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NSF awards $4.1 million to University

JUDE WALSH
Contributing Writer
news@fiusm.com

The University received a $4.1 million grant from the National Science Foundation.

The University will use the money to expand its Wind and hurricane simulator, which is a life-size simulator with a set of controls designed to produce Category 5, 157 mph hurricane winds.

It’s the only lab with this full-scale simulator in the nation.

Out of 11,000 proposals, NSF chose the University, providing a $4.1 million award for a five-year period.

The University will continue its work in the Wind of Wall. UF houses the Powell Family Structures and Materials Laboratory, which is part of a seven-lab network around the United States.

UF will be receiving $3.7 million to offer experts in natural disasters with a facility designated by the NSF. It will test bridge and building models in stretches of land.

The universities are the only two in the nation devoted to studying extreme wind events such as hurricanes.

“[It] runs the most rigorous proposal review competitions in the United States,” said Richard S. Olson, professor and director of extreme events research in the Office of the Vice President for Research. “FU and UF had the two best proposals in engineering. It’s as simple as that.

The NSF started research in natural hazards with a $40 million investment in Natural Hazards Engineering Research Infrastructure. This is a large, natural hazards engineering research facility.

According to Olson, the Network of Earthquake Engineering Simulation was the program that preceded it. NHERI replaces the program, which was designated experimental facility because it will create jobs and careers that have not existed before.

He said this award is not only a research recognition for the University but also a “magnet” for graduate students to conduct wind engineering training.

“Students are going to want to come to an NSF designated experimental facility [because] it increases the value of their degree,” he said. “Everybody in the country and all over the world is noticing that NSF has an experimental facility designated by the NSF. It elevates the value of an FU engineering degree.”

Former Dominican president lectures on globalization

CAMILA FERNANDEZ
News Director
camila.fernandez@fiusm.com

There is no humanitarian crisis at the border between the Dominican Republic and Haiti, said Leonel Fernández, former president of the Dominican Republic.

Fernández lectured on the effects of globalization and the progress of development in Latin America and the Caribbean as part of the Migration, Diasporas and Transient Communities Series Thursday, Oct. 22. The series is hosted by the Steven J. Green School of International and Public Affairs.

He said that media coverage on recent disputes between both countries has manipulated and distorted their relationship. The Dominican Republic has deported Haitians living in its country illegally who failed to comply with a new immigration policy that requires them to prove their citizenship.

“I think what we need to do is sit down and look at the facts,” said Fernández. “Dominican nationality is defined by our constitution and by our laws and that’s a sovereign right that every state has.”

To participate in the global economy, Fernández said Latin America needs to be more competitive and to increase productivity through technological development and innovation. During his presidential administration, there was a focus on attracting high-technology firms to the Dominican Republic.

The country also reestablished ties with Cuba, and it had an annual 7.7 percent economic growth, according to the Council on Hemispheric Affairs. After normalized relations between the U.S. and Cuba, he said the island should follow the Dominican Republic’s example of tourism.

Instead of depending on an agricultural economy, the Dominican Republic centers on its tourism and services sector, making it the second largest economy in the Caribbean, according to the 2015 Index of Economic Freedom.

“Dominican Republic is not only the beaches, the sand and the sun. It’s also the mountains, horse riding and golf. There’s a whole menu of choice and services offered that we have in the Dominican Republic that Cuba can very well learn from the Dominican experience,” Fernández said.

Tourism accounted for nearly 10 percent of Cuba’s gross domestic product in 2014, according to the World Economic Freedom.

“Approximately 35 percent have issues related to anxiety. Another 35 percent have issues related to depression,” said Kathryn Komninos, Counseling and Psychological Services associate director.

Although comfort animals do provide a service for their owner, there are differences between service animals and comfort animals. A service animal by law can cover emotional, physical or behavioral disorders.

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Iranian-trained Shi'ite fighters rally to Syria offensive

Lebanese, Iranian and Iraqi Shi'ite militias in unprecedented numbers have been drawn into the Syrian civil war as the Syrian government backed by Russian air power embarks on a four-pronged offensive to retake territory lost to rebels over the past four years. Hundreds if not thousands of Iran-trained and equipped Shi'ite fighters have joined the battle, providing the government with badly needed manpower, according to a wide range of sources, including Lebanese officials, members of the Lebanese Hezbollah militia, Iraqi militia officials and reports on social media sites.

Feds to comply with judge’s family detention ruling

Federal officials say they’re working to comply with a looming court deadline to stop extended detention of migrant children and their parents. But immigration lawyers who represent the mothers say the government is unprepared that, in their dash to meet a Friday deadline, federal officials are denying the women due process and violating other parts of the judge’s order, which allows families to be held up to 20 days.

University attempts to set world record

The University will attempt to set the Guinness World Record’s achievement for the largest bowl of quinoa salad. The salad is expected to weigh nearly 1,300 pounds, according to El Nuevo Herald. The quinoa is imported from the Peruvian Andes. The event is inspired by Peruvian chef Rosa Polo, who wants to curb the growing trend of childhood obesity.

