Journalist asks students to make change

YURIELLE MENARD
Consulting Writer
nymard@fiusm.com

Soledad O’Brien, award-winning journalist and a CNN correspondent, said that college students are the people who will shape national issues on the Latino population.

O’Brien returned to the University a second time to discuss topics such as voting elections, education, leadership and the entertainment industry among Latinos.

“I feel that people of your age group are the ones trying to move the needle on a lot of these important issues,” said O’Brien, who kicked off her “I Am Latino in America” tour at FIU on Monday, Sept. 28.

She was invited by the Biscayne Bay Campus Student Government Council earlier this year to talk about racial profiling and protests against police brutality during her “Black in America” tour. Through her “I Am Latino in America” tour, O’Brien said she wants to empower Latino Americans, especially students.

“I know that the student body is really interested and active and loves to be engaged in a conversation,” said O’Brien in an interview with FIU Student Media.

“When you do a presentation like ‘Latino in America’ tour, you really want the students to come back with questions and to be part of the conversation you’re having. For all those reasons, FIU is a great place to begin.”

O’Brien said she chose to kick off her tour at the University because of the outreach of the Latino community, its student engagement and involvement.

FIU ranks No. 9 out of 50 colleges in the nation to successfully award degrees to Hispanics, according to Best Colleges.com.

Experts on the topic issues were also a part of the discussion. One of the panelists was Joel Fuentes DeWitt, president for Academic Affairs, who spoke about education.

O’Brien talked about her Latino in America documentary, which includes interviews on families and individuals of Hispanic descent within American society.

O’Brien interviews a high school student named Cindy in her Latino in America documentary. She said Cindy was determined to graduate on time, even though she was pregnant and was 46 credits behind.

O’Brien used Cindy’s story to discuss the importance of Latinos having hope.

“Hope is sort of another word for feeling like you have an opportunity somewhere, and I think what she lacked was a sense that there was another door through which there was a lot of possibilities,” said O’Brien.

O’Brien said that students should engage with others and find out about their day-to-day experiences, and discuss why they are the way they are.

“I think the thing about being a good reporter is being curious and to try to understand why people are how they are and how they got that way,” she said.

“Students of this generation have a personal connection with trending social issues in which they feel they can do something and know that they are contributing to the greater good,” said O’Brien. She said that is what makes today’s generation different from her own.

O’Brien also said that in addition to education, immigration is a big issue that is affecting the Latino community. However, she said that supporting an issue is not the only way to increase voter turnout for the Hispanic community.

“My advice to students would be: figure out what’s a change you’re interested in, get behind a candidate who is going to bring the change to the world and help that person achieve it.”

University students travel to Philly, hoped to see pope

NICOLE MONTERO
Asst. News Director
nicole.montero@fiusm.com

Evelyn Hernandez, a senior special education major, traveled 1,195 miles for a chance to see Pope Francis in the flesh.

Francis, the 266th pope of the Catholic Church, appeared at the triennial World Meeting of the Families in Philadelphia, offering mass Sunday on the steps of the city’s art museum.

More than 25 families and University students made the trip from Miami to attend, approximately 300 in total.

They traveled in seven buses. For Hernandez this meant sleeping in an uncomfortable bus with no leg room and no reclining chair.

But it was worth it.

“We prayed and sang, and it was still an amazing trip,” she said. “I felt so blessed and amazed to just be there listening to him live. It was calming and it was at peace, something that was very hard for me on a normal basis.”

Hernandez said she waited more than three hours in a crowd that might have exceeded 1 million people.

“I didn’t happen. ‘I still heard him and saw him through the jambotrons,’ she said.

‘Truth is, I probably wouldn’t have watched it or heard it back at home on TV. Sometimes you need a time off to find yourself and evaluate what’s important.’”

For Hernandez and her friends, it was a pilgrimage.

The group departed Miami via bus at around 7 p.m. Friday and arrived in Philadelphia Saturday at about 9 p.m.

Evan Rodriguez, a priest ordained a year and a half ago at Miami’s Mother of Christ Catholic Church, led the pilgrimage.

“We came from Miami to see the pope because we belong to the church, and the pope is our vicar,” said Rodriguez.

“We got to meet other people with the same beliefs as us, and that’s beautiful.”

The World Meeting of the Families is an annual gathering of family, community and faith.

At the Sunday mass, the pope highlighted the importance of the family in the 21st century.

“The family is the kind of world do we want to leave to our children?” he said.

“May our children find in us models and incentives to communion and men and women capable of joining others in bringing to full flower all the good seeds, which the Lord has sown.”

Tommaso Benigni, a senior biomedical engineering major and the fifth child of 10 in his Italian family, said the trip was a “spiritual tool” for both him and his relatives.

