalent carbon dioxide, and about 143,288 in 2014.

The “Know Tomorrow” campaign included a National Day of Action, which took place Friday, Oct. 2. The University demonstrated support at both the Modesto A. Maidique Campus and the Biscayne Bay Campus.

There was a series of events at the Biscayne Bay, the University Nature Preserve, the Green Library Breezeway and the Steven J. Green School of International and Public Affairs.

A mangrove restoration took place behind the swimming pool at the north campus, and invasive species were removed in the main campus pond.

The Green Library Breezeway hosted a club activity fair where student clubs and organizations showcased their work to combat climate change.

The Climate Reality Project, a non-profit organization that advocates against climate change, held petitions at the fair. The petitions ask President Obama to make a strong commitment to reduce carbon emissions at the Paris United Nations Climate Talks in December, according to an email from Alissa Weinman, the CRP field organizer.

“We are trying to get 5,000 [signatures from] students at FIU and 500,000 nationally,” said Weinman.

“We are sending [the petitions] to our president,” said Weinman. “If we don’t reduce our carbon footprint, we will need to have an agreement to reduce emissions.”

Climate Reality is working on campuses across the country to mobilize the voices of students to prove that “we care about climate change as a generation and that we demand a strong emissions reduction commitment from President Obama during the UN Climate Talks on behalf of the U.S.” Weinman said to Student Media.

The United States is the second largest country to release carbon emissions in 2011 following China, according to the United Nations of Concerned Scientists. “If we do nothing about climate change, we can affect our children, our grandchildren, and then other countries like China, India, etc. will follow,” she said.

“It’s our future at risk.”

Teaching Academy opens in local high school

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Freshmen from Ronald Reagan/Doral High School can now choose to enroll in a teaching academy as part of a partnership with the University’s College of Education.

“We’re always thinking about ways the College of Education and Miami-Dade County Public Schools can come up with new projects,” said Maria Victoria Tsalikis, elementary education program director from COE.

“From there, the teaching academy came up.”

The academy, a four-year program, will focus on teaching students how to become educators.

“The first two years students will learn foundations of education and the characteristics of being a good teacher,” said Tsalikis.

Once students reach their junior and senior year, they will begin a dual-enrollment program with the University.

“Students must complete three requirement classes before graduation, especially if they’re seeking admission at the College of Education,” said Tsalikis.

“This will help facilitate their admission into FIU,” said Tsalikis.

There are now 29 students enrolled in the program, which was launched on Aug. 26 with a ribbon-cutting ceremony.

Juan Silva, principal of Ronald Reagan/Doral High School, was present as well as Dean Delia C. Garcia from COE, Director Mark B. Rosenberg, MDCPS Superintendent Alberto Carvalho, U.S. Representative Ileana Ros-Lehtinen and Tsalikis.

The COE is also supportive about the academy.

“There’s a lot of interest from the academy and the number keeps growing,” said Silva.

“We are in the process of planning and drafting time frames with a lot of interactions at Ronald Reagan/Doral High,” she said. “I expect to go there myself and teach lessons. We are also in the process of establishing faculty to visit the academy and hope the number keeps growing.”

According to Tsalikis, the University’s Future Educators of America are also interested in forming relationships and mentorship to establish support and friendships, along with student volunteers to high school students.

“Our vision is that we’re giving back to our community so students can come to our college and be part of the FIU family,” said Tsalikis. “Then, we can pick these student-teachers to hire them and they can start working right where they started being teachers.”

The Kafka Delta Phi honor society will also provide services to connect links with Ronald Reagan/Doral High.

“The COE will use field hours to help current students from the University develop personal and teaching skills with students in the academy,” said Tsalikis.

“We will give opportunities for students to experience and help professors in schools,” said Tsalikis. “We want to collaborate with high schools to have teacher candidates do field hours at Ronald Reagan/Doral High.”

Tsalikis said that other plans for the future include mentoring middle school students to provide them with the plans and curriculum of the teaching academy.

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UC Berkeley requests letters of teacher recommendations from applicants, and sparks a debate

In a significant break from tradition, the University of California, Berkeley will ask some freshman applicants to submit letters of recommendation from teachers and mentors this fall. And the UC system is studying whether all of its nine undergraduate campuses should do the same in future years as another way to choose among the available of students seeking admission.

