Staff Writer
SUDYEN NAVARRETE
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New MakerBots 3D printers were installed at the College of Architecture + The Arts Urban Studios to bring computer-made designs made by students and professors to life.

The Urban Studios Innovation Lab was launched Tuesday, Sept. 29, bringing in its MakerBot 3D Printers for students.

Brian Schriner, dean of CARTA, said that they are the first arts college in the country to work with MakerBot, the 3D printing company.

The significance of the innovation lab that has brought 3D printers to Urban Studios lies around global innovation for future CARTA students, said Schriner.

“This new creative space can prepare students for tomorrow by exploring the arts, design and technology,” said Schriner. “Our students are highly skilled and are fully prepared with the technical and creative skills that are needed to be competitive in the 21st century’s global, creative economy.”

“I believe it’s a great opportunity for architecture students, we sometimes forget that there is a whole technology wave going on,” said graduate architecture student, Shariit Ben-Asher. “Three years ago, it was harder for students because we had cut carbohydrates and glued things together.”

With this new innovation, students will struggle less on their designs.

Amanda Guyah, a graduate architecture student that works for Urban Studios, learned to use the 3D printers and constantly checks on them to make sure they’re running properly.

She said it has helped her in her design projects.

PHILIPPE BUTEAU
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When the Obama administration removed Cuba from the list of state sponsors of terrorism, that was the green light for FIU to consider how it could have a “presence” on the island.

What that presence would be, however, is yet to be determined, according to Francisco Mora, director of the Latin American and Caribbean Center.

The University is waiting for Cuba to be a “more democratic state that respects human rights” before the idea turns into a fully fledged plan, said Mora during an interview on The Claw & Growl, an FIU Student Radio talk show.

“It’s a slow process,” Mora said.

“We will but begin engaging with the island.”

He said through possible study abroad and research trips to Cuba the University will be “engaging the island.”

Mora said University President Mark Rosenberg, who established LACC 35 years when he was an assistant professor, proposed the idea of FIU being on the island somehow in the future.

But amid the sensitive politics of the U.S-Cuba breakthrough and the gulf between the countries over questions of academic freedom, American colleges and universities must tread carefully.

“Anything with Cuba can be controversial,” said Jorge Duany, director of the University’s Cuban Research Institute.

The interest, however, is there. Some 375 American students were in Cuba during the 2010-11 school year when President Barack Obama eased travel restrictions to allow academic work. During 2012-13, there were 1,633, according to the Institute of International Education.

Obama further loosened the rules earlier in 2015, allowing more expansive work, and several universities have begun formal research and teaching partnerships with their Cuban counterparts.

The new rules let authorized U.S. companies set up stores, warehouses and offices in Cuba without prior U.S. approval; permit U.S. telecom companies to partner with Cuba’s state phone company; and let authorized U.S. travelers set up bank accounts in Cuba, among many other changes announced on Sept. 19.

The rules build on Obama’s announcement on Dec. 17 that Washington aims to engage with Cuba, not isolate it – reversing more than 50 years of Cold War policies against the communist-led island. The administration since then has eased U.S. travel and trade rules with the island, taking Cuba off the list of state sponsors of terrorism and restored diplomatic relations with Cuba, among other changes.

FIU, less than 250 miles from Havana, hosts one of the nation’s leading centers for Cuban studies, and academic work on the island has long been an attractive prospect.

Its ultimate goal is to build a campus there, although FIU President Mark Rosenberg told the Miami Chamber of Commerce in October 2015 that a Cuban branch is “a long way off.”

For now, the school is focusing on technical fields, such as computer science, business administration and architecture, disciplines less likely to trigger politically charged questions of free speech and academic freedom.

The U.S. embargo on Cuba and on U.S. leisure tourism to the island remain in place and can be changed only by Congress.

The U.S. still cannot trade with Cuba nor can it offer lines of credit to its government, businesses or people.

Yet the administration is easing rules “to empower the Cuban people,” senior officials said to reporters during conference call on Sept. 19.

“There is only so much Obama can do to chip away at the embargo,” said Mora, the former deputy secretary of defense for the Western Hemisphere.

Additional reporting from the Tribune News Service.
As approved by Congress, the deal previews more tests for retirees

The October 21-25 survey found 26 percent of Republican primary voters were backing the retired neurosurgeon, while Trump had 22 percent. The new survey is the first major poll to show Carson overtaking the real estate mogul.

