Drugs referrals at the University are more than doubled from 2012 to 2014, according to the Annual Campus Safety and Security Report by the FIU police department.

On Wednesday, Sept. 30, FIUPD released the report for 2014, which details information about campus security and personal safety with different topics, including crime, fire safety and disciplinary procedures, among other things.

Drugs referrals were one of the highest increases in the report, with 49 referrals in 2012 and 138 referrals in 2014 -- the major increase occurring in the Madonna A. Maidique Campus housing facilities. FIUPD Chief of Police Alexander Casas attributes the increase to the influx of students and the University’s yearly expansion.

“It’s not an epidemic that this increase, along with the increase in normal for this campus,” he said. “Our population has grown a lot since 2012, and it’s normal that more cases are going to be reported because of high enrollment.”

From 2012 to 2014, the University added 3,442 students, according to the Common Data Set for the University. Casas thinks that this increase, along with the increase in normal for this campus, has a lot to do with the referral numbers.

“Most of it is in housing and, with the opening of Parkview, that’s another 600 residents. It’s a good number,” said Casas. “Not all the residents in the dorms are smoking, but it’s a big increase in our school population, and it’s an increase in enrollment. Those numbers are not atypical of a campus this size.”

The University currently contains six housing halls, which are homes to 3,182 students in total. Parkview, its newest housing building, can hold up to 596 residents alone.

The increase in referrals is also a combination of increased foot traffic and increased interactions and trainings between FIUPD and housing resident assistants, said Casas.

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The University quickly sent out a statement on social media that says the image was manipulated and that the headline does not reflect the values and beliefs of the University.

“It felt like the response was very quick. I don’t believe that the Media Relations team went about it the correct way,” said Efi Fynn-Obeng, African Student Organization president.

“The University found out from someone in their own office, a quick photo and then off we go,” said Santana-Bravo. “It’s difficult to say exactly how that happened because, obviously, we don’t know.”

Santana-Bravo said the website was not hacked. The University quickly sent out a statement on social media that says the image was manipulated and that the headline does not reflect the values and beliefs of the University.

“I felt that the response was very quick. I don’t believe that the Media Relations team went about it the correct way,” said Efi Fynn-Obeng, African Student Organization president.

“[This] happens, but how are we going about it? How are we going to address the situation and make sure that the students are not disgruntled?” said Fynn-Obeng, a senior communication arts and sociology double major.

The University needs to be more vigilant and pay close attention to social media, according to Santana-Bravo. She said it’s a matter of being aware to explain and counter future events.

The University found out about the image after someone shared it with Media Relations.

It is not known who the prankster is.

“The website was fine all along with the legitimate image and the legitimate headline. Everything was fine,” said Santana-Bravo. “It’s pretty impossible to tell who did it.”

It is not something that should be taken seriously, she said.

Students question whether the University’s statement made through social media was a way of silencing them.

“When is it that I can get a bunch of emails about parking and traffic, but you couldn’t send an email to the population to let them know that ‘we’re sorry,’” said Fynn-Obeng. “It just seems as though there was no effort put into it.”

“According to that if the University does not show a concern for black students and the black community, then it goes against its value of being world’s ahead.”

Randi Schuster, a FIU alumnus, said the University necessarily embraces being world’s ahead and the black community at FIU feels marginalized.

The Black Student Union and the Coalition of Black Organizational Leaders plan to meet with administration to discuss their position on the issue. They will ask for funding for the African and African Diaspora Studies program, mentorships, workshops and the current organizations, according to Perry-Paterson.

“You have to think about the lives that are at stake. This is not an entertainment. These are lives, real lives, religions and communities at stake,” Perry-Paterson said.

Additional reporting by Camila Fernandez and Krystal Pugh.
Google aims at Microsoft with offer to business customers

Google is offering new incentives in a bid to chip away at Microsoft’s hold on corporate America’s desktop. The Mountain View, Calif., company is offering businesses free use of Google’s suite of word processing, email and other productivity applications for the life of the businesses’ existing contract with another provider. Google is also offering to pay U.S. companies that switch to Google a portion of the cost of migrating their applications and data.

New credit card fraud protection creates confusion

The FBI took a step backward over the past week in the effort to combat credit card fraud.

First, the agency told consumers a week ago that new microchip-installed credit and debit cards designed to better thwart fraud might still be vulnerable. Don’t just sign your receipt, was the message of its initial warning. Use your PIN with the new chip cards because “these cards can still be targeted by fraud.”