Globalizing the Caribbean

There is political instability in Latin America because of China’s slow economic growth, said Fernández. He said countries that have exported commodities to Latin America and other parts of the world. He said that Europe can help promote and finance infrastructure development in Latin America.

“What is taking place now is an indication that Latin America needs to move into a new economic and social paradigm shift because the well-being of our nations was dependable to exporting commodities,” Fernández said.

He said the Dominican diaspora has diversified the Dominican Republic’s economy to increase competitiveness and to create more job opportunities. He also said there needs to be a promotion of trade between different enterprises in Latin America and other parts of the world. He said that Latin America is not unified. “We need to coordinate our foreign policy as a region. If you [ask] what does Latin America think about what’s taking place in Syria, we’re voiceless,” Fernández said. “Each country represents its position at the United Nations level, but on global issues, we are not unified.”
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Contributing Writer

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NHERI replaces the program, which was established by NSF as a national research infrastructure for earthquake engineering.

Olson said NHERI has collaborated multiple hazards and wind engineering into a single project. This is the first project to accomplish this.

“NSF is the principle federal government support for basic and applied research in the U.S. The NSF is at economic well being, knowledge advancement and national security.” said Olson.

The foundation funds research and education in most science, technology, engineering and mathematics fields.

“They had many proposals and they picked the best ones: FIU and UF,” said Olson.

According to Olson, the University is a part of the $40 million grant project, among other schools, including the University of Texas in Austin, the University of California in San Diego, Oregon State University, the University of California in Davis, Lehigh University and the University of Florida.

NSF awards hundreds of grants every year to universities.

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NSF’s investments in NHERI will allow researchers at FIU and UF to test innovative concepts to protect homes and businesses.

Olson thinks that the University should be proud of being selected to use the Wall of Wind. This will create jobs and careers that have not existed before.

He said this award is not only a research recognition for the University but also a “magnet” for graduate students to conduct wind engineering training.

“Students are going to want to come to an NSF designated experimental facility because it will create jobs and careers that have not existed before. Students are going to want to come to an NSF designated experimental facility (because) it increases the value of their degree,” he said. “Everybody in the country and all over the world is noticing that FIU has an experimental facility designated by the NSF. It elevates the value of an FIU engineering degree.”

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**JOCELYN TALAVERA**

Staff Writer

jocelyn.talavera@fiusm.com

Across the nation, colleges receive requests from students looking for a specific type of roommate—the four-legged kind.

Navigating college can be a stressful time for a majority of students but for some, the option of having a “comfort animal” in their dorm can be an extra push towards academic success.

Comfort animals, or emotional support animals, can serve as a therapeutic aid to individuals with diagnosed mental health disorder like depression, anxiety and panic attacks; however, they are more commonly used to help combat the effects of post-traumatic stress disorder, according to a study by Frontiers in Psychology.

More than 14 percent of college students have been diagnosed or treated for anxiety and 12 percent reported being diagnosed or treated for depression, according to a 2014 report by the American College Health Association National College Health Assessment.

“Approximately 35 percent of the students seeking services at CAPS come with issues related to anxiety. Another 35 percent have issues related to depression,” said Kathryn Kominars, Counseling and Psychological Services associate director.

Although comfort animals do provide a service for their owner, there are differences between service animals and comfort animals. A service animal by law is specifically trained to perform commands and are usually dogs or miniature horses as defined by the Americans with Disabilities Act.

Service animals are legal in Florida and are allowed in public areas on campus. Service animals can serve a wide range of disabilities and by law can cover emotional, psychiatric or physical ailments.

Nationwide, service animals are a growing need on college campuses.

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**Erica Fernandez/The BeaCon**

Students held “Black Dominicans are Dominicans” protests at the Migration, Diasporas and Transient Communities Series lecture, where Leonel Fernandez, former president of the Dominican Republic spoke on Thursday, Oct. 22 at SPA 125.
**FCC gives inmates price break on phone phone calls**

Starting next year, many Americans won’t have to make the difficult choice between talking to family members in prison and paying their bills. On Thursday, the Federal Communications Commission voted to cap the price that phone companies can charge for calls to and from prison inmates, which they say can run up to a staggering $14 per minute. The rates for prison phone calls far exceed those of the general public, with the financial burden falling on the families of the more than 2 million incarcerated Americans.

**Iranian-trained Shiite fighters rally to Syria offensive**

Lebanese, Iranian and Iraqi Shiites militias in unprecedented numbers have been drawn into the Syrian civil war as the Syrian government backed by Russian air power embarks on a four-pronged offensive to retake territory lost to rebels over the past four years. Hundreds if not thousands of Iranian-trained and -equipped Shiite fighters have joined the battle, providing the government with badly needed manpower, according to a wide range of sources, including Lebanese officials, members of the Lebanese Hezbollah militia, Iranian militia officials and reports on social media sites.