The reasoning gets complicated, but Ukrainian fears boil down to this: Having failed to win the war in southeastern Ukraine, Russia now is focusing on gaining control in the region by winning the hearts and minds of the local population.

Ukrainians fear Russian bombs in Syria are bad news for them

In recent weeks, as Russian bombs and missiles have started landing in Homs, Hama and Aleppo in Syria, concern has grown among Ukrainians that one of the primary targets of the barrage actually is their country.
University education costs continue to increase

KAAN OCBE
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The problem with feminism is that there aren’t many men brave enough to support it.

PHILIPPE BUTEAU
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How much did your tuition cost this semester? How much did it cost last semester? To those that have been paying attention, it’s common knowledge that tuition is rising. In fact, according to figures provided by the Florida Board of Governors, tuition at FIU specifically has grown by an average of 15 percent per year over the past five years while fees have more than doubled.

According to the Florida Board of Governors, tuition for in-state students was $117.67 per credit hour in 2010. However, FIU’s own admissions website reports that tuition is now $205.57 per credit hour. The cost of tuition and fees has one of those things that just increases every year as a rule. It’s like some kind of unfortunate law of nature that most people have resolved that you can’t fight back against.

But what happens when you fight back against it? Though the struggle of increasing educational costs is common for students all around the world, the response of American students does seem to be a bit of an anomaly compared to some of their international peers. American students seem to have accepted many of their more unfavorable conditions as unchangeable.

This mentality is different from university students in Montreal, for example, who went on strike for the better part of 2012 in response to the government of Quebec instituting a five-year tuition increase. That was an 80 percent increase in tuition which, by the way, would have still left students in Montreal with the lowest tuition in all of Canada. The students weren’t having it, and the strike eventually swollen to 150,000 students strong while demonstrations soon spread to other sections of society in Montreal. In September of 2012, the government of Quebec backed down and froze tuition right where it was.

Here we are back in the states and every year without fail, as sure as the sun rises, so does tuition and fees. What’s the difference between here and Montreal? Why are they so adamant about keeping their educational costs low while students in the United States seem so passive about them increasing, slowly tightening the chains of our collective debt loads around our throats?

One major difference is that Montreal is a place with a long history of student activism and organization and the other major difference is that in Montreal, students are organized. Students in Montreal long ago formed student unions so that they could collectively fight for their interests as students. This has helped to keep tuition low, as well as given the students in Montreal an avenue to voice their concerns and to tackle the problems that face them as students.

The students in Montreal were not alone either, international student organizations have mobilized around the world as well. For example, we all watched young people draw a line in the sand. Montreal was not an isolated incident either, student demonstrations seized the UK in 2010 when the Tory government moved to increase school fees and from 2011-2013 Chilean students fought for a liberatory education with a movement that became so powerful that one of its leaders became the president of parliament.

Students and their parents alike have been looking for a solution to come from on high to solve this impending crisis. Demanding change from politicians is of course necessary to remedying this odious situation but if we rely on that avenue alone then we as students are abdicating our responsibilities to ourselves. In addition to seeking change through political avenues, students must also contest the creation of this debt on the ground, at the point of consumption, in the very tuition and fees that we are paying in the first place.

We can do this through the formation of a student union. What we’ve learned from the unceasing clawing of the cost of our education is that school administrations and the state governments that employ them will not reduce costs on their own without pushback from students. Student governments can’t always serve as a voice for our concerns.

When FIU’s Board of Trustees approved an increase in tuition and fees in 2010, our former SGA president told FIU News that “in order to get a quality education, more class offerings and enhanced academic advising, we must support this increase.” By forming an autonomous student union, the students can organize and negotiate for their interests, much like a labor union does at a workplace.

A university system only functions because of its existence of these universities, we justify the salaries of the bloated administration universities, and we keep the place running with our labor, payment and the collective mortgaging of our futures. Yet we have no input in our education, much less any influence on the cost and are treated as passive consumers who will accept whatever we are offered.

Is that ok? Can you live with that? Perhaps I should ask again when the next tuition bill comes in.

Feminists do not paint the full picture of feminism

PHILIPPE BUTEAU
Staff Writer
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The problem with feminism is that there aren’t many men brave enough to support it.