Iraqi claims to have taken key oil facility, again

Iraqi security forces claimed to have taken control of most of the nearly completely destroyed oil refinery in the strategic central Iraqi city of Baiji, as a mix of army and militias continued to battle Islamic State forces to end a long struggle for the town. The Iraqi government has claimed multiple times before to have secured the facility, so the substance or durability of the gains cannot be established.

NATION & WORLD BRIEFS

Google offers Executive Internship Program

The University is offering an internship opportunity with Miami-Dade County’s Executive office. Through the Miami-Dade County Executive Internship Program, juniors and seniors get their first hand contact with county government, according to the University. In workshops and mentoring from senior management, students learn about county governance.

Workshop topics include policy formulation, public safety, transportation and neighborhood and infrastructure.

The program provides a 15-week internship opportunity for 20 selected students. Interns spend nearly 20 hours per week, and they are positioned under a department director.

Students also work on assigned team projects to propose solutions to County issues. To participate, students must have a 3.0 grade point average.

Through the University’s Office of Engagement, a professor or administrator will be in charge of all participating students, while the County assigns a program coordinator.

The two individuals will monitor and manage the program and identify and refer qualified applicants to the County from different departments.

Departments include the School of Journalism and Mass Communication, Engineering, Architecture, Public Health, College of Business and the School of International Public Affairs.

Past interns have been employed under the support of their fellow mentors, according to a past Beacon issue.

“The internship experience with Miami-Dade County was probably one of the most rewarding things I’ve done in my undergraduate career,” said Danielle Romero, a University alumna.

There will be one interview session with the program recruiter Thursday, Oct. 22 at noon in the Wolfe University Center Room 255. For more information, students can visit the Careers Service Office.

University talks drug use, numbers increase

When we become aware of someone who has had a violation of drugs, or any kind of substance use, we try to respond both in terms of the violations from the Code of Conduct and in terms of providing support and resources to that student,” she said.

This means that, when a student goes through the student conduct process, they’re also being referred to the University’s CaPS, said Akens.

“I think that the presence of drugs in our community impacts our campus community,” she said. “It’s not just the user who suffers, but it’s the people around that individual student as well.”

The referrals can sometimes lead to arrest, as was the case when three individuals were arrested for marijuana and cocaine possession last summer.

On the table in plain sight I could see a six pack of beer and a small green baggie with what appeared to be cocaine next to where [one of the offenders] were sitting,” said Waheed.

“Looking at all he’s done, one would think he is someone who is super agitated or always working beside him.”

But Waheed sees Gonzalez as the juxtaposition of relaxation and a high-octane lab is not just about learning the basics of research — it’s about applying what you learn. Are there opportunities for students to work on projects outside of the lab? How do professors encourage students to think critically and independently? Is there a culture of mentorship and support among faculty and students?

“I think that this is still very important to us, but the increase of these numbers shouldn’t be a concern for anybody in the community in terms of their personal safety.”

University alumnus leads ten year study

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University alumnus leads ten year study
Democrat candidates take on gun control

JOHN CERVERA
Contributing Writer
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Last week, Democratic presidential candidates squared off in a CNN-hosted debate in Las Vegas. However, the word “debate” may be misleading.

Democratic candidates Hillary Clinton, Bernie Sanders, Lincoln Chafee, Martin O’Malley and Jim Webb participated in a discussion that lacked the kind of entertaining political drama brought by the likes of Donald Trump. Rather, this was a subdued issues-based open forum.

In one of the more memorable moments of the night, Vermont Senator Bernie Sanders declared that no one wanted to hear Lincoln Chafee’s critique of the Democratic Party. Sanders, often deemed the most radical of the debate, attacked Chafee’s use of private e-mail servers during her tenure as Rhode Island’s governor. “I thought you would make a better secretary of state. The American people have enough of people willing to do that,” Sanders retorted.

A defensive Clinton repeated that her positions on the issue were shifting as she “absorbed information.” Cooper wasted no time in bringing up the issues and started with guns.

This was the height of the debate. America has a massacre problem. From the Sandy Hook tragedy to the killings in Oregon, a swath of school shootings occurring across the country over the past several years has generated furious discussions about firearms. The Democratic candidates have seemed to heed this call. The biggest taking point for candidates involved pushing the National Rifle Association, whose outsized influence in Washington and on politicians was widely attacked.

Clinton drew massive applause when she fiercely claimed it was “time to stand up to the NRA.” The group has long been on the side of gun control advocates, fighting them at every turn for even the slightest restrictions to guns.