The new policy at UC Berkeley, while optional and limited this year, has triggered much debate at other UC campuses and high schools around the state about the value of such letters.

PhD are a type of mechanical engineering major. “He’s a really busy guy.”

The University has added 69 full-time academic advisors since 2010, and about six to eight were hired per year for the last three years, according to Charlie Andrews, Academic Advising Center assistant vice president for Undergraduate Education.

“If the University continues to grow, then you have to have more advisors as the institution grew,” said Andrews.

The number of students for every advisor has lowered from 950:1 to 420:1, according to Andrews. The ratio becomes 380:1 for full-time students who take 12 credits, however.

For the past seven years, the University has hired enough advisors to help raise the expectation of First-Time-in-College students who graduate within six years from about 44 percent to 54 percent.

First-Time-in-College students are those who start each year and graduate from the same university within six years. Andrews said the numbers fluctuate based on the number of “active students,” which includes students who have enrolled at some point in the past three semesters.

The University’s strategic plan, “FIIbeyondPossible2020,” aims to boost six-year graduation rate among first-time-in-college students from 53 to 70 percent. It also aims to increase transfer student enrollment and four-year student enrollment, hoping to have 65,000 students enrolled by 2020.

Science, technology, engineering and math are among the programs of strategic emphasis that are common to all Florida state universities.

The state legislature uses a performance-based funding metrics to determine how much money to give each college in the state system. A key performance metric is the percent of bachelor’s degrees awarded in the STEM fields.

Advising remains an important need for the University’s critical investment in funding, Andrews said. The strategic plan centers heavily around student success, he said.

The University’s goal in the student-to-advisor ratio is to maintain a 300:1. This means a handful of advisors are hired each year, according to Andrews. However, the College of Engineering and Computing does not have enough advisors for students, he said.

The six-year graduation goal for 2015-2016 Board of Governors Work Plan is 56 percent, up 3 percent from the previous year. There is no goal for numbers of additional advisors in the Work Plan.

Andrews said the University plans to hire more of both advisors, and faculty who can also advise, but specific numbers were not provided.

“Advisors are proactive and contact students who need help, telling them, ‘Hey, come see me,’” Andrews said.

If the gentle nudge doesn’t work, sometimes advisors take drastic measures; they can place holds on students, so they are forced to see an advisor, he said.

But in their regular workload, advisors are noting students who might be pursuing the wrong major, or the one they are pursuing might not be the right one for whatever reason.

“Finding students an appropriate major is a part of their job,” Andrews said. Advisors focus on working with exploratory students -- those who don’t have a major -- by providing them with options.

Sergio Ruiz transferred from the University of Florida as a sophomore. He said he has only seen one advisor since he came in as an exploratory student.

“People try to do walk-ins, and he’d be available.”
‘Dark Beers Matter’ spurs controversy

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On Sept. 30, organizers for Miami’s GrooveHerfest sparked controversy when the festival announced the name of one of its upcoming beer-tasting events. The event was called Dark Beers Matter – a pun based on the Black Lives Matter movement.

To add to the controversy, the event’s Facebook page featured a doctored image from the BLM protests in which protesters are carrying a banner that is photo-shopped to read “Dark Beers Matter”.

The event was supposed to be hosted by the Wynwood Brewery Company on Monday, Oct. 5, but due to immediate backlash via social media the brewery decided not to host the event.

In response to criticism and threats to boycott the event, Dark Beers Matter was renamed and a lengthy apology was issued through the GrooveHerfest Facebook page.

Event organizer Tony Albelo explained to the Miami New Times, “I never meant to hurt anyone with the name. It was meant as a joke. Beer is supposed to bring people together, not tear them apart.”

If the event was meant to be a harmless joke then it is one to wonder who would have laughed. Certainly not the large communities of Black people being evicted and displaced as part of Wynwood’s new gentrified persona.

As Wynwood gains more popularity as Miami’s “art district,” the area’s Black community is forced to move out as they are unable to afford Wynwood’s rising property values. In some cases, residents are given only a moment’s notice to collect their belongings before their homes are demolished right before their eyes.

What’s interesting is that it was most likely the graffiti art created by Wynwood’s original urban Latino and Black community that sparked the idea that Wynwood could be an art district in the first place.