**Feds to comply with judge’s family detention ruling**

Federal officials say they’re working to comply with a looming Friday deadline to stop extended detention of migrant children and their parents. But immigration lawyers who represent the mothers say the government is unprepared and that, in their dash to meet a Friday deadline, federal officials are denying the women due process and violating other parts of the judge’s order, which allows families to be held up to 20 days.

**Globalizing the Caribbean**

There is political instability in Latin America because of China’s slow economic growth, said Fernández. He said countries that have exported commodities to China, like Brazil and Chile, have been economically impacted by the country’s deceleration.

Over the past five years, economic freedom in China has improved by less than one point because of a lack of control in government spending, according to the Index. “What is taking place now is an indication that Latin America needs to move into a new economic and social paradigm shift because the well-being of our nations was dependable to exporting commodities,” Fernández said.

Fernández also said there needs to be a promotion of trade between different enterprises in Latin America and other parts of the world. He said that Europe can help promote and finance infrastructure development in Latin America. “I think the idea of looking at globalization through interregional relationships is a way of being very concrete because otherwise, globalization becomes something very abstract,” Fernández said.

He said the Dominican diaspora has diversified the Dominican Republic’s economy to increase competitiveness and to create more job opportunities. He also said there needs to be continuous political dialogues with Latin America and the Caribbean and the U.S. and Canada. “The U.S. has an enormous influence, not only in Latin America – worldwide – we cannot ignore the U.S. That would be self-inflicting for Latin America and the Caribbean.”

However, there also needs to be an increase in trade and investments and cooperation on social issues among the Latin American and Caribbean countries, he said. “We need to coordinate our foreign policy as a region. If you [ask] what does Latin America think about what’s taking place in Syria, we’re voiceless,” Fernández said. “Each country represents its position at the United Nations level, but on global issues, we are not unified.”
SLS professors should emphasize Student Health Services

MAYTINEE KRAMER
Staff Writer
maytineekramer@fiusm.com

It’s a unique experience for freshmen to transition into college life. The University recognizes the importance for academic and developmental success and mandates enrollment in First Year Experience classes, which are designed to prepare students for the college environment.

While the class reviews the skills and competencies needed to navigate the University’s environment, it sometimes fails to provide in-depth information about the Student Health Center and its various programs.

Though there is a section in the SLS book that deals with issues pertaining to health, it is not a requirement for professors to cover the center’s services. Professors have the liberty to invite Student Health representatives to talk to students about the services available to them.

Because of this, some students are still not aware about the help they can get on campus.

“We would love for it to be a requirement for every class to host one of our presentations so the students get the information from someone who has been trained in the subject,” said Wendy X. Ordonez, coordinator of outreach and educational media.

The Student Health Center has a diverse list of specialties and programs, equipped to educate students on a range of topics from health to domestic violence.

If invited, representatives from the Student Health Center can provide presentations on the Victim Empowerment Program, which deals with sexual assault and abusive relationships, as well as Healthy Living, which provides education on sexual health, aromatherapy, drugs and alcohol.

In addition to standard health services, SHS offers a “safe zone” for the University’s LGBT community by offering LGBT students primary care as well as reproductive and sexual health care.

They can also inform students on the services provided by FIU’s Counseling and Psychological Services, which aids students struggling with anxiety and mental health.

In addition to standard health services, SHS offers a “safe zone” for the University’s LGBT community by offering LGBT students primary care as well as reproductive and sexual health care.

Everyting is a case-by-case basis, but each program is tailored to take into consideration the individual student to efficiently provide a safe and friendly environment.

Student Yoohee Lee suggested that while it may not be a requirement, “[The] Student Health Center and [SLS] classes can make it more known by doing little projects. For me, SLS class made us do a project on each chapter and present it to the class. It would be nice to remember the information.”

Universities are designed to further education, so professors should not opt out of covering student health or the services the Student Health Center offers, because the information is essential to every student.

The Student Health Center programs have the potential to change lives, or even save them, so everyone should hear it at least once; the earlier the better.

Perkins program should be reconsidered

THOMAS J. BOTZMAN
The Philadelphia Inquirer
TNS Staff

Numbers have a way of revealing the real story beneath the rhetoric and misinformation around controversial topics.

Take the ongoing Federal Perkins Loan debate, for example. More than 1,700 institutions of higher education participate in the program, resulting in about 500,000 students in need being awarded loans to finance their college educations. This campus-based program provides funds to students with the highest level of financial need.

The federal government began its new fiscal cycle on Oct. 1. For the first time in 57 years, the proposed budget does not include the Perkins Loan program.

Although there is a wide range of programs that aim to support the nation’s neediest students, the Perkins Loan has a few unique twists that make it valuable to both students and taxpayers.