His parents came to the United States as missionaries more than 20 years ago, dedicated to spreading the word about God’s love to strangers, telling them He loves them “as they are and with all their flaws.”

“In one trip this has made me see how important the family is,” said Hernandez. “I wouldn’t have lived it the same way if I was home. It’s been a once in a lifetime opportunity.”
NATION & WORLD BRIEFS

N. Carolina’s Rep. McHenry announces bid for whip position

U.S. Rep. Patrick McHenry announced Tuesday that he is officially running for the No. 3 position in House leadership, the majority whip. In a letter to GOP colleagues, the North Carolina Republican said it was time to change the culture of the conference. “We need a new leadership team that is committed to conservative principles, but more than that we must recognize the need for a culture change within our conference,” he wrote. “A new culture based on trust, communication and collaboration.”

Snapchat? Twitter? Millennials aren’t that interested

All millennials are hooked on social networks like Snapchat, Twitter and Instagram, right? Maybe not, according to survey results recently published by investment firm Battery Ventures. The findings, which came from an Ipsos poll conducted online in August from a sample of 1,253 U.S. adults ages 20 to 35, suggest that the supposedly social media-obsessed 20-somethings of America aren’t that obsessed at all. Some 54 percent of survey respondents said they don’t have an account with Snapchat, 41 percent said they don’t have an account with Pinterest, and 39 percent said they’re neither on Twitter nor Instagram.

CLASSIFIEDS

ATTENTION MATH, SCIENCE & EDUCATION MAJORS
Lucy Zelman’s Learning Center
We are looking for high achieving college students, familiar with upper levels of high school mathematics and science such as chemistry, physics, algebra 1 & 2, geometry and calculus. Must have excellent written and verbal communication skills. Various job openings available at our center.
FLEXIBLE HOURS AND EXCELLENT PAY.
CALL (305) 233-3777 OR (305) 378-8662 FOR MORE INFORMATION.
You may fax us your resume at (305) 233-3772 or send via email to lrzelman@gmail.com.

THE BEACON

E-BOARD AND PRODUCTION STAFF

CONTACT INFORMATION

Michelle Madrigal Campus: GC 210, Mon-Fri 9:00 a.m.-5 p.m. (305) 348-3896 news@fiusm.com
Biscayne Bay Campus: WRC 134, Mon-Fri 9:00 a.m.-5 p.m. (305) 348-4722 bllc@fiusm.com
Fax (305) 348-2709
Editor-in-Chief: (305) 233-3772
Urs.martins@fiusm.com
Advertising: (305) 348-6946 advertising@fiusm.com

University dean represents FIU

CAMILA FERNANDEZ
News Director
camila.fernandez@fiusm.com

Mike Heithaus, dean of the College of Arts and Sciences, testified before the House Agriculture Subcommittee on Horticulture, Biotechnology, and Research in Washington D.C. Tuesday, Sept. 29.

The hearing, called “Research Innovations from our Nation’s Agricultural Colleges and Universities,” will give the opportunity to highlight the University’s innovative work in detecting and protecting crops in South Florida, according to FIU Federal Relations.

Crops have recently been susceptible to the deadly laurel wilt disease, which spreads by an invasive insect.

The dean also discussed FIU’s outreach efforts to attract minority high school students to the agricultural sciences.

The University is trying to connect Hispanic farm workers, Hispanic agricultural scientists and engineers.

Other participants involved during the hearing included Mindy Brashears, director of the International Center for Food Industry Excellence at Texas Tech University and Michael Lacy, professor and department head of the Department of Poultry Science at the University of Georgia.

Other topics that were planned for discussion include veterans and small farmers outreach, economic growth and job creation and research partnerships of which the University is engaged.

Police find three bullet casings found in FIU arena

CAMILA FERNANDEZ
News Director
camila.fernandez@fiusm.com

Three bullet casings were found in the FIU Arena at the Modesto A. Maidique Campus.

Wayne Rustad, equipment athletics facilities manager, said he found an empty silver Winchester .45 9mm casing in a laundry room on the first floor of the arena. The casing was visible in the dryer’s lint trap, according to a report by the University police department on Sept. 8.

Rustad said that the laundry facility is used by staff for athletic wear and used by FIU athletes.

He spoke about his finding to Julie Berg McGraw, associate athletic director, who said the police advised her not to comment on the matter to Student Media until an investigation was completed.

Rustad also reported two other empty bullet casings that he found about three to four months ago in the laundry room. The cartridges are a Blazer .45 AUTO and a 1-FC Luger 9mm, both grip.

