1-25-2016

The Beacon, January 25, 2016

Florida International University

Follow this and additional works at: https://digitalcommons.fiu.edu/student_newspaper

Recommended Citation
https://digitalcommons.fiu.edu/student_newspaper/847

This work is brought to you for free and open access by the Special Collections and University Archives at FIU Digital Commons. It has been accepted for inclusion in The Panther Press (formerly The Beacon) by an authorized administrator of FIU Digital Commons. For more information, please contact dcc@fiu.edu.
Car catches fire near Ziff Education building

ERICA SANTIAGO
News Director
erica.santiago@fiusm.com

Thursday night, Jan. 21, a car caught fire near the Sanford L. Ziff Family Education Building.

**Alex Casas**, FIU’s chief of police, said he saw black smoke rising from the education building around 6:10 p.m.

"I saw black smoke going up and so I knew something was burning," says Montoya.

Montoya, a senior psychology major, was on his way to class when he saw black smoke rising from the education building around 6:10 p.m.

He states he saw the incident as he was walking from Panther Garage over to the law building.

He could also hear sirens and see flashing police lights in the distance.

At around 8:20 p.m. last night, Montoya walked by the area again after class and says the incident seemed to be resolved.

He saw no fire or car in the scene. He also didn’t hear any sirens or see flashing police lights.

FIUSM was able to take photos of the burned car being towed away after the incident.

A red Chevy Silverado with burn damages after a fire in Lot 9 took place on Modesto Maidique Campus, Thursday, Jan. 21.

Campus-carry legislation hindered again

ERICA SANTIAGO
News Director
erica.santiago@fiusm.com

The effort to permit concealed guns on the campuses of Florida’s 40 public colleges and universities has once again been stalled.

According to the Miami Herald, Senate Judiciary Committee Chairman Miguel Diaz de la Portilla confirmed Thursday that he won’t schedule a hearing on the controversial legislation (SB 68), which he also wouldn’t take up last session.

Without being vetted in Diaz de la Portilla’s committee, the bill goes no further in the Florida Senate, even as an identical measure is moving swiftly through the Florida House.

The bills, sponsored by Sen. Greg Evers, R-Baker, and Rep. Greg Steube, R-Sarasota, are a priority for the National Rifle Association, Florida Carry and student groups that support allowing the more than 1.4 million people with concealed weapons permits in Florida to carry their weapons on public university and college campuses.

But Diaz de la Portilla said, "I don’t think this is a Second Amendment issue," according to the Herald.

“I think what we’re talking about here is campus safety, and the best way to address that issue, and whether the proposed cure is worse than the disease,” he said.

Alexander Casas, FIU’s chief police, addressed the possibility of allowing concealed guns on campus this past Sept. 2015.

In an interview with FIUSM, Casas said “I would rather that statute didn’t pass.”

Casas expressed concern that more guns would only make dangerous situations even more risky by causing more difficulties for first responders.

“In a fraction of a second, they have to make a decision. That’s a big ask.”

Casas added that he would be more comfortable with the bill if there were a requirement that someone with a concealed weapons permit had to have a certain level of training or demonstrate a certain level of proficiency with a firearm.

“You don’t even have to shoot a round,” Casas said of how easy it is to receive a concealed weapons permit. “Go to a gun show, take a class and you can walk out with a gun.”

Greg Evers, the Senate sponsor, told reporters Diaz de la Portilla didn’t talk to him about his decision, although the two had previously discussed the proposal.

It would make a statement to the residents of Florida to bring it up and actually have a vote on it,” Evers said.

Greg Steube, who’s shepherding the House companion, HB 4001, which is ready for a floor vote, suggested lawmakers could use some procedural maneuvering to keep the proposal moving, albeit in a different form.

“Everything’s possible ..., but the chairman [Diaz de la Portilla] would probably not take too kindly to that,” Senate President Andy Gardiner, R-Orlando, said.

“Were hearing from members on all sides that there was a little discomfort with [campus carry].”

In a coincidence of timing -- and before Diaz de la Portilla’s decision was widely known -- U.S. Rep. Debbie Wasserman Schultz, D-Weston, appeared at a Capitol news conference to address her voice to the Democrats’ opposition to pro-gun bills moving through the Florida Legislature.

“I’m here to sound the alarm to make sure that they wake up and understand that they should be listening to people,” she said.

As a mother of twins who are juniors in high school, she said, “it’s really troubling and disturbing to me to think they could be on a college campus where another student may decide to solve a problem with a gun.”