Governor Martin O’Malley described “the shooting in the [American] heartland,” which it appears that “won’t keep guns from the hands of the wrong people.”

Clinton took this moment to critique the senator’s past with gun control advocates and mention her opposition to the Brady Bill. “I’m not prepared to fluster Sanders,” Lincoln Chafee even chimed in that the audience was “...looking at a political scheme and prunes the intransigence of the group on any gun control legislation.”

In the end, the debate did little to shake things up. Clinton remains the clear frontunner. Sanders remains on her heels with his democratic socialist rhetoric while O’Malley, Jim Webb and Chafee struggled in the polls. This reality and the novel nature of the debate brought by the kind of entertaining political drama brought by the likes of Donald Trump. Rather, this was a subdued issues-based open forum.

PHONE HOME

The Beacon -- 3
fiusm.com

Ways to handle mental health issues

LESLIE BLANCO
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I’m not writing this to convince anyone of anything. I am simply writing this from my own personal viewpoint as a reflection of my experience with anxiety and depression, as well as the journey that it took to heal through it all.

Anxiety and depression are prevalent in college environments. This is due to stress, drastic life events and genetics. College students are at a fragile age where they have a lot of pressure handed on them to figure out who they are and who they want to be. One mistake can determine your whole future.

Anxiety and Depression Association of America, anxiety disorders are one of the most common illnesses in the United States. It affects approximately 18 percent of the population nationwide and it costs the US more than $42 billion a year for treatment.

This is almost one-third of the $148 billion mental health bill total. Women are twice as much likely than men to be affected by panic disorders, anxiety, post-traumatic stress disorder and depression. Whether treatment occurs through medication or alternative methods, general anxiety and depression are treatable disorders.

Yet there is a stigma attached to depression and anxiety. Many people, even today, are insensitive to individuals affected. They mistake it as something that can be easily fixed. Healing takes time. Admittedly, I still encounter anxiety and depressive moods from time to time. However, I feel more in control now than I did a couple of years ago when I first encountered the illness. I’m certain that my personal experiences can help those who are suffering similarly.

I became emotionally, spiritually and physically sensitive over the past few years. A change of schools, new environment and changes in my family life contributed to the anxiety and depression I’ve developed.

I was born and raised in New York and grew up in Miami. I transferred to the University of Florida my sophomore year. Gainesville was a far cry from the diverse and metropolitan living environment that I was used to. Despite the surrounding nature, the school is the main focal point of the city.

That's why I can hardly any diversity and students were mostly between ages 18-24. Despite this, many of the students were motivated. I tried to emulate them. I tried to be active every morning and get straight As to be successful and feel relevant. The pressure was definitely there.

However, I joined one club that I enjoyed doing. The club members, and all love music. Our job was to get bands to the University to play shows. This was a creative endeavor that helped me stay true to who I was; someone who produces as an artist and a writer. I was not a consumer or a replica of a perfect straight A student.

How do I handle anxiety and depression differently now? I see depression as a person’s way of finding their niche and a sign to heal. Now a senior at FIU and graduating debt free, I don’t regret any part of my past.

My best advice would be to slow down and reassess your life. Do the things you love and that make you happy. Remember to always surround yourself with people who love and support you. Time can heal. Also, anxiety comes and goes. Just know that you’re not alone.

DISCLAIMER

The opinions presented within this piece do not represent the views of The Beacon Editorial Board. These views are separate from the editors and reflect individual perspectives of contributing writers and/or members of the University community.

EDITORIAL POLICY

SEND US YOUR LETTERS

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 WUC 124. With Erica.santiago@fiusm.com

Editorials are the unified voice of the editorial board, which is composed of the editor in chief, management, and the editors of each of the five sections. The Beacon welcomes any letters regarding or in response to its editorials. Send them to opinion@fiusm.com.
The Habit Burger is perfect for the entire family

GABBY ARZOLA

In West Miami, Flagler passes through the Westchester/Sweetwater community, but past the Sedano’s Supermarkets and bodegas serving Cuban coffee and pastelitos, there is a Santa Barbara restaurant serving classic foods with a California twist.

The Habit Burger, a well-known restaurant chain that started in Santa Barbara, has now taken over West Miami. Almost like Fuddruckers sophisticated cousin, this burger joint serves high-quality burgers, sandwiches, salads, malts and even tempura green beans.

The beach-themed restaurant is clean with minimalist décor.