The casings were taken as found property and will not be sent to the Miami-Dade Police Department laboratory because the police do not know how long the bullet casings were in the lint trap and who held them.

According to Alexander Casas, chief of the FIU Police Department, the police have conducted forensic analysis to determine the origin of the casings.

“We don’t just completely dismiss it as a random action,” Casas said. He also said it is possible that a recreational shooter did not empty his pockets before cleaning.

Casas says concerns about the casings are minimal, since the only people who had access to the facility was staff from Athletics. Otherwise, the police would have sent a security warning to the University community.

Casas said it would have been a bigger issue if the casings were to have been found in a parking lot, for example.

Three bullet casings were found in the FIU Arena at the Modesto A. Maidique Campus.
Nicole Stone
Contributing Writer
nicole.stone@fiusm.com

Gentrification, in a sense, is all about the classic notion of “out with the old, in with the new” and it is occurring in Wynwood. Wynwood is now affectionately titled “art district” after being taken into the hands of various wealthy developers who saw its potential. Graftiti brings the district to life; anyone who has been there has felt the atmospheric magic of being dwarfed by the art on the district’s towering buildings.

A night of enjoying this new Wynwood culture is quickly being added to bucket lists everywhere. There are coffee shops, classy restaurants and numerous bars to suit the nightlife groove sought by many checking out the district.

This rebirth would not have been possible without the encouragement of its developers. Among these developers are David Lombardi and Tony Goldman who helped push out the old and replaced it with upscale art museums and dining venues.

Unfortunately, all this came at the cost of the people who didn’t like the portrait of a hip, new Wynwood.

Gentrification is a dark and ugly process. A massive part of urban redevelopment is improving property values, something that is foreign to Wynwood’s own redevelopment. More often than not, the original inhabitants are forced to leave, as they are unable to pay the increased rent.

During an interview featured in Camila Alvarez’s documentary, “Right to Wynwood,” Lombardi proudly recalls pushing out an entire building of tenants in order to demolish the structure. “I delivered a big machine that rips the building down... I pushed it there as an ornament for them.... The morning I got the permit [for demolition], I had the policemen come and knock on every door and tell them they had one hour to get out... They all stood on the sidewalk with their suitcases... I went by and wished them well on their future endeavors,” said Lombardi.

This displacement of one community of people for another should be firing alarms in the minds of Wynwood’s visitors. Maybe they are unaware of what gentrification truly means for the community; and it only means the destruction of the community.

If Wynwood is really about diverse people coming together in an urban setting, there should be options for the lower-income residents who existed there previously. What is happening in Wynwood is not progress at all. It is just a flip in the social hierarchy of the city.

Instead of those with low income, who now are high-income residents. Progress does not breed the elimination of entire communities; rather, it should integrate them. The truth of Wynwood’s rebranding in particular is essentially “out with the poor, in with the rich.”

The artists of Wynwood may not realize their role as catalysts for their own exploitation and the exploitation of their art. The art district in Wynwood was once an outlet for artists to put themselves out there and further develop their careers. After the onset of Wynwood’s gentrification, art in Wynwood is no longer about art.

The gentrification of Wynwood’s art is to bring in an audience and raise property values. This art is about making money. Many of the artists featured in “Right to Wynwood” state that they didn’t care why the art was there - what mattered to them was that it simply existed there, and bountifully.

The gentrification of Wynwood is not a light matter, and the costs of its progress should be taken into account when we truly is this truly a rags-to-riches success story.

ST. LOUIS POST-DISPATCH
There are coffee shops, classy restaurants and numerous bars to suit the nightlife groove sought by many checking out the district.

This rebirth would not have been possible without the encouragement of its developers. Among these developers are David Lombardi and Tony Goldman who helped push out the old and replaced it with upscale art museums and dining venues.

Unfortunately, all this came at the cost of the people who didn’t like the portrait of a hip, new Wynwood.

Gentrification is a dark and ugly process. A massive part of urban redevelopment is improving property values, something that is foreign to Wynwood’s own redevelopment. More often than not, the original inhabitants are forced to leave, as they are unable to pay the increased rent.

During an interview featured in Camila Alvarez’s documentary, “Right to Wynwood,” Lombardi proudly recalls pushing out an entire building of tenants in order to demolish the structure. “I delivered a big machine that rips the building down... I pushed it there as an ornament for them.... The morning I got the permit [for demolition], I had the policemen come and knock on every door and tell them they had one hour to get out... They all stood on the sidewalk with their suitcases... I went by and wished them well on their future endeavors,” said Lombardi.

This displacement of one community of people for another should be firing alarms in the minds of Wynwood’s visitors. Maybe they are unaware of what gentrification truly means for the community; and it only means the destruction of the community.