But I won’t digress on what needs to happen for women everywhere to be uplifted: men everywhere should uplift them. And the more men of color the better.

But as I write this I’m thinking the response would be, “well of course you would say that sentence, then you’re as bad as Alessandra Stanley, who wrote a much-shared review of “How to Get Away With Murder” for The New York Times in which she said the autobiography of Shondra Rhimes, the show’s creator, would be called “How to Get Away With Being an Angry Black Woman.”

I had a voice in my head too, but I’m used to the voice of black women in my head when I don’t do what I’m supposed to do. However, the difference between Stanley and I, other than a lot of things, is that I am committed to remembering from whence I came, and that is from a developing country. But I am fortunate enough to have been born to a father who has achieved enough success to be able to send his kids to good schools, one of them here in the states.

All of those have taught me that poverty, particularly extreme poverty, negatively affects women, children, immigrants and people of color the most. To be honest, I’ve learned more from my extracurriculars than my own classes.

I remind myself as often as possible who I am here to help as a journalist: poor women, children and immigrants of color. I’d be more than remiss if I didn’t also mention lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender people and the poor and immigrant among them as well.

But how can a young journalist do anything? Well that depends how many issues I can report on and where I get to write until I die, starting at FIU.
Horrible habits lead to poor management

New experiences, as great as they may be, can be overwhelming. What happens when we are overwhelmed? We lose focus on taking care of ourselves. We are so busy trying to get a handle on everything that we forget about ourselves and our own well-being. This is the most crucial time to maintain a happy and healthy state. It will help us manage the adjustment much better.

Our diet is usually the first thing that goes out the window when getting used to a new routine and a new life. We tend to either overeat (thank you, stress) or not eat at all (thank you, time; or lack thereof). Both are unhealthy and dangerous.

Overeating is one of the leading causes of obesity today. Most times it occurs from eating too much “comfort food.” Yes, you know – those four slices of pizza that you stuffed down your throat after arriving late to the first day of class thanks to the long line at the bookstore. The food that gives us that warm and fuzzy feeling of control and security we tend to lack when feeling overwhelmed and out of balance. I am sure we all know that feeling.

Under eating is also a concern these days. We seem to be so busy living a fast-paced lifestyle, that we forget to eat. Can you believe that? Have we forgotten that eating is a necessity, not a luxury, like sleeping, drinking water and being active. It is important to feed our bodies, not only to fuel them for daily functions, but also to help maintain a healthy balance – physically, emotionally, mentally and biologically.

So how do you achieve and maintain this balance while adjusting to all of these new endeavors? Learn how to manage your stress, smile more often, sleep enough, go for a walk, ask for help and get organized. You can also maintain a healthy balance by improving your time management skills. Create a schedule and “To-Do” lists (make sure to include eating). Feel free to color code and prioritize. The feeling of crossing things off your list will provide you with a sense of accomplishment, helping you feel less stressed. See how it all ties together? Set reminders on your devices to take a break and eat – even just to breathe.

It is a cycle. When we become overwhelmed, it leads to malnourished stressed out human beings. Without proper nutrition, we become ill more frequently, which leads to absences from classes and assignments. Guess what happens then? We become more overwhelmed than when we started. When we try to catch up, the cycle begins again. By just being aware of our daily habits, we can change this cycle. Don’t feed into it. Tell that big, ugly, bad-habit to take his fries somewhere else; because around here, only healthy habits are made.

SDA HEALTH

SELENA S. SIFONTES

S’mores Under the Moonlight
What: The Art & Entertainment District will be hosting their S’mores Under the Moonlight series, a 21 and over event in which people can bond around a bonfire, music and food.
Where: Canvas Miami
When: Thursday, Oct. 29 at 7 p.m.

Radio-Stein
What: FIU Student Media will be hosting a Halloween party featuring music by WRGP DJs, games, food and a costume contest. All FIU students are welcomed to attend and take part in the festivities.
Where: in Parkview
When: Friday, Oct. 30, 6 to 10 p.m.

Fall Stargazing Party
What: Frost Science will be hosting a night of stargazing and learning about astronomy through science and space themed activities.
Where: Fruit and Spice park
When: Friday, Oct. 30 from 7:10 p.m.