Most obviously, the Perkins Loan is a loan and not a grant. As such, the student agrees to pay back the loan over a 10-year period following graduation. With a 5 percent fixed interest rate, repayment generates additional funds for the next generation of students.

Furthermore, colleges and universities make contributions to the fund, which extends the reach of the program. At Misericordia University, a cumulative federal contribution of $1.1 million was available for student loans during the 2014-15 academic year, $245,000 of that in new loans. Those funds were cumulatively supplemented by more than $600,000 of institutional money, which also went to students.

Although the limit for Perkins Loans to undergraduates is $5,500 annually, most students receive about $2,000 per year. Perkins Loan funds help fill the gap between other sources of financial aid and family contributions so students can meet the entire cost of attending a college or university of their choice.

One argument that led to the expiration of the Perkins Loan program was that other vehicles provide funds to students with significant financial need. Yes, the landscape of student-aid programs is complicated. It requires expertise on the part of financial aid administrators to apply assistance appropriately and justify it. It is important, nonetheless, to have an array of programs that meets the need of each individual and not just a mythical “typical” student.

The Pell Grant, for example, provides a much larger average award to a student, but it does not need to repair. While the Pell is a progressive and respected option, it does not return funds to be lent again and again. Stafford Loans, meanwhile, are not earmarked solely for students with the greatest need and do not carry a fixed interest rate.

I should also note that there have been efforts by Congress to cut funding for Pell Grants and Stafford Loans, just as we have witnessed for the Perkins Loan program.

If the Perkins Loans are not restored, repayments of loans will return to the federal government. We would then have taken a program that has worked for nearly six decades _ providing a hand up for so many students _ and turned it into a political football with little return to taxpayers.

Support for education at the federal level is an investment in our collective future. It is simple arithmetic to figure out that a $2,000 loan each year for four years equals $8,000. That is obviously less than the $8,000 plus 5 percent interest the student repays _ not to mention the lifetime of higher earnings that provide more taxable income.

We have taken a solid program that works for everyone and replaced it with, well, nothing. That’s not solid policy, good government or a step toward building a future for all of us.


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Pick up an application at MMC, GC 210 or BBC, WUC 124 or online at fiusm.com.

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

Disclaimer

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Fall TV series
top expectations

The bulk of the fall season's television series have either premiered or returned, and at this time it's worth looking at what's on primetime.

The worst: "Life in Pieces"  
With "Modern Family" dominating the large-family sitcom market, it was unlikely for "Life in Pieces," CBS's answer to the primetime power house, to stake its claim on the market and carve out a space for itself. Luckily for viewers, "Pieces" is a refreshing, honest comedy that takes a different approach to families and leaves little room for comparison.

The family's stories are told in vignettes (the sitcom's tagline is "One big family. Four short stories.") rather than thirty minutes of one interconnected storyline. What sets this show apart for me is the more blunt, adult approach to comedy. The comedy is dirty, mature and for a different market than those who watch "Family;" jokes include topics such as swinging, bringing a new girlfriend around after a divorce, and giving birth. It's a family show if the children of the house are closer to adulthood. My only wish is that more people watch the show - it deserves a larger audience.

The struggling survivor: "Empire"  
"Empire" exploded onto the scene last year to record-breaking views and managed to hold onto large audiences throughout the first season. The dynamic cast, believable plot lines and heavy drama made each episode worth watching.

This season, the empire is falling. The story lines aren’t as unique and interesting, the drama is too much and Lucious and Cookie are too over-the-top. Another issue with the season is the breakup of the family. It's too difficult to keep up with who are friends and who are enemies, and there are very little emotional bonds with the characters this season.

Overall, the show has lost its authenticity. It's now more of a competition to see what cameos and interesting appearances can be squeezed into the hour-long show. "Empire" has been hemmorhaging views this season; I hope it can return to its roots, which will bring back the viewers.

Eric Duran, Class of 2018, broadcast media  
"I changed my major at orientation. I immediately saw the table and I thought, 'why not?' I just knew it wasn't what I wanted to do. Engineering wasn't my thing. When you leave high school it's all about the money, but I just want to do something I'm passionate about.

Humans of FIU is a photography project that aims to expose the variety of personalities and stories of students, faculty and staff of the University.

Family and passion in perfect harmony

GABBY ARZOLA  
Staff Writer  
gabby.arzola@fiusm.com

Former FIU business student celebrated the two-year anniversary of his Miami-based booking and talent agency, Rockwell Talent Management, at the newest Miami Beach restaurant called "ITO Mojitos y Cafecitos." on Tuesday, Oct. 20.

Bryan Herrera, founder of Rockwell Talent, knew there was something wrong with Miami's music scene. "Nightlife has lost professionalism and has turned into greed," said Herrera.

Herrera noticed that the quality of promotional brands and talent that's decreased, and as a result, he envisioned a company that would reignite the Miami nightlife and make it honest once again. With the help of his friends and colleagues, they created Rockwell Talent Management.