If Wynwood is really about diverse people coming together in an urban setting, there should be options for the lower-income residents who existed there previously. What is happening in Wynwood is not progress at all. It is just a flip in the social hierarchy of the city.

Instead of those with low income, who now are high-income residents. Progress does not breed the elimination of entire communities; rather, it should integrate them. The truth of Wynwood’s rebranding in particular is essentially “out with the poor, in with the rich.”

The artists of Wynwood may not realize their role as catalysts for their own exploitation and the exploitation of their art. The art district in Wynwood was once an outlet for artists to put themselves out there and further develop their careers. After the onset of Wynwood’s gentrification, art in Wynwood is no longer about art.

The gentrification of Wynwood’s art is to bring in an audience and raise property values. This art is about making money. Many of the artists featured in “Right to Wynwood” state that they didn’t care why the art was there - what mattered to them was that it simply existed there, and bountifully.

The gentrification of Wynwood is not a light matter, and the costs of its progress should be taken into account when we truly is this truly a rags-to-riches success story.
Nancy Meyers reflects on working in Hollywood

REBECCA KEEGAN
TNS

Nancy Meyers was not allowed on the set of her first movie without a male chaperone. Thirteen films later — six of them as director — Meyers can laugh about it.

It was 1979 and Warner Bros. was making “Private Benjamin” from a script Meyers had written with Charles Wessler. The director, Steven Dekas, would later marry her. Her contract stipulated that Meyers, then 29, had to be with Shyer or another male producer at all times while on set.

“I assumed that was because I was an inexperienced woman,” Meyers said. “It was a very male world. I didn’t know any women directors. I’m sure there were other women writers, but I didn’t know them. It was a bit isolating. There were pinups in the crew’s boxes. It made me really uncomfortable. I walked around and introduced myself. I said, ‘Hi, I’m the co-writer. I’d love to have you around.’”

Meyers’ latest movie as writer and director, “The Intern,” centers on a character who would find that churnaist world uncrowded by the many ways. Jules, a young CEO of a tech startup played by Anne Hathaway, is the boss of 200 employees, responsible for the mortgage on a tastefully decorated Brooklyn brownstone, married to an attentive stay-at-home dad. And Jules has something Meyers says she never really did — a mentor, a 70-year-old retired businessman named Ben (Robert De Niro) who is improbably hired as her intern.

“It came from something that was missing in my life but I never thought of,” said Meyers, now 65. “When somebody’s in a stressful situation, wouldn’t it be nice to have someone with some wisdom to watch your back, remind you who you are and what you’re doing well? Wouldn’t we all like that?”

Meyers’ has an unusual, dichotomous quality — she takes the details of life and her movies utterly seriously while having a sense of humor about herself. Petite, crisply dressed at a busy Los Angeles breakfast spot on a recent morning, she spied an Oscar-winning screenwriter across the room. “I’ll introduce you,” she said. “He’ll have no idea who I am.”

Asked if she could go back and offer her younger self a piece of advice, Meyers said, “I’d rather be able to talk to me now. I’d say, ‘Calm down.’”

As Meyers’ female director of several successful studio movies, Meyers is the unofficial president of one of the world’s oldest sororities. She has ridden out trends in the film business — many of them grim for the category of relationship-driven movie she makes — and watched as women in Hollywood have grown increasingly vocal about what they perceive as a second-class status.

For her fans, many of whom are female, Meyers’ tales of triumphant women in films like “It’s Complicated” and “Something’s Gotta Give” occupy event status. Minding Kaling tweeted recently, “You’re going to see #TheIntern with my box of guacamole? You probably want to make guacamole, and of course I can’t. It’s a scene that probably would not have made it to the film. ‘Chick flick’ and ‘middle-aged disaster movie’ are dismissive phrases ‘chick flick’ and ‘middle-age porn’ crop up in reviews. Meyers’ films dwell in an affluent, mostly white world and often touch off cultural discussions about race and gender.

“Nancy has an awareness that her position is somewhat unique,” said Susan Farwell, who started as Meyers’ assistant on her first film as a director, “1998’s ‘The Parent Trap,’” and served as a producer on “The Intern.” “She always had a lot of clarity about what she wants, but now she has more confidence.”

Making “The Intern” tested that confidence, however, as Meyers found a film industry dramatically changed since the release of her last film, 2009’s “It’s Complicated.”

Nancy Meyers was looking for a character who would work on the set, scrutinizing production designs, hiring a lot of women without seeing who they are, “as director wearing a tiny pink suit,” she said. “I just kept taking more meetings and sending it out again. I got to the point where I was going to bury the script in my backyard. Dig a hole. Buy a nice little box at the Container Store. At a certain point I thought, ‘enough.’”