Paintings of California beaches and surfers are framed on seemingly every wall. With long wooden tables, bar stools and imitation palm tree decorations, the vibe is geared towards an older crowd who are not interested in fancy decorations, just good food.

I ordered a Santa Barbara Style char burger with a side of tempura green beans and their homemade strawberry lemonade limeade. When I bit into it, the flavor brought me back to The Habit Burger.

The American cheese was oozing from all sides, and avocado chunks were peeking through an orange slice for garnish. The sliced tomatoes were cold and juicy and the crisp lettuce added a fresh element to the burger while the mayo and pickles added a soft tangy flavor. The tempura green beans were warm and crispy and the ranch dressing added a zesty taste to the mild green beans.

My new favorite drink has to be the strawberry lemonade limeade with cucumber slices. The drink didn’t taste artificial. The strawberries were sweet and the cucumbers added a refreshing twist.

This place is a great spot for people who want great food at a great price. I'm definitely coming back to The Habit Burger.

With other options such as their BBQ chicken salad and albacore tuna filet, there is something for the entire family.

Oh, and don’t forget to hit up the self-serve pickle bar.

Beacon Bits is a weekly column about food tailored for the college student on a budget. Gabby Arzola paid for her food. The restaurant did not provide her with free food.

Beach House: ‘Thank Your Lucky Stars’ album review

EMILY AFRE
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On Friday, Oct. 16, dream pop duo, Beach House, released their sixth full-length album: “Thank Your Lucky Stars,” nearly two months after their most recent LP, “Depression Cherry.” According to the duo, this album is not to be in conjunction with DC or even serve as a B-sides version. All songs on TYLS were written after DC but were recorded simultaneously. In comparison, Beach House seems to have taken a more lo-fi approach with TYLS, definitely achieving a more brooding effect than DC. With TYLS, Beach House continues to deliver the melancholic depth that weighs over Legrand’s atmospheric vocals.

“Thank Your Lucky Stars” portrays itself as emotional exhalation after itsprecursor DC, where the sound feels a lot denser and certainly a lot more to take in at once. There is a sense of emptiness in TYLS, clearly expressed in tracks like the very dim “She’s So Lovely” and the despairing slow dance of “Somewhere Tonight.”

And all I have to do/ is stay away from you/ and let us find elation

A sense of emptiness in TYLS is also evident that Legrand is attached to this character in several ways. Does this “she” overcast Legrand with a sense of dread or longingness? “Closer now in the mirror/ Your reflection, my reflection… she never really sleeps” (One Thing) and “Through the glass/ Drank a memory of her face” are only fragments of “her story [that] unravels in the mirror/ Your reflection, my reflection” (Rough Song). Does this “she” portray the heavy-winded distance that weighs over Legrand’s atmospheric vocals?

“Thank Your Lucky Stars” further exemplifies the heart-felt exhaustion that is carried with the consistent sound Beach House has generated, which continues to resonate with their audience.

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Within itself, the album does not disappoint. “Thank Your Lucky Stars” further exemplifies the heart-felt exhaustion that is carried with the consistent sound Beach House has generated, which continues to resonate with their audience.

CD Musings is a monthly column that reviews newly released albums. To recommend an album email life@fiusm.com.
Prevent aging in the future, care for yourself

Perhaps you might think reading this won’t be of any use to you; after all you are only in your twenties. As a matter of fact, this is as relevant to you in your twenties as it is for you in your fifties. Cellular, hormonal and metabolic aging happens to all of us and the sooner we begin to work on preventing this, the better.

When I say, “prevent it,” I mean, preventing it from happening sooner than it should. It’s important to understand the fact that we cannot stop aging; it’s inevitable. The goal should be to delay this process simply by renewing our cells at a healthy rate and preventing our bodies from being overworked.

As we get older our bodies lower the production of mitochondria (the powerhouse) in each of our cells. As a result, we feel tired more frequently and find ourselves reminding on how active and indefatigable we felt a few years ago. To put it simply; the fewer mitochondria, the less energy, this is called “Metabolic aging.”

Another way our bodies are more prone to aging is that we are constantly exposed to numerous toxins, which can also be found in our foods. Our bodies try to fight these external toxins and excrete them from our system.

The bad news is that the body cannot do this forever and it starts accumulating unwanted toxins. Therefore, by avoiding toxins we are preventing damage and inflammation, which will not only delay aging but also reduce the risk of diseases such as cancer and more.