Halloween on the Mile
What: A more family-friendly alternative to the slew of college geared Halloween parties is Halloween on the Mile. The event features face painting.
Where: on Miracle Mile
When: Saturday, Oct. 31 at 2 p.m.
Boardwalk musician Ted Hawkins, who died in 1995, is focus of a new tribute album

RANDY LEWIS
Los Angeles Times
TNS Staff

Imagine a homeless street musician with a soulful singing voice that earns him comparisons to R&B great Sam Cooke and, as it turns out, he also writes songs that are lauded alongside those of Kris Kristofferson, Curtis Mayfield and Tom Waits.

It would sound like a Hollywood B-movie — if it hadn’t turned out to be true.

This is the story of Venice, Calif., boardwalk entertainer Ted Hawkins, who a few decades ago spent years busking for change in anonymity, strumming a guitar while seated on a milk crate. Then he was discovered to be a first-rate singer and songwriter who wowed musicians and fans across the country and eventually released several critically acclaimed albums.

The extraordinary tale of Hawkins’ life and music is at the heart of “Cold and Bitter Tears: The Songs of Ted Hawkins,” a tribute album with new recordings of 15 of Hawkins’ songs sung by Americana, country and indie-rock musicians including James McMurtry, Mary Gauthier, Kasey and Bill Chambers, Tim Easton and others, plus one track sung by Hawkins’ widow, Elizabeth, and her daughter Tina.

The album also includes a bonus track, “Peace and Happiness Great New Year,” an a cappella performance by Hawkins himself.

“I love that guy’s voice,” said Gauthier, herself an acclaimed singer-songwriter, from her home in Nashville. “It’s so believable, so soulful in every meaning of the word. His voice connected to his heart, his heart was in his songs, and it was working on every level. I was thrilled they let me record one of my favorite songs of his, ‘Sorry You’re Sick.’”

It’s a nuanced, one-sided conversation from one friend to another who is ailing, but not from a cold or the flu. Gauthier, who struggled for years with addiction before finding her voice as a singer and songwriter, recognized the scenario when she heard it on one of Hawkins’ albums.

“There is nothing to me as heartbreaking or compelling as one addict’s compassion for another who is dying of addiction.”

Mary Gauthier
Singer-Songwriter
Musician

There’s a reason Camil makes the fatherhood role to a funny new level

YVONNE VILLARREAL
Los Angeles Times
TNS Staff

It was the kind of scene in which Rogelio de la Vega would revel: costars taking a break from production inside Stage 26 at Manhattan Beach Studios to heartily discuss his talents, just feet away from a billboard bearing an absurdly grandstanding image of his face.

Just a run-of-the-mill #blessed kind of moment, as he might say.

Except the praise on this sweltering fall day was for Jaime Camil, the man who has spun the character of wonderfully self-absorbed Rogelio de la Vega on “Jane the Virgin” into a singular figure in the annals of TV dads.

Gina Rodriguez may have had more comedic moments, but not from a cold or the flu. Gauthier, who struggled for years with addiction before finding her voice as a singer and songwriter, recognized the scenario when she heard it on one of Hawkins’ albums.

“There is nothing to me as heartbreaking or compelling as one addict’s compassion for another who is dying of addiction.”

Mary Gauthier
Singer-Songwriter
Musician

And if, like Rogelio, we use the term “triple threat” to mean someone has singing, acting and comedic talents, just feet away from a billboard bearing an absurdly grandstanding image of his face, then he says the most ridiculous thing, as he might say.

“There’s a reason Camil makes the over-the-top character seem effortless: The Mexico-born actor is widely known in Latin America for his role in popular sitcom-like telenovelas such as “La Fea Mas Bella” (The Prettiest Ugly Girl), which was Mexico’s adaptation of the popular Colombian telenovela that inspired “Ugly Betty.”

“They’re not like a soap opera or telenovela star and Jane’s once-estranged father — who doesn’t pop in peach but in power suits — also has more than 3.7 million followers.

“Whenever I say who is on the show, if the person I’m talking to is Latino, I will say ‘Jane’s name first,’” said Andrea Navedo, who plays Jane’s mother and Rogelio’s complicated love interest Xiomara Villanueva.

“You’ll see them light up. All of a sudden that gets their attention.”

“Peace and Happiness Great New Year,” an a cappella performance by Hawkins himself.