Former FIU graduate and Artist and Talent Manager, Chris Esteban, says that without Rockwell Talent Management, he would have been miserable. "I really didn’t like my old job in hedge funds," said Esteban. "I was going down a dark path, and Rockwell saved me." Juan Fonseca, the director of talent and tour manager, recently joined Rockwell and says that this agency is unlike any other he's seen before.

"I like it small," said Fonseca. "We are truly close friends. DJ veterans, Giovanni Silva, whose stage name is Vinni Soul, and Rodrigo Arana, known as DJ KILLA K5, have been with Rockwell since the beginning. "I do what I love, and it doesn’t feel like a job," said Arana.

Araña, 31, that he started promoting at 17 years of age in Nicaragua. After serving time in the military, he dedicated his time to honing his musical craft. Known to occasionally incorporate NEYIN in his mixes, he likes the crowd to feel nostalgic with his music. "People feed off the DJ, and that's what moves the crowd."

Unfortunately, Shonda land shows are known for overstaying their welcome (does anyone still watch "Grey’s Anatomy"?) so we can expect this one to be around for a while.

The favored sophomore: "Blackish"  
ABC has been ramping up its representation of minority characters, sometimes unsuccessfully. "Blackish" manages to get it right, and showcases middle-class black Americans as something other than "Cosby-like."

The second season is equally as funny and honest as the first, and continues to bring in laugh lines and laugh lines in its educational and honest manner. Topics such as the N word, gun control and black hair are just a few of the issues discussed.

Anthony Anderson finally adds a television success to his resume, and Tracey Ellis-Ross successfully balances his awkwardness. One lesson "Empire" can learn from is the quality of celebrity guests appearances - they add to the value and discussion the show sparks.

Dre, Bow and the family remain a staple in the Wednesday night lineup, and keep the laughs coming. Here's to hoping it doesn't devolve into a laughless comedy in coming seasons, and that the cast can continue to revel in its successes.

cayla.bush@fiusm.com

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The second season is equally as funny and honest as the first, and continues to bring in laugh lines and laugh lines in its educational and honest manner. Topics such as the N word, gun control and black hair are just a few of the issues discussed.

Anthony Anderson finally adds a television success to his resume, and Tracey Ellis-Ross successfully balances his awkwardness. One lesson "Empire" can learn from is the quality of celebrity guests appearances - they add to the value and discussion the show sparks.

Dre, Bow and the family remain a staple in the Wednesday night lineup, and keep the laughs coming. Here's to hoping it doesn't devolve into a laughless comedy in coming seasons, and that the cast can continue to revel in its successes.

cayla.bush@fiusm.com

Eric Duran , Class of 2018, broadcast media
"I changed my major at orientation. I immediately saw the table and I thought, 'why not?' I just knew it wasn't what I wanted to do. Engineering wasn't my thing. When you leave high school it's all about the money, but I just want to do something I'm passionate about.

Humans of FIU is a photography project that aims to expose the variety of personalities and stories of students, faculty and staff of the University.

Family and passion in perfect harmony

GABBY ARZOLA  
Staff Writer  
gabby.arzola@fiusm.com

Former FIU business student celebrated the two-year anniversary of his Miami-based booking and talent agency, Rockwell Talent Management, at the newest Miami Beach restaurant called "ITO Mojitos y Cafecitos." on Tuesday, Oct. 20.

Bryan Herrera, founder of Rockwell Talent, knew there was something wrong with Miami's music scene. "Nightlife has lost professionalism and has turned into greed," said Herrera.

Herrera noticed that the quality of promotional brands and talent that's decreased, and as a result, he envisioned a company that would reignite the Miami nightlife and make it honest once again. With the help of his friends and colleagues, they created Rockwell Talent Management.

Former FIU graduate and Artist and Talent Manager, Chris Esteban, says that without Rockwell Talent Management, he would have been miserable. "I really didn’t like my old job in hedge funds," said Esteban. "I was going down a dark path, and Rockwell saved me." Juan Fonseca, the director of talent and tour manager, recently joined Rockwell and says that this agency is unlike any other he's seen before.

"I like it small," said Fonseca. "We are truly close friends. DJ veterans, Giovanni Silva, whose stage name is Vinni Soul, and Rodrigo Arana, known as DJ KILLA K5, have been with Rockwell since the beginning. "I do what I love, and it doesn’t feel like a job," said Arana.

Araña, 31, that he started promoting at 17 years of age in Nicaragua. After serving time in the military, he dedicated his time to honing his musical craft. Known to occasionally incorporate NEYIN in his mixes, he likes the crowd to feel nostalgic with his music. "People feed off the DJ, and everyday it's something
Former student celebrates two-year anniversary of business

The Beacon – Monday, October 26, 2015

Former student celebrates two-year anniversary of business

PUNNY PANTHERS

Above: Jeff Ross appears at the Panther Prowl Comedy Show on Wednesday, Oct. 21 held at the FIU Arena.