Let your food come to the rescue when it comes to aging; the best part is that it’s never too late or too early to begin. Fuel your body with nutrients for cell replication and cell energy by consuming enough water daily. B vitamins and iron, to feel as energetic as a five-year-old. With the help of antioxidants found in berries, green tea, nuts, etc., we can prevent damage from inflammation since they neutralize the free radicals that damage the structure of cells.

To maintain a young and vibrant youth, remember to detox your body and buy organic and top-quality products. It’s important to keep a good quality when it comes to food. If you eat healthy, you’ll feel healthy. Trust me, your body will thank you each and every day that you make it work more than it has to.

SDA Health is a weekly column by the Student Dietetic Association of FIU regarding health issues.

Bonnamu brings music and miracles

Redshift, an indie rock band formed of FIU students Enrique Rosell, Jose Maldonado, Chris Gil and Anthony Vabor, perform at the Bonnamu music festival.

JULIAN BALBOA
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One thing about music, when it hits it does great things. For Phi Mu, great things come in the shape of Bonnamu.

Saturday, Oct. 17, Phi Mu filled the space between Gold and Blue Garages with 400 people to attend Bonnamu, a music festival which features local bands and food trucks.

“We have a very good relationship with the Miami Children’s Foundation owner Yisenia (Rodriguez), has been a really good contact for us. She always comes out to our events, whether it’s our pageant, Miracle Man, she’s always a judge for us so they know about what we’re doing and they know we are going to donate to them so we are hoping that it’s going bring if not a lot of money at least enough to make a difference,” said Phi Mu sister Maytal Maor, senior, a marketing major and vice president of External Affairs at Phi Mu’s FIU Chapter.

Bonnamu has its roots in other chapters of the Phi Mu sorority nationwide and FIU’s chapter felt it just had to get in on the action.

“Well, there are a lot of chapters around the country doing it and FSU were close by so we were like ‘Let’s give it a shot ourselves’. We figured that we might as well try to do something fun and different aside from Hoop-a-Palooza. Plus, since nobody else has done it on campus, it’s just something that we wanted to try,” said Phi Mu sister Amanda Cantillo, senior, a hospitality management major.

At the end where the two roads meet was the stage where each band played in front of a crowd of more than 400 people. There were four bands that played between 5 p.m. and 11 p.m., RedShift, high school heroes Long Shore Drift, the Muse-influenced Quantum Waves and popular local rock band, Sunghost.

Long Shore Drift, while being composed of young members (their drummer in middle school at 13 years old), have the beginnings of a great band, matching great chemistry with musicianship and their influences, like Vampire Weekend, can be heard in their music.

Not much longer after they came on, Quantum Waves came on and played a couple of songs reminiscent of something off of an album by Muse and got the audience hyped for Sunghosts, who played right after them. Then, after all that patience, Sunghosts, a local favorite in the Miami music scene, played a set full of songs off of their newest EP to close the festival.

Near the entrance, next to the food trucks, was a table where WRGP, FIU’s student-run college radio station, did a raffle for concerts that are going on around the Greater Miami area. Bonnamu is an annual event and proceeds are donated to charity; this year’s proceeds went to Nicklaus Children’s Hospital and the Children’s Miracle Network.

Panther Homecoming brings the funny with comedy show

RICARDO CHAVEZ
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Homecoming keeps the celebratory momentum going with the Panther Prowl Comedy Show on Oct. 21 in the FIU arena at 7:30 p.m.

This year, the comedians who will be attending are Jeff Ross, a stand up comic who focuses on insult comedy, or “roasting,” and Jermaine Fowler, comedian and actor who made an appearance on Orange is the New Black.

Ross has appeared on numerous programs such as “The Sarah Silverman Program”, “The Burn with Jeff Ross” and “Patriot Act: A Jeffrey Ross Home Movie.” It is no surprise that his insult comedy and satirical remarks have earned him the name “The Roastmaster General.”

Fowler on the other hand has unique mannerism and has the ability to engage his audience by addressing them as if they are his personal friends.

For students who wish to attend the comedy event, it is highly suggested to buy tickets ahead of time. In previous years, tickets for the event have sold out weeks prior to the day of the event.

Should students not be able to buy tickets on time, they may be able to enter if there is room available during the event, but a ticket must be purchased. Tickets will be sold at the FIU One Card office.

For answers to questions pertaining to the purchase of tickets, please visit HCI.FIU.EDU.
**FOOTBALL**

**ANOTHER ONE**

Disappointing’ performance jeopardizes post season hopes

**JAMES TAKES**

Remember after the first football game of the season when we were all excited about how great FIU could be following their upset of the University of Central Florida in Orlando? When FIU was seemingly a lock for a bowl game and maybe even a contender to win Conference USA?