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RIVALRY REGALE

Don Shula Bowl a gateway to Panther’s postseason

When the average college football fan thinks about storied rivalries, some of the ones that come to mind are usually larger schools such as University of Alabama and Auburn University, University of Michigan and Ohio State University and University of Southern California and University of California Los Angeles. However, there’s an often overlooked rivalry here in South Florida that is just as big to those involved as the ones listed before: Florida International University and Florida Atlantic University.

This Saturday, Oct. 31, while most people around the country will be trick-or-treating or getting ready for their Halloween parties, FAU Stadium in Boca Raton will be packed for Don Shula Bowl XIV. FIU (4-4, 2-2) will look to maintain possession of the Shula Bowl against the struggling FAU Owls (1-6, 1-3). In addition to playing for the Shula Bowl, both the Panthers and Owls will have their own reasons to be extra inspired in this year’s edition of the FIU-FAU rivalry. FIU needs a win if they want a realistic shot to play in a bowl game, in addition to the motivation of playing against their biggest rival. FAU, on the other hand, has no chance for postseason play, so the Shula Bowl essentially becomes their equivalent to a bowl game. The Owls would love nothing more than to win their homecoming game and effectively end FIU’s chances to receive an invitation to a bowl game, so expect a highly motivated FAU team on Saturday afternoon.

One thing FIU will need to do better this week is stop the run. They got lucky that Old Dominion University couldn’t capitalize on their 297 rushing yards last week, but they might not be so fortunate if they allow the Owls’ running backs to get going. Sophomore Greg Howell leads the team in rushing with 347 yards on 43 carries, and FAU will once again play a very solid game and lead his Panthers to their second consecutive victory.

“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.

Women’s golf finishes third in home tournament

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Women’s golf placed third at the 38th Annual Pat Bradley Tournament with a score of 891 (+27) in Sarasota, Fla. on Tuesday, Oct. 27. The tournament was the final event in the fall season for FIU golf.

Megan MacLaren tied for 11th place after posting a combined score of 7-over par over three days of competition. The senior posted a 1-under par first round and struggled in her final round, shooting a 6-over par 78.

Coralia Arias made her first start in the season for the Panthers. Arias’ tournament highlight was the second round, where she carded an even-par 72. In the round, Arias birdied five holes and limited her mistakes to finish in 22nd place on the individual scoreboard.

Camila Serrano’s first two rounds of the tournament were plagued by bogies. In her second round, for example, Serrano made one birdie versus four bogies and one double bogey. However, the FIU junior rebounded in her final round.

Unlike her first two rounds, Serrano carded three birdies versus one bogey. Thus, Serrano finished the final round with a 2-under par 70. This was the lowest round of the tournament for the Panthers.

Senior Carla Jane remained consistent throughout the tournament, as she had since the season began. Jane shot a combined score of 8-over par in Sarasota, Fla. Her performance netted her a tie for 13th place with Serrano. Jane’s best round of the tournament came in day one, when she shot a 2-over par 74.

Other golfers involved in the tournament were Sophie Godley and Katerina Krasova. Krasova played as an individual and the tournament finished with a total score of 238 (+22). Last year’s breakout golfer has not played well throughout the fall season.

Godley, meanwhile, came in 35th place in the tournament. Godley has shown that she can remain consistent throughout the fall season.

Godley, who was limited to nine rounds last year, has had a nice bounce-back season. Expect Godley to remain in the top five for the remainder of the season if her consistent play continues into the spring season.

The Pat Bradley was the last tournament of the fall season for the Panthers. Now, the Panthers will have a four-month break before their next tournament, which is the Florida Challenge.

In the spring season, FIU will take on the University of Miami in a head-to-head matchup. The match against UM will be from Feb. 29 to March 2. The final tournament of the year for the Panthers will be the SMU Invite in Dallas.

FIU Offensive Statistics

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FAU Offensive Statistics

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Penalties - Yards

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<td>Average per game: 388.0</td>
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Women seek to end season on strong note

SANTIAGO ARCHIERI
Contributing Writer
sports@fiusm.com

The FIU womens soccer team (8-10-0, 4-5 in Conference USA) travels to Charlotte on Friday, Oct. 30 to play in their final regular season match up against the University of North Carolina at Charlotte 49ers (6-11-1, 2-6-1 C-USA).

The Panthers are heading into the game on a bit of a cold stretch, having been unable to score in their last three games, going 0-3 and dropping them to the lower half of the C-USA table.

