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 worldwide to 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 accounting 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, the CRPs. The Climate Talks in December to ensure we get a strong 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. Concerned Scientists. “If we can’t solve these talks with a strong agreement then other countries like China, India, etc will,” she said.

“It’s our future at risk.”

There was also a discussion on climate with students, researchers and the chief executive officer of CRP in SIPA. They talked about the local impacts of climate change, and the University’s solutions to stop climate change.

Ken Berlin, CRP CEO, spoke with four graduate students and the University’s Age of Aquarius Club who are doing environmental research.

Daniel Crowder, a biomedical engineering graduate student, moved from San Francisco, California, and he said he was surprised by how little people care about climate change in Miami.

Miami has the fourth-largest population vulnerable to sea-level rise in the world, according to the World Resources Institute.

“Miami is really vulnerable to the effects of climate change, and I was struck by how little people really care,” said Crowder.

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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 academies 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 years, 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 at FIU,” said Tsalikis.

“Other plans include opening teaching academies in other high schools. The COE faculty and students, under Tsalikis’ lead, will begin to show presence at the academy to create “interaction, network and skills” among the high school students.

Tsalikis said many of her students have signed up to volunteer for the academy and hope the number keeps growing.

“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 be coordinated into the curriculum.”

Daniele Rodriguez, a senior early childhood development, is optimistic about the success and what it has to provide to high school students.

“I think it’s cool, it’s good to get kids involved in high school,” she said. “I went to Reagan and they were highly involved in my college decisions. I think it would be effective if students are really into it and are passionate.”

Xiu Yuan, a graduate student at the COE, is also supportive about the academy.

“I think it’s a good idea because I think most teenagers do not really know what they want to do for college,” said Yuan. “I think their chance to learn some educational theories and skills will help have a foresight of what’s to come for them. They will have a general idea of this path.”

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 from the college.

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

The Kappa Delta Pi 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.

“This 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.
University improves student-advisor ratio

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Kris Guzman said he has to wait two hours to meet with an academic advisor after making an appointment.

“I definitely have to make an appointment,” said Guzman, a sophomore 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 add however many [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 percentage 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 in a fall term, or summer continuing to fall and graduate from the same university within six years.

Andrews said the numbers fluctuate based on the total number of “active students,” which includes students who have enrolled at some point in the past three semesters.

The University’s strategic plan, “FIUBeyondPossible2020,” 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 goes for both majors and non-majors, or as Andy Ullrich, former advisor, said in a short essay, “Advising is like counseling. It’s an open door to a student’s heart.”

BRIEFS

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 fresh-snap graduates 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 to this year, has triggered much debate at other UC campuses and high schools around the state about the value of such letters.

Virgin America teams with Netflix for binge watching at 30,000 feet

Fans of “House of Cards” and “Orange Is the New Black” can now catch up on their favorite series while flying on Virgin America. The Burlingame, Calif.-based airline has announced a partnership with Netflix to let members of the on-demand media provider watch movies and shows, free for the first two hours on the airline’s two new A320 jets, equipped with high-speed, satellite-based wireless Internet. The airline expects to have the service available on a total of 10 new A320 jets by next year.

The complaints, both dismissed or repealed, are among the efforts at suppressing criticism of Israel on college campuses, claim Palestine Legal and the Center for Constitutional Rights in a report released Wednesday, Sept. 30.
‘Dark Beers Matter’ spurs controversy

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On Sept. 30, organizers for Miami’s Grovetoberfest 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 Black Lives Matter movement in place of a free speech message. The page also posted a picture of a dark beer from Wynwood Brewing Company on Monday, Oct. 5, but due to immediate backlash via social media the brewery decided not to host the event and claimed they were initially unaware of the controversial name.

In response to criticism and threats to boycott the event, Dark Beers Matter was renamed and a lengthy apology was issued through the Grovetoberfest 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 one has 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 grows more popular as Miami’s “art district,” the area’s Black community is forced to migrate out as they are unable to afford Wynwood’s rising property prices. 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 potential 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. The festival announced the name of one of its events in support of a cause that is often ignored.

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 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.

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 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 scratch a touchy 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 fat), 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 much of those. The saturated fats are associated with red meats.