As Meyers worked to set up the film, cast members came and went — Reese Witherspoon and Tina Fey were both attached at one point. The kind of executive producers who had worked with in the past, on films like “What Women Want,” which starred Mel Gibson, and “The Holiday,” with Cameron Diaz and Kate Winslet, were no longer given to a movie’s millennial men, perhaps because the category of romantic comedy is now considered a “chick flick” and “middle-aged porn” by critics and audiences.

“I knew that, and so I didn’t fight that,” Meyers said of the evolving Hollywood economics. “Things change. I’m sure there was a sense of, ‘Can she do it for this number?’ ‘Cause I’ve made a lot of movies that had really healthy budgets for movies that mostly take place in the kitchen and the bedroom.’

Ultimately Warner Bros. signed on and Meyers was able to talk to me now. I’d say, ‘Calm down.’”

“Bill and Ted’s” features the duo on a quest to stop Kanye West from stealing their time machine phone booth. It’s as every bit ridiculous as it is enjoyable with laughs and air guitar.

HHN came back this year with the intention of pulling out all the stops and reminding everyone who’ve been around for 25 years.

The “All Night Die-In” scare zone hosts horror icons such as Dracula, Frankenstein and the Wolfman. Another note section at one of the young adults around him struggle to choose the right emotion for their feelings. The movie’s millennial men, in particular, are slumped at the bar, buying shots and telling jokes.

It’s a scene that probably wouldn’t occur to a male writer, Meyers admitted.

“A lot of my women (characters), they come from me,” she said. “The one who said, ‘I’m too busy to worry them. I feel a real responsibility when I write women.’”
‘The Grinder’ and ‘Grandfathered’ are good sitcoms

ROBERT LLOYD
TNS Staff

With the Tuesday premieres of “The Grinder,” starring Rob Lowe, and “Grandfathered,” with John Stamos, Fox proffers a brace of genial, even family-friendly sitcoms of a sort not usually associated with the network of “Married With Children” and, recently, “The Last Man on Earth,” in which Will Forte fills a swimming pool with his own human waste.

There is a lot of nostaligic energy generated from the get-go. Each series stars an actor not much over 50 whose youthful pinup prettiness hasn’t reached its half-life — indeed has been remarkably slow to decay, supporting and underscoring their characters’ substantial but not unswerving self-regard. And each of them has been partnered with a younger, former child star: Fred Savage of “The Wonder Years” for Lowe and Josh Peck of “Drake & Josh” for Stamos.

Both are well-made, well-cast series about finding purpose and untangling what you really want from what you only happen to be a great one — he is dependent on note cards, mumbles his way through arguments and, when the going gets tough, he stops — and that Dean, whose divorce from his TV character is causing him some existential distress (“Right now I’m just driving on the highway of What the Hell Is My Life, looking for an offramp,” he says with typical drama), has the stuff to be one, though his knowledge of the law consists entirely of things picked up from TV scripts.

They will have much to teach each other.

Little of what happens in the pilot would make much sense outside the borders of popular fiction. Or perhaps that’s just how things work in Boise, you are free to believe.

But it has emotional truth, let’s call it, and it plays well. Like the judge and jury who are happy to let Dean have his way in and with the courtroom, we are inclined to overlook troublesome details for the sake of entertainment.

“Grandfathered,” created by Daniel Chun, formerly a head writer on “The Office,” takes a well-worn trope — the confirmed, usually swimming bachelor whose life is turned upside down by the arrival of a child or children — and adds an extra generation. Stamos plays restaurateur Jimmy Martin, an energetic, somewhat fretful human tornado who, when we meet him, is plucking a gray hair from his head as though it were a tick. Soon enough, after a brief bit of establishing this and that, we see him meet his unsuspected son, the woolly-headed Gerald (Peck), who has a child of his own, a baby daughter.

Gerald’s mother is played, happily, by the great Pat Sajak, whose voice is heard on “Wheel of Fortune” and the voice-activated music system below, eating breakfast for one, his only companion a voice-activated music system — not love interests or sex objects — passing through — the main business will be with the community they all define.

Though having opened up to humans and monsters living amongst each other, he is still concerned that his half-human grandson, Dennis, may not be a vampire, and comes up with a plan to draw out the boy’s potential abilities. Things turn topsy-turvy when Dracula’s father, who is ancient and detests humans, turns up with the expectation of Dennis also continuing the Dracula family line.

By acknowledging the fact that not everyone can conform to preconceived ideals, this movie says “being different is okay.” Moreover, “Hotel Transylvania 2 functions as a social-allegory on a number of levels and recognizes the need for an open mind and life in love. This spooky feel-good family comedy gave me a heart-warming feeling, and is quite the treat mixed in with a few tricks.