After a strong start in conference play, the Panthers have gone 2-5 in their last seven games and are now in danger of dropping a fourth straight game.

The 49ers, however, have not had a great season of their own. They have the third least amount of points in the C-USA standings and have only one win in their last eight games. This game will also mark the final game of the season for the 49ers.

FIU has the chance to end the season at .500 in conference play, but they need a big game in order to do that. Playing on the road has not been the Panthers’ strongest point this season, as they have a 1-7 record on games not played in Miami. In fact, they have not won on the road since early September, and currently has a five game road losing streak.

If all things go right for the Panthers, they have a chance to skyrocket in the conference standings, with a possibility of being a top-five team in terms of total points from conference games.

Easy second half expected in Don Shula Bowl

When they play the Owls on Halloween, the Panthers are hoping they don’t get spooked.

A lot rides on this game, which not only includes the Don Shula trophy and bragging rights for the next year, but the Panthers are looking for the season’s first back to back win to remain on the hunt for bowl eligibility.

The Owls, 1-6 overall and 0-4 at home, haven’t won a game on their home field this season. They probably need to take a few notes from their fellow brethren as the Panthers at 4-4 are 3-0 in their home field. At least the Owls are 9-4 all-time against the Panthers, although the Panthers won last season in Miami with the final score of 38-10.

In addition, it’s also homecoming week for FAU. Even though they most likely are not going anywhere this postseason, I’m pretty sure that defeating the Panthers, regaining the Don Shula Trophy and ruining the Panthers’ chance in being bowl eligible will be the highlight of their season.

Now, in their defense, this an FAU team that is better than what their record is showing. They do have talented players around them. We can start with their starting quarterback Jaquez Johnson, a senior who has had an up and down year. He’s been injured, benched and inconsistent. Luckily for the Owls, should Johnson struggle they have a reliable backup in Jason Driskel. If Driskel plays, he will be the second quarterback named Driskel the Panthers has faced this season. Jason Driskel is the younger brother of Jeff Driskel, who plays for Louisiana Tech University.

The Owls’ strength on offense is their running game, which is lead by their three-headed monsters Greg Howell, their leading rusher, Jay Warren, the power back, and Trey Rodriguez, the freshman running back. All three players have a combined 864 rushing yards and nine touchdowns.

The Panthers’ run defense has not been solid this season. Last Saturday against Old Dominion University, they gave up 297 rushing yards even though they put up the victory. Look for FAU to pound the ball and rotate all three backs just to wear down the defense.

Reigning Conference USA player of week Alex McGough and the Panthers’ offense will have their hands full against FAU’s young and explosive defense. The players they should look out for are two starting cornerbacks Cro’von LeBlanc and Ocie Rose. Both have a combined six total interceptions. Rose, a true freshman, is number one in C-USA interception yardage, with a total 155 yards. If you are not familiar with Rose, the Homestead native originally committed to FIU but signed to play for FAU at the last minute.

Despite all the talent FAU has on their team, the main reason that they’re 1-6 is because they struggle during the second half. Last week, against University of Texas at El Paso, after leading the first half of the game they were scoreless in the second half and gave up 13 unanswered points.

With their struggles in closing out games, the Panthers must take advantage of their weakness and not give the Owls a reason to make it a tight ball game.

I have FIU defeating FAU with the final score 38-17. It will be competitive in the first half, but I expect the Panthers to score three touchdowns in the second half of the game. With this win, the Panthers will be 2-4 on the road, have back to back wins for the first time this season and be one win away from bowl eligibility for the first time under Head Coach Ron Turner.
**FOUNTAIN OF YOUTH**

Young players deciding factor in team’s success

GIANCARLO NAVAS
Contributing Writer

As the freshness of autumn settles in Miami, the women’s tennis team has gotten through a fair deal of their season. The final tournament of their fall schedule will be played at home at the FIU Invitational, which begins Friday, Oct. 30 and runs until Monday, Nov. 2.

Freshman Maryna Vekslter and sophomore Nermia Caluk have been the most impressive players this season, both taking huge wins at the Bedford Cup.

And Intercollegiate Tennis Association Southeast Regionals respectively (Vekslter took the consolation draw title). Before the season, the common train of thought was that the veterans of the team, like senior Carlotta Orlando from Italy and junior Nina Nagode from Slovenia, would be the ones to make the Panthers great. That hasn’t been the case; the younger stars of this team have been the ones to shine brightest.