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 which 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.
Beacon Bites is a weekly column published on Wednesdays. Each meal reviewed is paid for by the columnist, from a restaurant within a few miles of either campus; email life@fiusm.com to suggest a restaurant for.

Moe’z Express is surely a joint worth visiting. The vibe is easygoing and welcoming with a laid-back atmosphere. The menu offers a diverse selection of options, both meat and vegetarian, and the service is friendly and attentive. The food is well-prepared and flavorful, making it a great choice for anyone looking for a casual dining experience. I highly recommend checking out Moe’z Express for a unique and delicious culinary adventure.}

**JOHNATHON BRUNACHE**
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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 personas 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 instrumental 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 Jay Z. 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 his listeners with this approach that helps make “Respect My Grind” an accessible project whether you’re into Christian hip-hop or not.

**GABBY ARZOLA**

**SYMPHONY NIGHTS**
By Dario Santos

Miami Symphony Orchestra began their 27th season on Sunday, Oct. 4. MISO’s lead conductor, Eduard 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 Cresminis’ “Echoes.” The symphony required a full orchestra unlike “Unfinished,” “Echoes” was a mighty journey. A symphony that would accompany an epic tale, the percussion instruments set the tone for the piece. A loud “bravo!” was heard from the top balcony as a concertgoer applauded the piece.

Johannes Brahms’ “Symphony No. 4,” concluded a successful season opener. MISO. A symphony composed of four with a variety of emotions. The third movement was perhaps the most memorable as it was the most powerful and emotional, it demanded the audience’s attention.

Fellow concertgoers raved about “Echoes” going as far as calling it “the best symphony of the night.” The night ended with a standing ovation for the orchestra and Maestro Marturet. If Sunday was any indication of what we can expect this season, Miami is in for a treat with such a wonderful orchestra in the heart of the city.

**MIAMI SYMPHONY OPENS SEASON**
By Dario Santos

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Symphony Nights is a weekly column published on Wednesdays. To suggest a symphony event, email life@fiusm.com

**GABBY ARZOLA**

**Moe’z cuisine provides foodie-list checkmark**
By Gabby Arzola

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**Miami Symphony opens season**

By Dario Santos

With Miami’s diverse culinary community, you can find just about any kind of food on the infamous Calle Ocho.

On Sunday, Oct. 4 my mom and I decided to go to a Colombian restaurant called Moe’z Express across the street from MMC.

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.

With everyone’s rugged aesthetic, with their biker jackets and wearing all Black, Moe’z almost seemed like a bikers bar.

Because my mom and I have never tried Colombian fast food, it took us a while to figure out what to order. When browsing the menu, Moe’z has a pretty unique selection—most of which I have never even seen before.

Burgers with quesos fritos (fries and cheese), quasadillas, steak, salchipapas (French fries with hot dogs), maicito (sweet corn kernels mixed in with cheese and sauce, and a type of protein), hot dogs and even Paleo friendly options.

My mom got the Miami Chop with carnita frita (shredded beef), salad and guac. I opted for the less healthy route and ordered Maicito Chicken Mini-Wraps.

When our food came, I was drooling.

My mom’s meal was colorful and fresh. With the green lettuce, juicy red tomatoes and fresh carnita right off the grill, the smell was smoky and meaty.

The smoky smell took me back to when I was a kid and my family and I had weekly barbecues outside.

My maicito mini-wrap was filled to the brim with crunchy potato chips and smothered with sauce. As I bit into the wrap, there was an extreme crunch from the chips that overwhelmed my mouth.

At first, all I tasted were the salty fried chips and the flour tortilla, then I was hit with a sweet flavor of corn kernels. As I continued to chew, I tasted the seasoned chicken bits and finally I savored the smooth and cheesy notes of the melted mozzarella cheese.

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 homemade.

Even though we were both too stuffed to get their 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!

**BEACON BITES**
By Gabby Arzola

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I can now officially cross Colombian food off my foodie list!
Panthers winning streak ends with loss to 49ers

DAVID DRUCKER
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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 49ers, 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 49er 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.

FOOTBALL

FIU loses key game to UMass in ugly fashion

JAYSON TAKES

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 at least a minor role in this, but there’s no logical reason for a team with as many talented players on offense or defense to give up 24 points.