Allowing concealed weapons on campuses has widespread opposition.

Elvis Veliz speaks at the Lifesave: Shield Your Digital Life event held at Graham Center 140, Wednesday, Jan. 20.

PROTECT YOUR DIGITAL LIFE
When gay sex is taboo, apps open a door

Within the quietly thriving gay scene in India’s entertainment and financial capital, one thing appears to be common. “Everybody from the gay community is using Grindr,” Inder Vhatvar, a Mumbai fashion entrepreneur, said of the dating app geared toward gay men.

Despite a national law banning same-sex intercourse, tens of thousands of gay Indians use Grindr for social networking, dating and, yes, sex. As in many other Asian countries where homosexuality is outlawed or taboo, Grindr and similar apps have opened up a digital frontier for gays but also raised concerns about privacy, safety and government clampingdown.

Grindr’s international appeal is in the spotlight following the announcement Monday that a Chinese gaming company had purchased a majority stake the Hollywood startup for $93 million.

The deal with Beijing Kunlun World Wide Technology Co. values Grindr, founded in 2009, at $155 million.

Rep. Diaz-Balart pushes Cuba to free dissident journalist on hunger strike

Rep. Mario Diaz-Balart called Tuesday for the Cuban government to release an independent journalist who stopped eating four weeks ago to protest his Dec. 17 arrest.

Diaz-Balart said Misael Canet Velazquez is being held “in abhorrent conditions in Camaguey’s notorious Kiló 8 prison without clothes or a suitable place to sleep, and has been provided limited access to water.”

Morena has waged his own hunger strike while in prison.

Canet is a leader of the National Front of Civic Resistance Orlando Zapata Tamayo, a protest group based in southern Cuba.

Along with other dissidents, Canet was arrested Dec. 17 during a demonstration in which they demanded the release of a human rights activist.

Canet had been one of 20 signatories to a Jan. 17, 2014, proclamation in which leaders of resistance organizations spelled out a common strategy for defeating Cuban President Raul Castro.

Canet, who has been detained multiple times, began a hunger strike after his most recent arrest.
THE SIGHT OF RIGHTS
Photographs tell the South’s Civil Rights story

From 1963 to 1964, photographer Danny Lyon traveled through the south documenting the Civil Rights Movement. This exhibition is one example of his work. Photos of African American men being carried away by cops and segregated water fountains all depict the harsh reality of racism in America’s history.

A snapshot capturing Martin Luther King Jr. and Reverend Ralph Abernathy being escorted to jail in Albany, Georgia erupted, “said Pomeroy when introducing the museum’s latest exhibit featuring the work of Danny Lyon, a photographer who documented the Civil Rights Movement in America during the 1960s.

She spoke softly, but with conviction when highlighting the importance and risk-factor of Lyon’s work at the time.

“The time spent behind bars for his actions and was present with his camera everywhere where civil rights protests were erupting,” said Pomeroy to the crowd at the Frost Art Museum’s opening reception.

Lyon’s documentation of the American Civil Rights movement covers the protests of the Atlanta-based Student Nonviolent Coordinating Committee and will run through March 20, at the Frost Art Museum.

His raw-natured photographs marked a new style of reporting called “New Journalism,” in which journalists become part of the story they wish to document, through photographs and film.

The black and white photos presented in the exhibition show pivotal moments of the American Civil Rights Movement as well as monumental names in African American history, such as Ella Baker, Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. and Willie Ricks, who is known as the first to have known Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. and Reverend Ralph Abernathy being escorted to jail in Albany, Georgia.

“They are snapshots of a time when an organization thought it can [sic] change an entire culture and offer a trajectory of the future through nonviolent protest and through the lens of a camera,” said Pomeroy.

A snapshot capturing Martin Luther King Jr. and Reverend Ralph Abernathy being escorted to jail in Albany, Georgia is one example of his work. Photos of African American men being carried away by cops and segregated water fountains all depict the harsh reality of racism in America’s history.

Brian Schriner, FIU’s dean of the College of Architecture and The Arts, highlighted the importance when introducing the exhibit. As he slowly took his time to examine the photos, he said he was struck by the relevance the photos share with today’s current race wars.

“Things like civil infringements still happen today,” said Salazar, “I feel we should be doing more as a society, because everyone in these photos were so driven to do more themselves, and because of them laws changed.”