Much of Wynwood’s urban graffiti still stands but the artists responsible have most likely been displaced, and possibly face homelessness, in order to make way for artists who can attract Miami’s more hip alternative crowd.

Albelo’s events are often utilized by places like Wynwood Brewing Company to attract young, white patrons willing to spend money on the artsy Wynwood experience - which makes the original name for his beer tasting event all the more troubling.

Black Lives Matter is an organization that came as response to the acquittal of George Zimmerman in the shooting death of Trayvon Martin. Part of the movement’s mission statement is to bring to light “all the ways in which Black people are intentionally left powerless at the hands of the state.”

Forcing Black citizens out of their home for economic gain is definitely a way in which the community is intentionally left powerless. For Albelo to parody BLM for his event is not only in poor taste, but is a slap in the face to a community that was displaced to make way for the occasion.

The “Dark Beers Matter” controversy paired with the displacement of Wynwood’s Black community illustrates the need for Black Lives Matter.

It’s common knowledge that often, Black communities are the casualties of gentrification and systemic poverty. For their oppression to be the butt of someone’s joke or a catchy phrase proves that we still have a long way to go in addressing systemic oppression.

The greatest thing that is inviting, safe and thoughtful is that we are seeing these representations of those that we are seeing these diverse representations.

We are concerned, therefore, with the fact that we are seeing these diverse representations.

As students, we are even more invested in the ability for students to express themselves. We are concerned, therefore, with the state of free speech here at FIU.

The Foundation for Individual Rights in Education classifies universities across the country as one of three colors - green, yellow and red - to indicate the level at which their policies fluoride free speech for students.

According to the FIRE website, green light schools are those which “university’s policies do not seriously impede speech.” Yellow light schools are those whose policies restrict a more limited amount of protected expression or, by virtue of their vague wording, could too easily be used to restrict protected expression; red, the worst classification, are those with “at least one policy that both clearly and substantially restricts freedom of speech.”

The University has received a yellow rating, due to vague wording within the Board of Trustees Regulations that allows for administration to arbitrarily apply restrictions.

The regulation in question is in regards to student held demonstrations and protests - more importantly that on campus, students must apply for free speech permits.

This is troubling, mainly because our speech can be restricted and deemed inappropriate and written regulations are in place to support such accusations, regardless of whether or not the accusations have substantial standing.

If a demonstration is expected to have more than 30 people, then students must apply to have it, providing at least two days notice to the University. Any spontaneous demonstration that takes place on campus is to be disbanded if more than 30 people join the protests.

We should not have to apply for something that is a given right. There is also no way of guaranteeing how many people would be at a free speech demonstration.

To require an application can make the process drawn out an unappealing, resulting in less student expression.

When love wins it’s ‘inviting, safe and thoughtful’

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“When love wins” was a concurrent theme when same-sex marriage became legal nationwide in late June. It was a triumphant day for those who were part of the LGBT community. I saw this day as a country moving forward.

The legalization of same sex marriage happened sooner than many expected. Many thought it would be another ten years at least before same-sex marriage was legalized. It was reported via the Washington post that people were mainly searching for arguments against same sex marriage up until 2008.

Then in 2008, there began a decline in those against same sex marriage and an increase in those in favor of it. So with gay marriage finally legalized, the masses would think the LGBT community has reached their ultimate goal but the LGBT community still has a lot more work to do in educating the masses and bridging more acceptance in the LGBT community.

It’s amazing that a same-sex couple no longer has to travel halfway across the nation, or to another state, just to ensure the legalization of their union that is a blessing within itself.

We see the struggle of the acceptance of the LGBT community and same sex marriage in the mass media. Marriage License Clerk Kim Davis, who refused to issue a marriage license to a same-sex couple. Uprouse grew as news of her arrests hit the airwaves and the media.

Those within the LGBT community seemed to be in favor of Davis’s arrest while those within religious and spiritual communities were opposed to it. Davis should have been fired but was not arrested - rather the job is to issue marriage licenses. Her arrest brings about a question about how truly accepting people are of same-sex marriage and the LGBT community.

A lot of those who may have opposing viewpoints towards same-sex marriage and the LGBT community may not have seen a huge variety of positive representations about that community. So many could be said for those of differing minority racial groups who may have certain instilled viewpoints about other racial groups.