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Women’s soccer has a wireless weekend

SANTIAGO ARCHIERI
Contributing Writer

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 Montoya, 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.

Elfen 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, who was outshot 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 17 minutes, but it wasn’t 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.
Panthers start off homestand with two wins

The women’s volleyball team was back in action at home after a tough two-game road trip, in which it lost both games against Rice University and Western Kentucky University. On Friday, Oct. 2, the Panthers hosted Marshall University. The Thundering Herd came into the game with an impressive record of 11-6 (2-1 C-USA).

Losing four of their last five games, the Panthers needed to use the home crowd to their advantage. They did exactly that, beating Marshall 3-1 with scores of 25-17, 26-24, 20-25, and 25-18, improving their record to 9-6 (3-2 C-USA).

Head Coach, Rita Buck-Crockett said, “I’m really happy with the win. Marshall is a very good team.”

The Panthers won the first two sets, the second being close, containing several lead changes and ties. Marshall bounced back in the third set, but Junior, Katie Hogan, propelled the team and helped finish off the Thundering Herd.

Buck-Crockett said, “I think we are establishing our identity as a power team and every week we are getting better and better.”

The team was led by Hogan, who tallied 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 McLamb, had a team-high 25 digs.

The team had a slight lineup change in which two setters were incorporated, 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). 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 Minors 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 Leveorin, 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 Minors 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.

Major issues in Panther’s game against UMass

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 out as well and was replaced by Jephete Wilkenson Myrtil were missing from the game due to injuries. 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.

During the Panther’s game against UMass’s defense, 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’ defense 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. Gardner led the team in the rushing and receptions; he had 17 carries for 59 yards and one touchdown. Now at 2-3 overall, the rest of the Panthers’ games are all in their conference. Already 0-1 in Conference-USA, they will now focus on their second home game against University of Texas at El Paso. The game is this Saturday, Oct. 10, at noon.

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 Miners had 111 yards alone, which is ironic considering Head Coach, Ron Turner stressed his team needs to play disciplined football.

Coach Ron Turner stressed his team needs to play disciplined football. For example, late in the first quarter on third down the Miners wanted 14 on third, but the Panthers had 3 and 18 on third. The referees made a couple of questionable calls against the Panthers. For example, late in the first quarter on third down the Miners wanted 14 on third, but the Panthers had 3 and 18 on third. The referees made a couple of questionable calls against the Panthers.
Everglades bike trail: safe path or harmful plan?

DAVID FLESHLER
TNS Staff

A proposal for a 76-mile paved bike path through the Everglades has run into trouble, with growing opposition from an unusually broad group that includes hunters, environmentalists and residents of the Miccosukee villages along the route.

The Naples Pathway Coalition, the bicycling group that had originally proposed the project, has dropped its involvement. Instead a separate non-profit group has been created, called Friends of the Naples Pathway, 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 Mauer, associate dean of FIU’s College of Arts and Sciences.

The NGO was founded 25 years ago by Reillo. Initially, 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 conservationists. At the beginning of the 20th Century, the sparrow’s population was widespread in the sub-central Florida area. But by the early 1960’s, 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 1988.

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. Programs 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 requests 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 species.

Some animals rights groups, like People for the Ethical Treatment of Animals, consider captive-breeding controversial topic.

But some students applaud Reillo’s approach, calling it “novel” and “ingenious”.

“He is one of the first people doing this [work] with 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 reintegration into the wild.

“I think the benefits to conferences, scholarships and graduate study and stop its decline, like 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.

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Barbara Pazos, a graduate student in environmental science, thinks that the necessity to use the methods of breeding endangered species in captivity depends on the species at hand.

“Sometimes there is no way for certain species to survive on its own,” said Pazos. “They do need to be managed in a way.”

Reillo is aware of the controversy of captive-breeding and said that the project makes a difference.

“You can imagine that there’s some scientific debate as to what would be the best way forward,” said Reillo. “What we do at TCI and RSCF is to make sure that our positions are scientifically defendable, that they are ethical.”

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 the five years at FIU, she met with her adviser monthly, received free tutoring and networked her way into graduate school opportunities, 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 to 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 MD with a Ph.D. with a focus on her passion – public health.

“We’re very intentional and intrusive in what we do,” she said.

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.