Well, those days are over. After another disappointing performance this past weekend, FIU is all but eliminated from C-USA contention and a possible bid for a bowl game is STRING further and further away.

FIU (3-4, 1-2) fell to the Middle Tennessee State University Blue Raiders (3-4, 2-1) on Saturday, Oct. 17 by a score of 42-34. The Panthers committed less than half of the amount of penalties that MTSU committed. This should mean that FIU won the game, right? Wrong.

Right off the bat, FIU’s defense and special teams made a couple key plays that should’ve put FIU ahead with a comfortable early lead. Richard Leonard returned the opening kickoff 53 yards and on the first defensive play of the game he intercepted a Brent Stockstill pass (Leonard’s first pick of the season) and brought it to the MTSU 1-yard line.

However, this is where those missed opportunities I was talking about started to arise. The offense stalled after Leonard’s great kick return, turning the ball over on downs at the 29-yard line of MTSU. Then, after Leonard set them up with what appeared to be an easy touchdown with his interception, the Panthers couldn’t get the ball in the end zone and had to settle for an 18-yard field goal from Austin Taylor.

Unfortunately, FIU’s inability to capitalize on scoring chances did not end there. An interception thrown in MTSU territory (which came just two plays after a holding call on Michael Montero negated a 32-yard completion to Thomas Owens inside the 5-yard line) ended what was sure to be a scoring drive in the second quarter.

The Panthers once again found themselves inside the five-yard line on a later possession, even though an MTSU penalty gave them an extra set of downs. Taylor not only missed a 44-yard field goal early in the fourth quarter, but also shanked the extra point after FIU’s first touchdown. Add all of these together with the countless drops by FIU receivers and it’s no wonder MTSU pulled away with the win.

As upset as I was with how this game was ended, there were a few positives that I took from it - sophomore quarterback Alex McGough, sophomore running back Alex Gardner, and senior cornerback Richard Leonard. Each of these players is a leader on this team and they were the main reasons why FIU hung around for as long as they did. McGough continues to look more and more comfortable in his second year and Leonard finally stepped up and had a game where he shined defensively and on special teams like he did a season ago.

Gardner specifically has continued to impress me more and more as the season has gone on. He really became a number one back before his shoulder injury ended his 2014 campaign short and he’s come back in a major way despite a crowded backfield and inconsistent offensive line.

The more I watch him play, the more I believe he could be the best offensive player FIU has had since T.Y. Hilton.

If FIU wants any chance to receive an invitation to a bowl game, they’ll need to quickly put this loss behind them and focus completely on moving forward. They need three wins at the very least to be considered for a bowl and their next three games against Old Dominion University, Florida Atlantic University and University of North Carolina at Charlotte provide what should be the three best chances remaining for FIU to pick up wins.

The first of those three games will take place this Saturday, Oct. 24, as the ODU Monarchs come to Miami for a C-USA East matchup. This will be FIU’s homecoming game, so hopefully there’s a big crowd to cheer the Panthers on to whatever is their fourth win of the season.

“Jake’s Takes” offers commentary on the University football team with predictions or recaps of gameplay. For commentary, email Jacob at jacob.spiwak@fiusm.com.

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**CONFERENCE USA EASTERN DIVISION FOOTBALL STANDINGS**

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>TEAM</th>
<th>C-USA WINS</th>
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*All records up to date as of Oct. 19*

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**VOLLEYBALL**

Panthers drop third-straight road game

**STEFANO RIVERA**

Contributing Writer

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After splitting the ﬁrst four sets against University of Southern Mississippi, the women’s volleyball team found itself in a familiar position. Just last season, the Panthers took the Golden Eagles to a ﬁve-set marathon, but eventually fell 15-17 in the ﬁfth set.

On Friday, Oct. 16, the Panthers traveled to Hattiesburg, Mississippi, to take on Southern Mississippi, hoping to not have a repeat of last year. However, FIU fell in five sets with scores of 25-21, 21-25, 25-11, 17-25 and 8-15.

The Panthers took the ﬁrst set and were tied 18-18 late in the second, but the Golden Eagles went on a 7-3 run to take the set and tie the game 1-1. Sophomore middle blocker, Jennifer Ene, propelled the team in the third set as she collected ﬁve consecutive kills and two blocks.