As a black man in America, I couldn’t tell you how many times I’ve been treated like the LGBT community by White people because I talk proper.”

Such statements as those mentioned expose the type of ignorance some people may have regarding certain minority groups. It’s not their fault as they haven’t seen either enough positive or varying representations of those respective communities.

The greatest thing that is happening today is that we are seeing these diverse representations.

What we are seeing is an understanding of coexisting with the two worlds.

A world, where those who are a part of the LGBT community no longer have to feel scared, ashamed or threatened but can now be a part of a world that is inviting, safe and thoughtful to the needs of itself and those around it.

The opinions presented within this page do not represent the views of any other individuals or departments, and reflect individual perspectives of contributing writers and/or members of the University community.
**Fat: food moderation’s unsung hero**

**SDA Health**

When talking about fat, most people are typically just concerned with their own body fat percentage or not eating something too “fatty.” However, what people tend to forget is that fat can be a beautiful thing.

Now I’m not talking about accepting people for who they are, or trying to scrape a touching subject.

I’m talking about what fat actually does for the body and how it can be a good thing in the nutritional sense.

Being able to understand what you put in your body gives someone some actual control in their lives.

For fat itself, let’s not make it complicated, but let’s understand what the basic types of fats are and what they actually mean for your body.

Everyone knows about the omega-3’s (unsaturated fats), the saturated and trans fats and which ones you should typically stay away from. One type of fat people tend to forget or just don’t worry too much about, are the omega-6s.

Now remember the body needs some of each, some more than others, but typically a good mix of them all, except the trans fats.

Omega-3 fats help the body with inflammation, shutting the fat out to decrease inflammation and can typically be found in fish proteins.

Omega-6 fats help give the body the tools to grow and help with brain function, as well as increase inflammation. They can be found in legumes and vegetables. Saturated fats help more on a hormonal level and increasing inflammation, but you don’t want to take in too many of those. The saturated fats are associated with red meat.

Trans fats have no practical benefits for the body’s function and can create more inflammation that can lead to diseases and conditions that could potentially put your life at risk. Definitely stay away from those.

Now, knowing what each type of fat does, here comes the fun part: food! Pairing your food up will give the best combination to get all the fat your body needs.

When pairing up food correctly, your performance from the gym to everyday activities can be maximized, feeling happy and healthy all day.

Finding that balance can be a little tricky sometimes, but the good ol’ phrase, “everything in moderation,” is always the best way to keep track with how much you put in your body.

Most importantly, actually love the food you’re eating and love your body.

SDA Health is a weekly column written by the Student Dietetic Association and published on Wednesdays. Each column is written to inform the University community about health. Email life@fiusm.com to suggest a health topic.
Hip-hop is a genre that proves flexible in drawing inspiration from other genres and styles of music. With so many variations within hip-hop and rap, such as Old School East Coasts Boom Bap vs West Coast bass funk hip-hop, Gangster Rap, Trap, Trip-Hop, spoken word, political, etc., some subgenres get more attention than others, and in hip-hop especially no other subgenre gets less attention than Christian rap.

Local Miami rapper Lamont is within the minority of rappers that chooses to promote and inspire listeners by incorporating their religion into their music as he did with his new album, “Respect My Grind.”

The initial track, “Disclaimer,” helps set the tone for what “Respect My Grind” will be like as a listening experience. Lamont also shows some self-reflexivity about his own work in the first-track telling the listener, “I’m a rapper not a pastor,” and that his style is “clean and mean” which is an appropriate brief description for Lamont’s style. The “clean” in Lamont’s music is in his refrain to curse in his songs compared to most known hip-hop artists, while the “mean” shows itself in his aggressive tone when rapping and through the instrumental productions.

Lamont’s rap persona shows most in “Lord Knows,” where he narrates a tragedy involving a mother losing her son, and while normally songs with the theme of loss involve instrumentation with a low tempo, “Lord Knows” had the production of what some would call a “banger.” It’s easy to see this track being inspired by something like “Jesus Walks” by Kanye West. The title track is another song with aggressive delivery and the kind of production one could imagine Big K.R.I.T. appearing on.