MAYTINE KRAMER

Vampires, zombies, mummies and werewolves may be thought of as terrifying, but if you were to ask Count Dracula, he would simply tell you monsters are nothing but peace-loving creatures that have been unfairly labeled and treated.

Just in time for Halloween, the follow-up family comedy to “Hotel Transylvania,” starring the voices of Adam Sandler, Selena Gomez, Andy Samberg and Asher Blinkoff, puts the fun in funny, giving adults plenty of appropriate jokes to appreciate while children have their boo-ha-ha.

“Hotel Transylvania 2” is cute and slightly spooky, but definitely sends out a positive heartfelt message on family unity and diversity. Having a change of heart over his monster-only guest policy, Dracula opens up his hotel to humans, and it seems things are changing for the better.

Though having opened up to humans and monsters living amongst each other, he is still concerned that Jimmy, “I will choke you to death with your own overly moisturized hand.”

What’s nice about the series is that, after the required moment of shock, confusion and temperamental if not factual denial, Jimmy moves on quickly to acceptance and interest. Though the pilot hits some of the expected beats — don’t muss my pants, baby with dirty hands — it doesn’t reveal in the comedy of disconcert common to such stories. It doesn’t artificially harden Jimmy’s heart just to melt it.

Still, it’s no accident that we see him early on in his skyscraper apartment, with its floor-to-ceiling views of the city below, eating breakfast for one, his only company a voice-activated music system — not love interests or sex objects — passing through — the main business will be with the community they all define.

They will have much to teach each other.

THE FAIR, BE THERE

Sudhe Sorhonde/The Beacon

Jordan Lukitsinski, a senior computer science speaking with a representative from the Geospatial Intelligence Agency at the Career Fair held at the Graham Center Ballrooms.

Now Hiring Writers

Apply at GC 210, WUC 124 or fiusm.com.
Eighth place finish at Johnie Imes Invitational

REINALDO LERENA
Staff Writer
reinaldo.lerena@fiusm.com

The FIU women’s golf team placed fifth at the 8th annual Johnie Imes Invitational in Columbia, Mo., held from Sept. 28-29 at The Club at Old Hawthorne. FIU came into the invitational as the 56th-ranked team in the country.

The first day of competition at the invitational saw competitors tackle 36 holes in one day. The Panthers came out strong in their opening rounds. After the first day, FIU was in 8th place out of 18 teams. But, the team scored a combined 81 strokes due to FIU’s low attendance and lack of consistency. Generally a team needs 6 wins to clinch a berth in postseason play, but with a score of 871 (+5), this is unlikely for this season.

In her final round, MacLaren had five birdies as opposed to three bogeys. Her second 2-under par round of the invitational allowed MacLaren to climb to fourth on the individual scoreboard at 7-under par, where she would finish. Sophie Godley, who came off of a hot start in the Golfweek Conference Challenge, played well on day one. Godley shot a 3-over par 75 in her morning round and shot a 2-under par 74 in the afternoon round to finish the day at 5-over par. She followed up day one with a 1-over par 73 in her final round. Godley finished the week at 6-over par in 38th place.

Carla Jane impressed in her morning round of day one. She birdied two holes and limited her mistakes to finish with an even-par 72. But, Jane did not remain consistent in her afternoon round. She had five bogeys on the day before doubling the par 3-16th.

Jane’s inconsistencies plagued her final round as well. After a 1-under par front nine, Jane shot a 3-over back nine to finish with a 74 (+2). Jane finished the week with a total score of 225 (+9).

Katerina Krasova bounced back after a rough first tournament in Colorado. The sophomore from the Czech Republic shot a combined 1-over par for the week. A 3-under par 69 in her final round highlighted Krasova’s week.

In her final round, Krasova scored four birdies in her final round to offset the one bogey she carded on her front nine. Krasova finished the week at 3-over par in 27th place.

Camila Serrano struggled with consistency at the tournament. The 2014 Conference USA Freshman of the Year has had a rough start to the season. Her 3-over par second round was the highlight of the junior’s weekend.

As of Tuesday, Sept. 29, Serrano’s scoring average for the season sits at 76.17, a far cry from 2014, when she led the team with a 73.76 scoring average. She will have to work on her consistency as the season goes on. Serrano finished the week with a total score of 229 (+13).

Next up, FIU will head back to Colorado to compete in the Ron Moore Women’s Invitational. The invitational will be held from Oct. 9-11 at the Highlands Ranch Golf Club in Littleton. FIU has never competed in the Ron Moore Invitational.