Caluk, the Slovenian who stands at a towering 5-foot-10, turned heads at the Bedford Cup in Ft. Meyers Fla. this month as she got a 5-0 record in singles B main draw, winning the singles title that weekend. By the end of the tournament Caluk the Kakanj, Bosnia/Herzegovina native, was riding a 7-game winning streak.

Vekslter at the five day ITA Southeast Regionals in Athens, Ga. took home the consolation draw title, which she won only dropping two sets in the consolation bracket. The tournament featured 80 players and 37 doubles pairs from 15 schools across Georgia and Florida. After Vekslter lost her opener to University of Florida’s Anna Danila, she ripped through the consolation bracket winning her next five games. She ultimately beat Georgia Tech’s Megan Kurey in the final. Despite a lackluster performance at the Milwaukee Classic, the younger players have lifted this team. At the Milwaukee Classic, Vekslter and Caluk dropped their opening games, and since then they have been the standout players.

The loss of Yana Koroleva, who played her final season during the spring semester, has been a blow to the team. Koroleva and Nagode were as close as an automatic win in doubles as you could be. Nagode and Koroleva sported a 12-0 record in 2015 and lead Conference-USA in doubles winning percentage. Koroleva’s 2015 singles game was one of the best the conference had as well. She was fifth in C-USA winning percentage and had a 16-3 overall record.

However, despite the loss of FIU’s most statistically dominant player the Panthers have managed to still be good. Another strong tournament from the underclassmen would make the future especially bright for the Panther’s moving into their spring schedule.

US, Cuba to work together to protect fish

WILLIAM E. GIBSON
Sun Sentinel

Florida’s depleted sea life is about to get a boost from an unlikely neighbor - Cuba. Cuban and U.S. officials have agreed to collaborate on protecting fish that migrate from Cuba to Florida, and to preserve coral reefs and ecosystems in both countries, drawing lessons from the Florida Keys and the Everglades.

Secretary of State John Kerry said this past week that he will go to Havana early next year to seal the deal. The former Cold War adversaries are establishing a “sister sanctuary” relationship between the Florida Keys National Marine Sanctuary and Guanahacabibes National Park, a protected area on the west coast of Cuba teeming with fish and healthy coral.

Scientists from each country will address common threats facing reefs. Americans will gain access to Cuba’s flourishing fish and their habitat. Cuban scientists will get a firsthand look at marine management in the Keys and restoration of the Everglades, a depleted ecosystem recovering from urban sprawl and polluted runoff.

“As you are seeing the two governments begin to collaborate in earnest in a way we just haven’t seen before. This is a real precedent-setting agreement,” said Daniel Whittle, director of the Environmental Defense Fund’s Cuba program, who met with officials and scientists from both countries.

He and other environmentalists hope the collaboration will help Cubans safeguard their pristine waters and marine life before the island is stressed by rapid economic development and a flood of tourists. Their success could have a direct effect on threatened fish populations in Florida.

“A lot of the species that commercial and recreational fishermen in Florida depend on...snappers and groupers...begin their life in Cuba,” Whittle said. “The currents carry the larvae on ocean currents through the Florida Straits into southeast Florida. So by protecting the habitats in Cuba, you are helping to rebuild fish populations in the U.S.”

The collaboration builds on discussions between U.S. and Cuban leaders to establish joint contingency plans to contain damage should there be an oil spill in Cuban waters.

Oil exploration off the Cuban coast raised fears in Florida and Congress that a spill, if it occurs, would produce a giant toxic slick that could reach South Florida shores, fouling reefs, inlets and beaches. Those fears faded when energy companies suspended the search, but Cuban leaders still hope to tap deposits believed to be off the north coast within 50 miles of the Florida Keys.

The oil drilling alarm raised awareness of the close connections linking Florida’s and Cuba’s environment. Birds fly, fish swim and ocean currents flow from the island to Florida, regardless of the U.S. trade embargo and conflicts between governments.

The sanctuary agreement extends to two offshore areas: the Flower Garden Banks, a national marine sanctuary in the Gulf of Mexico about 100 miles from the Texas coast; and Banco de San Antonio, a similar underwater area eight miles off the western tip of Cuba. More marine sanctuaries may be added to the agreement.