While Lamont recognizes struggles and makes it known to his listeners, he also celebrates life in the album’s third song, “Another Year,” and expresses his faith and belief in the afterlife towards the end of the song where he anticipates seeing those he knew again after death.

In terms of content, there’s a different focus on each song even while they all have a similar bass heavy beat to them. Lamont is relatable, both as an artist and as a human being, and does not force his personal views on his listeners through music but is simply entertaining. This is the approach that helps make “Respect My Grind” an accessible project whether you’re a Christian hip-hop or not.

Local rapper Lamont’s EP “Respect My Grind” inspires listeners with clean beats and a celebration of life with his lyrics.

Moe’z cuisine provides foodie-list checkmark

Miami Symphony opens season

Miami Symphony Orchestra began their 27th season on Sunday, Oct. 4. MISO’s lead conductor, Edudardo Marturet, lead the audience through three symphonies opening with Franz Schubert’s “Unfinished”; followed by the world premiere of “Echoes” and closing the night with Johannes Brahms’ Symphony No. 4.

Each piece was played perfectly; a smaller orchestra composed of mostly strings began the performance with an ominous but mighty introduction of Schubert’s “Unfinished.” Schubert’s “Unfinished” was filled with wonderful string solos, which ranged from powerful to pleasant.

The most memorable piece of the night was the world premiere of resident composer, Grammy award winner Tulio Crespinis’ “Echoes.” The symphony required a full orchestra unlike “Unfinished,” “Echoes” was a mighty journey. A symphony that would accompany an awe-inspiring journey. A symphony that would accompany an awe-inspiring journey. A symphony that would accompany an awe-inspiring journey. A symphony that would accompany an awe-inspiring journey. A symphony that would accompany an awe-inspiring journey. A symphony that would accompany an awe-inspiring journey. A symphony that would accompany an awe-inspiring journey. A symphony that would accompany an awe-inspiring journey.

Johannes Brahms’ “Symphony No. 4,” concluded the night with Johannes Brahms’ Symphony No. 4. A mighty journey. A symphony that would accompany an awe-inspiring journey. A symphony that would accompany an awe-inspiring journey. A symphony that would accompany an awe-inspiring journey. A symphony that would accompany an awe-inspiring journey.

Unbeknownst to us, there was a massive Jeep club that hung out inside and outside the Moe’z parking lot. Many played music through their large stereo as they showed off their monster truck sized wheels and some stayed inside the restaurant to eat and drink.

Obviously, there had to be something special about Moe’z for all these people to flock here on a Sunday.

When I walked in, the décor was nothing fancy. With white walls, simple brown chairs and tables and TV screens, this place doesn’t scream “Colombian food and culture,” but that doesn’t mean much.

However, the environment was exciting. With all the different types of people in the Jeep club, there was a mix of “old and young” throughout the guests.

SYMPHONY NIGHTS

DAIRIO SANTOS

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Every bite was layered with flavor and although it wasn’t the healthiest meal, it was definitely tasty.

My mom’s meal was light with the crisp salad and the carnitas was well seasoned with salt and pepper and tasted a lot like mojo.

Even though we were both stuffed to our famous fried double stuffed orros, I will definitely come back to try their different dishes.

Moe’z Express is surely a joint to go after a night of drinking or partying, just make sure to arrive on an empty stomach because their servings are huge!

I can now officially cross Colombian food off my foodie list!
MEN'S SOCCER

Panthers winning streak ends with loss to 49ers

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The University's men’s soccer team (7-3-0, 2-1-0 in Conference USA) was shutout by the University of Charlotte in a 1-0 defeat on Saturday, Oct. 3.

The frustrating loss for the Panthers, in which they failed to score on 15 shots on goal, snapped their seven-game winning streak and perfect home record. The Panthers’ first half play reflected that of earlier in the season – slow to start. Even though Head Coach Calabrese said there was “absolutely zero chance” that they underestimated the Owls, the Panthers struggled to maintain possession and create chances early in the match. “Charlotte in particular is very direct; they press you, they give you very little time in space and ball and fired a strike that reflected off of the crossbar and into the Panthers’ net to put Charlotte up 1-0.” In the second half, the Panthers wasted no time feeding the ball to junior, Jamar Campion-Hinds. The Charlotte defense, however, was prepared; when Campion-Hinds attempted to move the ball down the right line, three 49ers defenders would meet him and neutralized the Panthers’ best chance to get a quality cross into the box.