Left: Actor and comedian Jermaine Fowler, who has appeared on The Eric Andre Show, speaks at the Panther Prowl Comedy Show.

Creating “Sounds Of The Underground,” the Noir Gang incorporates each of their unique styles to music that many people haven’t heard of yet. “Mainstream all sounds the same,” said Estefani.

The Noir Gang experiments with a variety of musical techniques to keep their audience dancing without using popular songs. “Underground definitely makes you more creative,” said Frank.

At Rockwell, everyone has found their passion in music differently. Some entered the industry by promoting in high school, but others, like DJ PaulE, used music as a way to bring life back into his family. At the age of five, PaulE would watch his uncle play music at parties with excitement. However, when his uncle passed away, the music did too.

“My family stopped listening to music,” said PaulE. “So I took the role of bringing music back to my family.” Currently, PaulE is one of the most seasoned artists at Rockwell.

The DJ crew of approximately 14 members is now welcoming their first female DJ artist, Tricia Dade, known as DJ Trish, to the Rockwell family. “When I first started DJing, I had no idea what I was doing,” said the 22-year-old.

Dade, primarily a house and deep house artist, graduated from Florida State University in marketing but found her passion in music. “I’m honored to be the first female in Rockwell,” said Dade.

Because female DJ’s are still relatively new in the industry, Dade receives harsh criticisms that are sometimes hard to ignore. “People question if I’m really doing the songs,” said Dade. “Then, when people realize that I am really doing it, they love it.”

All the Rockwell members who attended the 2-year anniversary expressed a common theme. It was to share their tremendous passion for music and for their colleagues. “Music took over my life,” said Quinta.

Rockwell is full of unique and diverse individuals from all walks of life. Together, they share their love and passion of music with South Florida. Their two-year anniversary is certainly a milestone according to Herrera, and definitely not the last.

“I’ve been so blessed with Rockwell,” said Herrera. “We are the underdogs who want to make the nightlife business right—but not underdogs for long.”
EYES TOWARD THE GOAL

Win gives Panthers second winning streak

DAVID DRUCKER
Staff Writer
david.drucker@fiusm.com

The men’s soccer team (9-4-0) battled for a tough win against then No. 22 Florida Gulf Coast University on Tuesday, Oct. 20.

After his team played to a 1-1 draw in regulation, sophomore Darren Rios headed in a cross from junior Jamar Campion-Hinds on a play surrounded by controversy to secure an overtime victory for the University.

FIU’s offense had a characteristic slow start in the match, partially due to the play of FGCU goalkeeper Nathan Ingham. The redshirt senior made four saves in the contest, including an impressive charge to the top of the box in the 12th minute to halt FIU’s attack. Ingham came into the match with the fourth best goals-against average in the nation.

The Eagles scored their lone goal of the game in the 33rd minute when FGCU’s Justin Gavin was fouled in the corner of FIU’s box. Albert Ruiz converted on the ensuing penalty kick to put FGCU up 1-0. The Panthers could not get past Ingham in the first half and headed into the intermission down a score.

After scoring his first career goal against Old Dominion University in FIU’s previous match, junior Patrick Lopez made his impact felt again on Florida’s west coast. Junior Ismael Longo delivered a corner kick to the back post where Lopez managed to create separation from FGCU’s backline. Lopez one-timed it past Ingham to give FIU the equalizer in the 59th minute. At the end of regulation, the two teams were locked in at 1-1.

FIU took the contest in perhaps the most controversial score they’ve been a part of the season. In the 95th minute, as Campion-Hinds received the ball in the right corner to set up a cross, the linesman held up his flag to call offside.

The junior played through the call, however, because the head official did not recognize it and did not blow his whistle. Campion-Hinds then crossed it to a wide-open Darren Rios - the referee confusion caused players on both teams to stall - who scored to secure FIU’s 2-1 victory.

The Panthers have now won two games in a row against ranked opponents. As of Tuesday, Oct. 20, FIU remains just outside of the top 25 teams in the NSCAA Coaches Poll, receiving 32 votes. Next up for FIU is a Conference USA matchup on the road against currently ranked No. 22 University of Southern Carolina. The match is set to begin at 7 p.m. on Tuesday, Oct. 27 at Eugene E. Stone III Stadium.

Panthers remain perfect against C-USA opponents

STEFANO RIVERA
Contributing Writer
sports@fiusm.com

The women’s volleyball team is coming off one of the most heartbreaking losses of the season, dropping a five-set match on the road against University of Southern Mississippi.

However, the Panthers rebounded with a win at home against Louisiana Tech University on Wednesday, Oct. 21, with a final score of 25-23, 25-21, 20-25, and 25-22. This improves the team’s record to 12-8 (6-3 in Conference USA).

Louisiana Tech falls to 7-15 (1-8 in C-USA). In the first set, the Panthers found themselves in a 5-0 hole to start things off, but they were able to fight back and edge the Techsters to take a 1-0 set lead.