This exhibition is sponsored by FIU’s Multicultural Program & Services, Division of Student Affairs, College of Architecture & The Arts, College of Business, College of Law, Herbert Werthem College of Medicine, University Graduate School and the African and African Diaspora Studies.

To become a member of the Frost Art Museum visit thefrost.fiu.edu

AMANDA RABINES
Staff Writer
amanda.rabines@fiusm.com

LIFE!

Students.

and insights with current

LESLIE OVALLE
Asst Entertainment
Director
leslie.ovalle@fiusm.com

Panther Alumni Week is an annual event in which alumni to return to their Alma mater and share career advice and insights with current students.

Besides panther pride, the centerpiece of PAW is networking and for the second year in a row the alumni association is taking this to the virtual sphere with their Virtual Meet Up event on Feb. 3 from noon to 1 p.m.

The FIU Alumni Association is the first department to offer a virtual networking event in the university, according to Maria Tomaino, associate director of alumni career development. This virtual networking event will pair current students with alumni in an online speed-networking forum that will consist of one on eight-minute, text-based chats. The transcriptions of these conversations will be saved and emailed to students, who will then be able to follow-up with the alumni they networked with.

“Virtual meet up is something that many universities are doing,” said Tomaino “the great thing about it is that we can host as many students as we want, distance is no longer a shortcoming.”

And according to Tomaino, FIU being such an international university there have been instances where distance gets in the way. Alumni from places like New York, Los Angeles, India and Jamaica have participated in PAW Virtual Meet Up.

The registration process is online and it consists of a questionnaire to facilitate matches and an attached resume and/or LinkedIn profile.

More information on PAW Virtual Meet Up can be found on paw.fiu.edu from there students/alumni who are interested in participating will be directed to a brazenconnect.com page where they can commence registration. There is no cut-off time for registration; however, it is mandatory in order to participate in the event.

“We want to build that bridge and foster that connection, one person can mean millions of doors,” said Tomaino.

For more information or details on the event contact Maria Tomaino at 305-348-3334 or mtomaino@fiu.edu

LESLEE OVALLE
Asst Entertainment
Director
leslie.ovalle@fiusm.com

ROCKING THE GUITAR

TV Land’s ‘Younger’ a unique twist on familiar storyline

Over winter break, I was desperately searching for a show to watch. I’d temporarily paused my Netflix subscription to get my life together and not procrastinate, but still had enough downtime to watch a show or two.

So, when TV Land’s incessant ads for it’s show “Younger” started to air, I caved in and decided to watch an episode on demand. What was supposed to be a 30 minute distraction turned into a six hour, marathon “catch-up” session.

“Younger” follows a 40-something divorcee as she tries to rebuild her life and reclaim the job she had before “life got in the way.” A plot that’s been tackled numerous times, “Younger” separates itself by taking on a unique angle - Liza Miller, the show’s protagonist, is mistakenly assumed to be half her age, and decides to go out,” she reacts as any young person would

TV Talk

GAILA BUSH

Honestly, I was really only interested in the show because of Hilary Duff. I’ve been a fan of Duff’s since she played Lizzie McGuire back in Disney Channel’s heyday. I figured if she was on the show, it couldn’t be horrible.

Surprisingly, it wasn’t Duff’s performance as Kelsey Peters that enthralled me; Sutton Foster’s performance as Liza was the one I found most captivating and honest. Throughout the first season, she’s just trying to figure out how to maneuver through a world run by millennials. Whether she’s learning to use Twitter to promote the books that are published by the company she works for, or trying to navigate dating again, Liza manages to be authentic and relatable; an oxymoron considering she’s lying about who she is the entire time.

When Josh, Liza’s twenty-something tattoo artist boyfriend portrayed by Nico Tortorella, tells his friends that he and Liza are “just hanging out,” she reacts as any young person would

SEE GEM, PAGE 5
SALES releases self-titled EP

NATALIE BORIOQUEZ
Contributing Writer
life@fiusm.com

SALES is definitely not a new band in Florida but recently their fan base has been exploding. They originally hail from Orlando but everyone across the globe seems to have caught the SALES bug.

The band recently had a fall tour in Europe and a summer tour in the West Coast. Their self-titled Extended Play finally collected together most of their songs and even include a remix of one of their songs “Eто” done by another Orlando artist, XXXYYYY.