Although Campion-Hinds’ typically tremendous second half impact was reduced, the Panthers still had plenty of chances to provide an equalizer – they outshot Charlotte 13-5 in the second half. Many of these shots simply found the foot of a Charlotte defender or rebounded off of the 49ers’ crossbar. FIU’s frustration became evident when they received three yellow cards in this half.

“The frustration came from that we like to be able to move the ball through the lines and play a certain style, and Charlotte does not permit you to play this style,” said Calabrese. “The Panthers will return to action on the University of Alabama at Birmingham on Saturday, Oct. 10.”

WOMEN'S SOCCER

Women’s soccer has a wireless weekend

SANTIAGO ARCHERI
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FIU women’s soccer went 0-2 this weekend after a 4-2 loss to the Rice University Owls and a 1-0 loss to the University of North Texas Mean Green.

After a 2-0 start last weekend in their first conference games, the Panthers looked to carry the momentum heading into Houston against Rice for their first matchup of the road trip. Rice was coming off a cold stretch, dropping four of their past five games before welcoming FIU.

The Owls made sure not to waste any time when the game started as they found the back of the net in just the second minute of the game.

The lead wouldn’t last thanks to reigning Conference USA offensive player of the week, Scarlet Monteoya, who scored their third goal of the season to tie the game up in the 19th minute.

Two minutes later, Madeleine Lundberg of the Owls would regain the lead for her team and the one goal difference was the closest FIU would be for the rest of the game.

Rice scored two goals in the first 13 minutes of the second half to build a 4-1 advantage over the Panthers.

Ellen Crist scored in the 60th minute for FIU, but that would be the final goal of the game and the Panthers fell 4-2.

The game marked the first loss in conference play for FIU, which was shutout 15-7 by the Owls, and dropped the Panthers to a .500 record on the season.

Unfortunately, the weekend would not get any better for the squad when FIU traveled to play the North Texas Mean Green in their last matchup of the weekend.

The game was off to a close start when both teams played up to their defensive abilities, as neither team registered a goal in the first half.

But this meant that the Panthers’ defensive problems continued and the Mean Green had more than twice as many shots as the Panthers at the end of the first half.

Rachel Holden of North Texas broke the tie in the 73rd minute and the Mean Green took a 1-0 lead in the game. FIU started to pick up the pace in the final 15 minutes, but it was to no avail as North Texas left with the win.

After two losses over the weekend, FIU has a conference record of 2-2 and dropped to 6-7-0 overall in the season.

The Panthers are 2-0 in their conference when they play at home and their next game is a conference game against the University of Southern Mississippi on Friday, Oct. 9 at 7 p.m. at the FIU soccer stadium.

FIU loses key game to UMass in ugly fashion

JAMES TAYLOR

FIU had quite possibly their worst loss in over a year on Saturday, Oct. 3. Prior to this weekend, they were an improving team looking to be above 500 with what many thought was a realistic shot to compete in Conference USA. Now, there are doubts that this team will even find themselves playing in a Bowl Game at the end of the season.

This drastic change in the direction of the team came after the Panthers (2-3) dropped their final nonconference game of 2015 against the University of Massachusetts Minutemen (1-3) by a score of 24-14. Yes, THAT University of Massachusetts.

The program that, before defeating FIU, had only won five games since joining the FBS.

To the Minutemen’s credit, they’ve improved a lot over the past couple seasons and they were quite frankly the better team on both sides of the ball this weekend. FIU didn’t have an answer for former Marshall University quarterback Blake Frohnapfel and the stout UMass defense didn’t allow the FIU offense to move the ball whatsoever.

I would give you my keys to why FIU lost the game, but there are honestly too many to list. Saying UMass outplayed the Panthers is a huge understatement; they dominated the game from start to finish. Other than FIU winning the turnover battle 2-0, UMass owned basically every aspect of the game and the

statistics show that.

The main stat that really jumps out at you is that UMass outgained the Panthers 495-188. That’s over 300 more total yards on offense than FIU! Given how much the Minutemen outperformed FIU, the Panthers are lucky they only lost this game by 10 points. The chilly New England weather certainly played a role in the loss, but this game is nothing like a bowl game.