Panthers expected to defeat UMass 27-14

JACOB SPIWAK
sports@fiusm.com

I’m just going to go on record and say it. FIU’s next game will set the tone for how the team plays for the rest of this season, and may just determine whether or not we see the Panthers (2-3) playing in a Bowl Game this winter and maybe even competing for the Conference USA Championship.

A midseason matchup against the bottom-feeding University of Massachusetts Minutemen (0-3), which will take place this Saturday, Oct. 3rd, may not seem like that big of a deal on the surface, but hear me out on this; through the first four games of the season, FIU has split 2 wins and 2 losses. The two wins were against a terribly underperforming University of Central Florida team (0-4) and the FCS North Carolina Central University Eagles (1-2). On the other hand, their two losses are against two very solid teams in Indiana University (4-0) and Louisiana Tech University (2-2).

So why exactly is this game so important? Momentum. This is FIU’s last non-conference game before getting fully into their C-USA schedule. It’s critical that they stay healthy through the midseason game to prepare for the second half of the season.

Plus, FIU needs as many wins as they can get early in the season to be on pace for a Bowl appearance. Generally a team needs 6 wins to clinch a berth in postseason play, but due to FIU’s low attendance and lack of national exposure they’ll more than likely need 7 wins to be invited to a Bowl Game.

With games later in the season against C-USA powerhouses such as Marshall University and Western Kentucky University, FIU must win games against schools like UMass when they have the chance. UMass shouldn’t be a huge problem for the Panthers on paper as the Minutemen have struggled mightily on defense and don’t have an overwhelming offense whatsoever.

They’re not necessarily a bad team, and their extremely difficult non-conference schedule is partially to blame for their wireless record. Either way, I don’t view the Minutemen as being on the same level as FIU, and this is a game the Panthers need to win if they want to be viewed as a legitimate C-USA contender.

FIU has beaten both of the lesser teams they’ve played thus far, and if that trend continues this weekend they’ll improve to 3-2. However, nothing is guaranteed in college football, and FIU will need to bring their A-game to take down a UMass squad that also views this as a must-win game.

Early weather forecasts predict Ambiente to be chilly and rainy this weekend, which could point to an advantage for UMass. New England weather is vastly different than here in Miami, and the Panthers will definitely need to adjust to weather in the high 70s. If it is indeed raining with the 12 mph winds that are predicted, FIU will have to count on running backs Alex Gardner and Anthon Samuel to lead the offense on the ground. FIU’s running game looked awful last week, but most of that can be attributed to the sheer size and strength of LA Tech’s front seven.

This UMass defense is nowhere near the size and talent of LA Tech’s, so I see FIU’s running backs playing a much better game and helping the Panthers move the ball.

Prediction: FIU defeats UMass 27-14. I don’t expect this to be a blowout, but the Panthers have been playing too well lately to show any reason why they can’t handle a team like UMass. The Panthers defense will force at least 2 turnovers and sophomore quarterback Alex McGough will turn in another solid performance despite the weather, leading FIU to their third win of 2015.

"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.

CONFERENCE USA EAST DIVISION FOOTBALL STANDINGS

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>TEAM</th>
<th>C-USA WINS</th>
<th>C-USA LOSSES</th>
<th>OVERALL</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>WKU</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>1-1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MIDDLE TENNESSEE</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>1-0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>FLORIDA ATLANTIC</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>1-0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MARSHALL</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0-0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>OLD DOMINION</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>0-1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>FIU</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>0-2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CHARLOTTE</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>0-2</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*All records up to date as of Sept. 29

UPCOMING FOOTBALL GAMES

SATURDAY, OCT. 3 AT UMASS WHEN 1 p.m.
SATURDAY, OCT. 10 HOME AGAINST UTEP WHEN 12 p.m.
SATURDAY, OCT. 17 AT MIDDLE TENNESSEE WHEN TBA
SATURDAY, OCT. 24 AT OLD DOMINION WHEN 6:30 p.m.
SATURDAY, OCT. 31 AT FLORIDA ATLANTIC WHEN 3:30 p.m.
SANTIAGO ARCHIERI
Contributing Writer
sports@fiusc.com