Lead singer, Lauren Morgan's voice rings this of child-like innocence, even as she sings about a relationship falling apart in “Now.” It feels as though it takes place right before a relationship falls apart, where one of the parties is not able to give up, but your mind is what is pushing it to keep it going. In the last few reps of any workout, you will have to push yourself. That is when your mind takes over and pushes your physical abilities.

If you want something made for it, we all have responsibilities, work, school, family, life, you may feel like there is no time but with organization anything is possible. Your body is the only temple you live in. If you are not healthy, then you will not be able to perform any other tasks.

Missing one day may not seem like a big deal, but it can cause a loss of rhythm and it will not be as easy to get back on track.

When you fly on airplanes, the safety instructions say, “please put on your own oxygen mask before assisting others”. This works the same way, if you do not take care of yourself, you will not be able to take care of anything or anyone else. Consistency is the second rule that will help you maintain the things you have achieved, in this case a fit lifestyle. 

Imagine you are training for a race, you’ve been training for months now and you are at the starting line. The gun fire sounds, on your marks, set, go. Then halfway through the race you quit. That is inconsistency, it will lead to you never crossing the finish line, never reaching your goals.

Now, consistency doesn’t happen overnight, just like one healthy meal will never make you healthy and one rigorous workout will never make you fit. It is consistency that will help you get every result you desire. It is the day in and day out hard work that helps you obtain your objectives.

When I lost 61 pounds of fat, it was 6 months of consistent workout and healthy nutrition. Now imagine if after those 6 months, I stopped eating healthy or stopped working out. I would have been unhealthy again and went back to square one. Instead I decided to get certified as a Fitness Trainer. Where I am in my life today is because of consistency and determination. In life when you set any goal, always be consistent. You cannot give up!

Motivation Monday is a weekly column covering fitness and health. Strider is a certified personal trainer, so if you have any questions please email life@fiusm.com.

Natalie is Local Genre

Orlando guitar pop band SALES releases self-titled EP

Photo Courtesy of Creative Commons

Jordan Shih (left) and Lauren Morgan (right), the duo that make the band SALES, catchy, sad, and relatable. It’s the post break up song, full of resentment and questions that will never get a satisfying answer.

The mental state of fitness is one of nonchalance. Your body is the only temple you live in. If you are not healthy, then you will not be able to perform any other tasks. Consistency is the second rule that will help you maintain the things you have achieved, in this case a fit lifestyle.

Imagine you are training for a race, you’ve been training for months now and you are at the starting line. The gun fire sounds, on your marks, set, go. Then halfway through the race you quit. That is inconsistency, it will lead to you never crossing the finish line, never reaching your goals.

Now, consistency doesn’t happen overnight, just like one healthy meal will never make you healthy and one rigorous workout will never make you fit. It is consistency that will help you get every result you desire. It is the day in and day out hard work that helps you obtain your objectives.

When I lost 61 pounds of fat, it was 6 months of consistent workout and healthy nutrition. Now imagine if after those 6 months, I stopped eating healthy or stopped working out. I would have been unhealthy again and went back to square one. Instead I decided to get certified as a Fitness Trainer. Where I am in my life today is because of consistency and determination. In life when you set any goal, always be consistent. You cannot give up!

Motivation Monday is a weekly column covering fitness and health. Strider is a certified personal trainer, so if you have any questions please email life@fiusm.com.
The sociology of losing games

By the numbers: C-USA Women’s Basketball

C-USA SCORING OFFENSE

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>TEAM</th>
<th>W-L</th>
<th>AVG/G</th>
<th>POINTS</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1. UAB</td>
<td>9-6</td>
<td>55.6</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2. UTEP</td>
<td>10-5</td>
<td>57.6</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3. Southern Miss</td>
<td>9-7</td>
<td>59.4</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4. WKU</td>
<td>10-7</td>
<td>59.5</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5. Marshall</td>
<td>9-8</td>
<td>60.1</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6. Middle Tennessee</td>
<td>10-8</td>
<td>62.2</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7. UTSU</td>
<td>10-9</td>
<td>63.8</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8. Old Dominion</td>
<td>11-9</td>
<td>62.9</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9. North Texas</td>
<td>10-10</td>
<td>64.2</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10. Louisiana</td>
<td>10-11</td>
<td>64.4</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11. Rice</td>
<td>11-11</td>
<td>65.5</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12. Charlotte</td>
<td>11-12</td>
<td>70.4</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>13. Florida Atlantic</td>
<td>12-13</td>
<td>72.0</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>14. FIU</td>
<td>12-14</td>
<td>75.1</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