With a 2-1 set lead, the team looked to close Southern Miss out. Similar to the second set, the score was tied 14-14, but the Golden Eagles went on a late run to tie the match 2-2. In the ﬁnal set, the score was tied early; however, the Panthers could not hold on as the Golden Eagles closed the set on a 10-3 run.

With this loss, FIU falls to 11-8 (6-1 C-USA) and drops its third-straight road game. The team is 1-3 in C-USA road games, with its lone win coming against University of Alabama at Birmingham in early September. Meanwhile, Southern Mississippi improves to 18-6 (5-2 in C-USA).

Overall, the stats were almost dead even. Both teams struggled hitting the ball; the Panthers had a hitting percentage of .106, while Southern Mississippi edged them with a .132 hitting percentage. FIU out-blocked the Golden Eagles 14-9, but Southern Mississippi had its way with 60 kills on 59 assists.

The Panthers struggled to contain the Golden Eagle offense as three players recorded 14 kills or more. Junior outside hitter (Miami (Fla.) University), Rachel Johnson, combined for 28 kills. Ene led the team with 13 kills, a hitting percentage of .414 and nine total blocks. Freshman setter, Dominique Dodd, had a career-high 19 assists throughout the match. Defensively, the Panthers were led by senior libero, Adriana Melamb, who collected 23 digs.

The team will be back home as they host Louisiana Tech University on Wednesday, Oct. 21. However, it is only for one game before it has to go on the road once again. If the Panthers want to make the C-USA tournament and succeed, they will need to ﬁx their problems on the road.
Panthers defeat No. 9 Old Dominion

If there was ever a right way to snap a two-game losing streak, Florida International University’s men’s soccer team discovered it on Saturday, Oct. 17. After suffering back-to-back conference losses, the Panthers (8-4-0, 3-2 in Conference USA) handed number nine Old Dominion University their first loss since Aug. 28 in a 2-1 comeback victory. Senior, Daniel Moreno, each scored goals within ten minutes of each other to rally their team from behind. The first half was uneventful and frustrating for both teams. FIU is rarely as athletically matched as they were on Saturday night and struggled to create space. Junior goalkeeper, Arthur Clapot, bailed out his defense in the first 45 minutes on five quality saves - he totaled eight on the night and struggled to create much of the game in the 60th minute. Gonzalez notched his 12th point of the year with the equalizer.

“After the first goal, everybody motivated each and started working harder for each other,” said Campion-Hinds. Even for FIU’s distributed offense - eleven players have now scored goals for the Panthers this season - Saturday’s game-winner came from an unlikely source. In the 82nd minute, Junior Deshawon Nembhard found Lopez on a pass from the left side, who headed it in to give FIU a 2-1 advantage. Nembhard’s assist was his first point of the season and Lopez’s score was the first of his career.

“It’s kind of a dream come true, especially in a situation like this. I couldn’t be happier, but more important than the goal is the team win,” said Lopez. Unlike in Birmingham, Alabama against the Blazers, the Panthers played solid defense through the final minutes of the contest to claim the 2-1 victory. FIU allowed Old Dominion 15 shots and nine shots on goal in the match.

The result elevated FIU to 3-2 in C-USA, although they still remain in fifth place and a point behind Old Dominion with the win.

“Was really nice to get a good feeling back for the team. It gave them encouragement that we can be successful against the best teams,” said Head Coach Scott Calabrese.

Women drop to .500 in conference play

FIU women’s soccer (8-9, 4-4 C-USA) was shut out twice over the weekend in their road trip to Western Kentucky (8-4-4, 4-2-2 C-USA) and Marshall (11-3-3, 4-2-2 C-USA). After having such a stellar home performance in which the Panthers shut their opponents out in back to back games, the Panthers looked lost on the road and their consistency issues continued to show.

The Panthers trip began at Western Kentucky, where a double-overtime thriller resulted in a 1-0 loss, as the Lady Hilltoppers outshot the Panthers 16-8 in total shots. Western Kentucky went on to dominate in overtime. The Lady Hilltoppers had an overwhelming amount of shots on the Panthers and after in the second overtime it was Caitlin Hesse of Western Kentucky who ended the game in the 109th minute after a great look. Western Kentucky ended the Panthers’ two game winning streak and FIU headed to Marshall for the second game of the weekend. The floodgates remained open for FIU in a loss against Marshall. After a scoreless first half, the Panthers and Thndering Herd were not leveled for much longer. Kelly Culicerto of Marshall scored the first and only goal of the game in the 60th minute after a beautiful strike from 18 yards out.