Sophomore middle blocker Jennifer Ene sparked the team with her nine kills in the first set.

The Panthers took a 2-0 lead with another close win in the second set. Junior middle blocker Katie Hogan was all over the stat sheet this set. Hogan collected five kills, two service aces and a hitting percentage of .445.

Louisiana Tech managed to take the third set by posting an impressive hitting percentage of .344. The Panthers only hit .189 for the set, but capitalized in the fourth set. The team finished off the Techsters behind a balanced hitting attack.

Senior outside hitter Lucia Castro led FIU with four kills in the final set.

For a second-straight game, the stats were almost even in every aspect. The two teams had the same hitting percentage (.141) and total attacks (163). The Panthers had two more kills (50), errors (25), and aces (5), and finished with four more blocks (13).

Ene had a career night, posting 19 kills and adding seven blocks with a .441 hitting percentage. Hogan and Castro combined for 22 kills. Freshman setter Katie Friesen collected 32 assists and a career-high 19 digs. This gave Friesen 500 assists for the season.

Defensively, the Panthers did not let any Louisiana Tech hitter get into much of a rhythm. Redshirt sophomore outside hitter Marta Monne led the way for the Techsters with just 13 kills for the night.

The Panthers are now a perfect 5-0 at home against C-USA opponents. This win streak dates back to Sept. 9, when the team defeated Florida Atlantic University.

The team will be traveling to Boca Raton on Friday, Oct. 23, to face off against its instate rival, FAU at 7 p.m. The Owls are 15-6 (7-2 in C-USA). This will be the first game of a brief two-game, three-day road trip.

After FAU, the Panthers will travel to Murfreesboro, Tenn., to take on Middle Tennessee State University on Sunday, Oct. 25, at 2 p.m.

Given its 1-3 record against C-USA opponents away from Lime Court, the team needs to pick up conference road wins.
Greek playoff game of the week: volleyball

LUIS DIAZ
Contributing Writer
sports@fiusm.com

Volleyball intramural playoffs began with the brothers of Phi Delta Theta facing off against the brothers of Sigma Alpha Mu in an intense game. The first set was tight, a tied 12-12 until Sammy shifted to a new gear and was able to dominate the set. Utilizing their blockers Alex Sanchez and Carlos Hernandez, they were able to keep the ball on Phi Delt’s floor. Sammy went on a 13-2 run to finish the first set 25-14.

The second set was equally as close, each team going point for point. The brothers of Phi Delt gained momentum, going on a 14-2 run to bring an 11-12 score to 25-14 returning their favor. With the match tied at one set apiece, the game would go into the 15 point tiebreaker that for once, would be a tight affair throughout the set.

Sammy, once again, was on the winning side of the court to start the set but could not find a consistent lead before the two teams switched sides of the net. With the game tied at 7-7 going kill for kill, the game was a tight one. Phi Delt’s serve was handled beautifully by Sammy but on the attempted spike to take the lead, Roman Caceres was able to get the game defining block to give his team the lead, which would last until their next kill.

With Phi Delt getting this win, it is the first time this fraternity goes into the second round of an intramural playoff season in their very short tenure at the University. Speaking with Matthew Zaldivar of Sigma Alpha Mu, he stressed the importance of needing to finish these games.

“We needed to find a way to finish the last two sets and we couldn’t,” Zaldivar said. “We are a much better team than what came out to play today.”

Self-defense with love and harmony

ANDREA GUERRERO
Contributing Writer
sports@fiusm.com

Many of our FIU students may be found in the rec center lifting weights or working on their cardio on either a treadmill, elliptical or stationary bike. But every Tuesday and Thursday at 4 p.m., there is a unique way to get a great workout, all while learning self-defense as well and this is with our karate club.

“This really does it help you develop muscles, but kata also emphasizes on doing the right movement,” says EJ Ventura, an FIU alumni who is now the instructor of the karate club at FIU. The style of karate our club practices is called Aikido, which is the influence of detailed movements practiced while picturing multiple imaginary opponents.

Within minutes of starting karate practice our panthers were sweating away. Throwing high kicks and practicing their sharp variation of movements of kata, Ventura likes to make sure to teach his students defense first then attack.

“The key is not to go on the ground like another martial arts. That is not ideal in most scenarios,” explains Ventura.

Natalie Chirife, junior biological science major and president of the karate club, said that thanks to the sport she has developed reflexes that she can rely on as a form of defense.

“If anything actually happens, you react without even thinking sometimes,” Chirife said.

The club members mentioned that many times people may look at karate as a martial arts that won’t really help you defend yourself.

“Every single move that we do have a meaning and can be used as a way to defend yourself,” explains Jesus Gonzalez who is studying Dental Hygiene and Japanese.

Gonzalez shows that every movement they do is to defend themselves and that all the movements become so natural to them that they feel confident enough to use them in case of a real life scenario.