FIU women’s soccer is hitting the road this weekend.
The Panthers are set to play Rice University on Friday, Oct. 2nd at 7:00 P.M., which will mark their third Conference USA match-up of the season.
The Panthers are on a roll, coming off two straight victories to put them atop the C-USA standings.
Their opponents; the Rice Owls, also had their first C-USA contests of the season this past weekend, finishing with a 1-1 record after losing to Marshall University on Sunday. Rice is welcoming FIU with a 5-4-1 overall record.
FIU is currently at 6-5-0, as they are above the .500 mark for the first time since they won their season opener against the University of Dayton.
The Owls, on the other hand, are on bit of a cold stretch over the past two weeks. They have dropped three of their last four games, being outscored by a total goal difference of 9-4 in that span.
It is a different story for the Panthers. After losing by five goals to the nationally ranked University of Florida Gators, FIU was able to dominate the University of Texas at San Antonio, and pulled away with a clutch victory after a stoppage time goal against the University of Texas at El Paso.
The Panthers will be looking to feed off this momentum heading into Houston.
FIU will need to keep up this pace in order to be a contender in C-USA. The rest of the games of the season are against conference opponents, and it is time to put their 4-5 start and ugly losses behind them. The 2-0 start in conference play could be a sign of a complete turnaround for their season, and there is no better way to prove that than a weekend road trip against a team that is prepared to bounce back off a loss.

WOMEN’S SOCCER

Women’s soccer attempts three-peat

DAVID DRUCKER
Staff Writer
david.drucker@fiusc.com

Junior forward Luis Betancur was named the Conference USA Offensive Player of the Week on Sunday, Sept. 27, for his hat trick against Florida Atlantic University and his goal against Marshall University.
Betancur has scored a total of five goals on the year and provided a surprising source of offense for the No. 14 men’s soccer team.
Betancur scored his second, third and fourth goals of the season on Monday, Sept. 21 during a matchup with FAU. The Panthers exploded for seven goals against the Owls, adding their fifth-straight win in a row in the process.
Betancur was a big reason for his team’s offensive production - he converted two rebounds into goals in the 35th and 77th minutes and added a goal on a header in the 58th minute. The junior also stepped up versus the Mean Green on a strike to the bottom right corner of Marshall’s net to put FIU up 2-0 in the 26th minute.
FIU’s entire offense has been electrifying lately. The Panthers recorded 12 goals in their first two conference games and have outscored opponents 20-6 during their six-game winning streak.

IT’S GOOD TO BE ON TOP

Forward/Midfielder Jamar Campion-Hinds about to kick the ball after receiving a pass from Midfielder Ismael Longo during the game against Marshall.
Midfielder Alyssa Robinson fights for control of the ball during the game against UTEP, which took place Sept. 27 at the FIU Soccer Stadium. The next game will take place in Houston, Texas on Oct. 2 to take on Rice.

As for Betancur, the Plantation, Fla. native has seen his role with the team fluctuate in his three years at the University. As a freshman in 2013, Betancur recorded three goals and an assist while appearing in 17 games. During his sophomore season, however, Betancur only saw action in 11 games and scored one goal. Now a junior, Betancur has bounced back with 10 points on five goals in 2015 with plenty of soccer left on the schedule.
LOUIS AGUDELO
Staff Writer
lagu@fiusm.com

This Saturday, Oct. 3, FIU swimming will take on both the Ospreys of the University of North Florida, and the Eagles of Georgia Southern University, in Jacksonville, FL.

This will be the first dual-meet of the season, as well as the Panthers’ swimming season opener.

This will be a meet only for the swimming portion of the swimming and diving team, due to the fact that the facility where the meet is being held has no diving well.

This will give the divers a bit more time to prepare for the long season ahead of them, as the entire team will attempt the feat of winning back to back Conference USA championships.

This will be the first time Head Coach Randy Horner and his girls will be traveling to Jacksonville to face the Ospreys in their new off-campus facility.

Most of UF’s squad is comprised of in-state talent, who, because of their Florida background, shouldn’t have much trouble with the heat of the 1 p.m. start this weekend.

Horner’s team, as we all know very well, is mostly international swimmers and divers who might not be as used to the Florida sun, but the third-year coach smiled confessed Monday morning, “We do nothing but outdoors.”

He’s confident that because of the rigors of the outdoor conditioning he puts his team through, the sun won’t be a factor.

Georgia Southern is another team that FIU isn’t very familiar with. The Eagles themselves aren’t very familiar with any sort of college competition, as 12 of their 15 athletes are freshman who will be seeing their first ever collegiate action this Saturday.

Horner thinks that this will work to GSU’s advantage “Freshman do pretty well in their first meet, because they’re pretty hyped up and excited.”

This weekend’s accomplishments won’t be measured in wins or losses. Or points.

Rather, it was emphasized that “It’s all about training our athletes to be the best they can be at the end of the season.”

The team intends to use Saturday as a stepping stone towards reaching peak form for C-USA championships at the end of February 2016.

“We’re really not too worried about results right now” Horner reasoned, “But a lifetime of feeling like a misfit shouldn’t be something that’s great but I wish a title was used to articulate that."