The Panthers did have great opportunities to get on the board, but two shots from Ellen Crist were to no avail and the Panthers went on to lose 1-0. FIU has no dropped to under .500 yet again on the season. The Panthers have not won a game on the road since September 6, when they beat Miami (OH) 1-0, which marked FIU’s lone road win this season. FIU looks to bounce back strong as they face rival Florida Atlantic University for their final home game of the season on Sunday, Oct. 25.
LGBTQIA Initiative raising suicide awareness

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Lesbian, gay and bisexual youth in the LGBTQIA community are four times more likely to commit suicide than their peers, with nearly half of young transgenders having seriously contemplated taking their own lives.

"The more one can be able to express themselves freely no matter what sexual orientation they identify as and everyone should have that freedom," said Kayla Thompson, a freshman majoring in biology. "FIU is a diverse school, so of course people of that community should have representation as well.

Suicide awareness is going to be the topic of choice at this month's LGBTQIA 3D Series. The series, a monthly discussion hosted by FIU's Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, Questioning and Allied Initiatives, uses each 3D event as an opportunity to raise awareness on issues that affect the LGBTQIA community.

It is the Initiative's way of bringing enlightenment to those who may be unaware of such problems that may be prominent within the community:

"We just want to let students know what's going on," said Mario Lara, a graduate assistant for the LGBTQIA Initiative. "Students can find out how they can help prevent anyone they care about who may be going through this or just be aware of the resources that are available if they do know anyone at risk."

Special guests for this event include representatives from Switchboard Miami, a South Florida-based organization that provides free over-the-phone counseling to those in need.

One of the many services Switchboard Miami provides is their suicide prevention hotline, which will be at the front and center of this upcoming 3D event.

"You might have heard about it from other people but we have to step in someone else's shoes to understand the struggles they are going through," said Nicole Malanga, a sophomore majoring in broadcast media.

"It's probably in the back of everyone's mind but it brings it to the front and puts it in everyone's face."

Bringing forward issues that not many know of is the primary objective of Initiative's 3D series, which is summed up by the meaning of the three D's: dine, discuss and deliberate.

According to Lara, the discussion normally begins with a presentation from the special guest, followed by an open panel for students to discuss topics freely.

Students are encouraged to speak up during these discussions if they do not understand something.

The Initiative will be providing food to anyone who attends, while a speaker presents. This is done to create a non-hostile environment in order to get students to relax and participate in the discussion, said Lara.

"We always have food here so students can have a chance to eat and sit to listen to the presentation and join in the conversation," Lara said.

At the Bay: The BBC Resource Fair showcases programs available to FIU students

At the Bay Campus. BBC’s Wellness and Recreation center features programs one wouldn’t find at the Modesto A. Maidique Campus. Along with fitness classes, the Wellness and Recreation center boasts an Olympic pool as well as services in kayaking and paddle-boarding. The center also hosts a swimming club known as Poseidon’s Panthers and a program called Learn to Swim where Panthers can take classes to be more proficient in the water.

One other popular service offered only at BBC’s Wellness and Recreation center is their bike sharing program known as Bike by the Bay. Students can rent out bikes and gear to ride to classes around campus or to simply enjoy a relaxing ride by the Bay.

The BBC Resource Fair was a great event to assist future Panthers in becoming acquainted with the services the campus can provide but it would have also been a great experience for more seasoned students who simply see the campus as a place to study. There are many programs, services and opportunities around campus that can enrich a student’s experience at FIU and it would be shame to not take advantage of them when possible.

Resource Fair showcases programs available to students

ERICA SANTIAGO
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At the Bay Campus, BBC hosted their Resource Fair showcasing programs available to students. The event was held Thursday, Oct. 22 from noon to 2 p.m. in WUC 155 at the Biscayne Bay Campus.

The event is free and open to the public.

To RSVP, go to light.fiu.edu.

"Every semester we have different types of workshops. We help students prepare their resume, students can submit a resume online and we'll send it back with the corrections,” Ilana Marques, program assistant for Career Services, said.

Marques mentioned that the program also helps students create a profile connected to the Career Service website so that they can better utilize their services. The BBC Resource Fair also showcased programs and amenities that are unique to the Biscayne Bay Campus. BBC's Wellness and Recreation center features programs one wouldn’t find at the Modesto A. Maidique Campus. Along with fitness classes, the Wellness and Recreation center boasts an Olympic pool as well as services in kayaking and paddle-boarding. The center also hosts a swimming club known as Poseidon’s Panthers and a program called Learn to Swim where Panthers can take classes to be more proficient in the water.

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