If you’re looking for a great way to learn self-defense while getting a good workout join our karate club! We have great members with a lot of experience to pass on to anyone who is interested in learning. With many years of practicing and competition experience, Marlon Pena will soon be competing in a big tournament too and is ready to demonstrate all that he has been learning with our club.

Greece playoff game of the week: volleyball

LUIS DIAZ
Contributing Writer
sports@fiusm.com

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Self-defense with love and harmony

ANDREA GUERRERO
Contributing Writer
sports@fiusm.com

Aikido, an ancient Japanese martial art, draws students to the club each year to learn the style.

“I like it because it’s different. It’s more about offense and not hurting your opponent,” said Alexis Fernandez, a junior liberal arts major.

Aikido may be categorized as one of our FIU combat club sports, but according to Juan Albetto, the club sport’s instructor, it’s more of a graceful art.

“Aikido is an understanding of movements, which Alberto likens to a ballet room dance. “99 percent comes from the energy and movements from the other person. You have to watch their movements,” Alberto said.

Aikido is used to teach self defense through energy rather than strength. Alberto says that using this form of martial arts is a non-violent form of protection.

Cynthia Irizarry, a sophomore studying criminal justice, has been part of the Aikido club for two years. Although Irizarry was the only girl at practice out of the seven members in attendance, they do hope to get more people in the following semesters to join. The Aikido club has been continuously running for four years now. James Aube, junior mechanical engineering major, has been part of the club for all four years and is now VP.

Aikido teaches individuals balance, respect, and good karma, all while learning self defense in a different perspective of what we are used to.

Some say Aikido is something you either love or hate, but the way this graceful dance of self defense is taught, there is no way you could turn down the chance to learn this beautiful art.

The game tied at 7-7 when the two teams flipped sides, the winning vib of the left side of the net proved to be too much for Sammy to overcome as the defense of Phi Delt found a way to limit the persistent Sammy attacks.

Going kill for kill, the game was tied at 13. Phi Delt’s serve was handled beautifully by Sammy but on the attempted spike to take the lead, Roman Caceres was able to get the game defining block to give his team the lead, which would last until their next kill.

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Kopenhaver Center hosts leadership power program

GRETHEL RAMOS FIAD
Contributing Writer
bdec@fiusm.com

Students and alumni can participate in a free program to develop their leadership skills and to network with leading professionals in the communication field.

For a second academic year, the Communication Leadership Power Program hosts about five webinars on different topics related to women issues and female leadership in different fields of the communication industry.

The program runs for two cycles, which are the fall 2015 to spring 2016 and the spring 2016 to fall 2016.

It is organized and sponsored by the Lillian Lodge Kopenhaver Center for the Advancement of Women in Communication, a pioneering center for the advancement and advocacy of women in the communication field.

Sigal Segev, associate director for programming and research in Kopenhaver Center, refers to the experience offered by the program as “a useful insight for students who are about to make or are already making their first steps in their profession.”

Participants are able to engage in dialogues with positioned leaders of the industry. Guest speakers talk about the challenges they face on their pathway to become leaders, and they provide advice. The webinars also allow participants to network with leading communication professionals.

Segev said female students may benefit from the program at a personal level by hearing from female speakers how they balance a highly demanding career with their family lives.

The speakers come from different communication fields that include, but are not limited to, TV channels, public relations and journalism education.

Geneva Overholser, a senior fellow at the Center for Communication Leadership and Policy at the University of Southern California, lectured Wednesday, Oct. 7. Overholser spoke about women of race and color and how media shapes people’s perception of the world.

Marybel Rodriguez, an Emmy-nominated weekend anchor for CBS4 morning news also lectured at the University Monday, Sept. 21. Rodriguez talked about how women can succeed in the television business.

At the end of the program, Segev will conduct a roundtable discussion. Students will be able to talk about what they learned from the program in general as well as from each particular speaker.

“We evaluate the program and get feedback from the participants. The students’ perceptions will be taken into account when designing future programs,” Segev said.

Space for the program is not limited. In light of last year’s success, the number of participants is expected to grow this time.

The students who complete the program will receive a certification of achievement for the Communication Leadership Power Program of the Lillian Lodge Kopenhaver Center for the Advancement of Women in Communication, which will add to the participant’s resume.

Segev stresses the importance of leadership skills in the advancement of an individual’s career.

“Only with good leadership, a person can exhaust all the possibilities of their expertise and intellectual potential,” Segev said.

Students who are interested in registering for the program must meet with the Center’s secretaries in Academic 2, room 320. Then at each webinar or seminar, they will sign in for attendance purposes.

JOIN OUR STAFF!

The BEACON is always looking for talented and reliable individuals to join the staff. If you have an interest in writing, photography or even grammar, don’t be shy. Stop by one of our offices located in GC 210 and WUC 124 or apply at fiusm.com.