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FOOTBALL

Major issues in Panther’s game against UMass

PETE’S PICKS

Nothing went the way the Panthers wanted as they struggled against the winless University of Massachusetts Minuteman.

After losing two straight on the road, what went wrong in this game other than the cloudy and windy Massachusetts weather? Why couldn't they beat a winless team? Why couldn't they score more points? Why are we one game below .500 after a 2-1 start?

Penalties

It was quite clear that the penalties played a huge role for both teams as they combined for 20 total penalties for 183 total yards. The Panthers had 111 yards alone, which is ironic considering Head Coach Ron Turner stressed his team needs to play disciplined football.

In the Panthers’ defense, in the first half of the game, the Miners kept things close; however, Senior, Gloria Levorin, answered for UMass’s Offense

Answers for UMass’s Offense

UMass's starting quarterback Blake Frohnapfel threw for 363 yards and three touchdowns. His biggest issue was the Frohnapfel’s weapons, including wide receiver Tajae Sharpe. Sharpe had a career high 15 catches for 159 yards and one touchdown.

He was Frohnapfel’s go-to target for making first downs. Marken Michel also had a big game finishing with seven catches for 113 yards and two touchdowns.

Offense A Non Factor

Panthers’ offense struggled against UMass’s defense and only recorded 188 total yards. In the first half, offense couldn’t move the ball or find a way to get in the scoring position. Even when the defense made some good plays and only giving UMass 17 points, the Panthers couldn’t keep the momentum going, only putting up 7 points in the first half.

Their best drive was in the third quarter when they tried to make a comeback after a fumble recovery by the defense.

Starting quarterback Alex McGough struggled the whole game by throwing under pressure and not getting in sync with his receiver. The offense had a 62 yard drive which led to a one yard touchdown by sophomore running back Alex Gardner and only trailing by a field goal.

James Gardner led the team in the rushing and receptions; he had 17 carries for 59 yards and one touchdown.

The team had a slight lineup incorporation, Friesen, and fellow freshman, Dominique Dodd. The idea here is the setters only set when they are in the back row, giving them three front row hitters to utilize.

“IT’S a different lineup, a different set up and seems to work better”, Buck-Crockett said. The Panthers looked to conclude their weekend with a positive note as they hosted University of Texas at El Paso on Sunday, Oct. 4. The team defeated the Miners in straight sets with scores of 25-19, 25-13 and 25-23 to improve their record to 10-6 (4-2 C-USA).

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With this win, the team continues its perfect play at home against conference opponents.

The Panthers started the match with intensity, posting 18 kills and a .406 hitting percentage and only allowing the Miners to hit .143. UTEP struggled hitting the ball even more in the second set, finishing with a hitting percentage of .000. In the final set, the Miners kept things close; however, Senior, Gloria Levorin, helped the team complete the sweep with seven kills down the stretch.

Sophomore, Brianna Gogins, finished the match with 10 kills and a .625 hitting percentage. Castro led the team with 11 kills and Friesen and Dodd combined for 39 assists. As a team, the Panthers tallied 50 kills and only 13 errors and held the Miners to a .132 hitting percentage and 17 errors.

These two games mark the halfway point for the Panther’s current homestand. On Tuesday, Oct. 6, Florida Gulf Coast University will travel to FIU for a non-conference game and on Friday, Oct. 9, the team will host University of North Carolina at Charlotte.

PETE HOLLAND JR.

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The team was led by Hogan, who totaled a career-high 19 kills. Hogan also finished with three blocks, three aces, and a .531 hitting percentage. Senior, Lucia Castro, and sophomore, Jennifer Ene combined for 25 kills, freshman, Katie Friesen, collected 30 assists and Senior, Adriana Mc Lamb, had a team-high 25 digs.

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FIU joins efforts to conserve federally endangered species

YOEVULYN RODRIGUEZ
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Environmental science research at the FIU Tropical Conservation Institute are working to prevent the extinction of a small bird that inhabits the ambiguous prairies of central Florida. The Florida Grasshopper Sparrow population, a federally endangered bird found nowhere else in the world, continues to decline in FIU, according to Audubon Florida, an organization dedicated to conserving and restoring natural ecosystems. The University, with the Rare Species Conservation Foundation, a non-governmental organization that seeks to “address the critical issues driving wildlife to extinction,” according to the TCI’s website, “TCI is a wonderful marriage between FIU and an international conservation NGO,” said Paul Reillo, who co-directs TCI along Michael Maudner, associate dean of FIU’s College of Arts and Sciences. The NGO was founded 25 years ago by Reillo. The partnership is not only meant to broaden the work that conservation biologists are doing, but it is also meant to help train the next generation of conservation scientists. At the beginning of the 20th Century, the sparrow’s population was widespread in the sub-central Florida area. But in the early 1980s, a survey conducted by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service revealed that only 250 adult birds were counted during a period of four years. Based on the information generated by this survey, USFWS listed the sparrow as an endangered species in 1986. USFWS said that the principal reason for this decline is habitat loss or degradation. A number of programs have been developed and implemented to help manage the sparrow’s natural habitat decline, like the Fire Regime Program and the Invasive Species Eradication Program said Reillo. But the sparrow’s population continued to decline. “We simply do not know precisely what is driving the downward trend in populations,” said Reillo. “But [we] believe that multiple factors are working in concert,” Reillo has been working on the development of a captive-breeding program for the past three years, due to the request by the USFWS. The captive-breeding program is part of the overall recovery effort. The program features a working group of 35 science professionals from different disciplines in the field, helping in the development of a recovery plan to aid the sparrow. Some animals rights groups, like People for the Ethical Treatment of Animals, consider captive-breeding as a controversial topic. But some students applaud Reillo’s approach, calling it “novel” and “ingenious”. “He is one of the first people doing this [work] within this species,” said David Riera, a graduate student in marine biology at the University. “He is actually pioneering the methods.” Riera said that most people believe species are released into the wild after being in captivity and then forgotten. He thinks the majority of people aren’t aware that captive-breeding programs account for a process of reintroduction into the wild. “It’s been difficult for a lot of students to understand that everything the institute does is ethical.” Riera is aware of the controversy of captive-breeding and said that “looking at what the institute does is ethical.” “You can imagine that there is a lot of scientific debate as to what would be the best way forward,” said Reillo. “What we do here at TCI and RSCP is to make sure that our positions are scientifically defensible, that they are ethical.”

University receives additional first generation funds

University of Florida

University receives additional first generation funds

Alex Harris
TNS Staff

Jessica Pintado began Florida International University unsure of herself academically and professionally. A first-generation college student, Pintado, 23, started at a disadvantage. She didn’t know much about applying for scholarships, managing her time or finding a research position. She couldn’t afford tutoring. But now, Pintado is researching HIV through a post-graduate program at Mount Sinai Hospital in New York, and she credits her success to FIU’s Student Support Services program. The program, developed to help low-income, first-generation college students navigate college, recently renewed its funding with a $1.1 million five-year grant from the U.S. Department of Education as part of its TRIO program for disadvantaged students. FIU’s Student Support Services (SSS) Program aims to increase college retention & graduation rates. Pintado is one of 770 students served by the program since it began in 1997. In her four years at FIU, she met with her adviser monthly, received free tutoring and networked her way into the university, scholarships and graduate programs she said she’d never dreamed of attending. “I felt a sense of relief when I got accepted, but it really hit me four or five months into the program when I started seeing changes in my grades,” she said. “It was great having them there, really understand my struggle and catch me when I’m slipping.” Jeanette Cruz, program director, said the target student for SSS is a first-generation college student – the first in a family to attend college – with demonstrated low income who struggles academically. “We’re looking for students for whom this program makes a difference,” she said. “That’s where the program has the most impact.” Low-income students earn bachelor’s degrees at an average rate of 21 percent, as compared with 45 percent for high-income students, according to the Council for Opportunity in Education. Without guidance from programs like SSS, Cruz said many students drop out of school. “We are very intentional and intrusive in what we do,” she said. SSS exists to fill in the cracks for students from a less privileged background than some of their college peers, she said. First-generation students may lack family members to guide them through their college experience, Cruz said, or they may have gone to disadvantaged schools that didn’t prioritize study skills. As for Pintado, her future may hold an MD, or even an Ph.D with a focus on her passion – public health. Either way, she said, she intends to find a way to give back to the community and pass on the help she received in her career journey.