C-USA SCORING DEFENSE

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>TEAM</th>
<th>FG AVG.</th>
<th>FG PCT.</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1. Charlotte</td>
<td>1016</td>
<td>.500</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2. Marshall</td>
<td>1030</td>
<td>.530</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3. Southern Miss</td>
<td>1052</td>
<td>.520</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4. WKU</td>
<td>950</td>
<td>.530</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5. UTEP</td>
<td>979</td>
<td>.524</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6. Southern Miss</td>
<td>865</td>
<td>.508</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7. Louisiana Tech</td>
<td>944</td>
<td>.408</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8. Southern Miss</td>
<td>998</td>
<td>.408</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9. FIU</td>
<td>981</td>
<td>.403</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10. Florida Atlantic</td>
<td>1053</td>
<td>.398</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11. UTSU</td>
<td>993</td>
<td>.394</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12. MTSU</td>
<td>1014</td>
<td>.392</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>13. Old Dominion</td>
<td>1042</td>
<td>.383</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>14. Rice</td>
<td>884</td>
<td>.371</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

C-USA FIELD GOAL PERCENTAGES

By the numbers: C-USA Women’s Basketball

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>TEAM</th>
<th>FG AVG.</th>
<th>FG PCT.</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1. Charlotte</td>
<td>1016</td>
<td>.500</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2. Marshall</td>
<td>1030</td>
<td>.530</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3. Southern Miss</td>
<td>1052</td>
<td>.520</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4. WKU</td>
<td>950</td>
<td>.530</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5. UTEP</td>
<td>979</td>
<td>.524</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6. Southern Miss</td>
<td>865</td>
<td>.508</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7. Louisiana Tech</td>
<td>944</td>
<td>.408</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8. Southern Miss</td>
<td>998</td>
<td>.408</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9. FIU</td>
<td>981</td>
<td>.403</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10. Florida Atlantic</td>
<td>1053</td>
<td>.398</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11. UTSU</td>
<td>993</td>
<td>.394</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12. MTSU</td>
<td>1014</td>
<td>.392</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>13. Old Dominion</td>
<td>1042</td>
<td>.383</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>14. Rice</td>
<td>884</td>
<td>.371</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*Calls record up to date as of Jan. 22

Guard/Forward Janka Hegedus fights to get the ball from UTSA Roadrunner Alexus Dukes at the game held Thursday, Jan. 21, where FIU lost with a score of 52-63.

T-Time: A bimonthly column about women’s basketball in FIU.

The sociology of losing games

The Heat’s case, always says, it’s whack-more?” Player Y!, “Why isn’t Fire coach X!”, “Trade amount of information. Fans are the loudest in okay. That because of financial money eases that. The rift between fans and pro athlete is millions of dollars and the perks of being famous ; Of maturing. Middle America can’t relate to that. When Dwyane Wade slinks off the court after getting blown out by the sub-500 Heat without Bucks, do you think he is happy he is rich? Do you think he is okay with that kind of failure? A failure of being embarrassed on television with an audience of millions. Fans seem to think the money eases that. That because of financial security the losing is okay.

Funny enough, the fans are the loudest in okay. That because of financial money eases that. The rift between fans and pro athlete is millions of dollars and the perks of being famous ; Of maturing. Middle America can’t relate to that. When Dwyane Wade slinks off the court after getting blown out by the sub-500 Heat without Bucks, do you think he is happy he is rich? Do you think he is okay with that kind of failure? A failure of being embarrassed on television with an audience of millions. Fans seem to think the money eases that. That because of financial security the losing is okay.

Funny enough, the fans are the loudest in okay. That because of financial security the losing is okay. As Dan Le Batard always do, he is happy he is rich? Do you think he is okay with that kind of failure? A failure of being embarrassed on television with an audience of millions. Fans seem to think the money eases that. That because of financial security the losing is okay.

Pioneers with a new mole to come up is Hassan Whiteside and his roaming on defense and his inability to pass out of a double team. Whiteside then gets hurt and Miami suddenly can’t hold on to a rebound and the Wizards are running circles around an already depleted team. McRoberts hasn’t need to fix this because they are taking away my feel good.” They act as if players are trying to lose. Because I guarantee that the players playing the games care more about the result than the fan on his couch with Dorito fingers.

We can do this with all sports and all leagues, even college. The FIU Women’s Basketball team has dropped 11 straight games and has a 2-15 record for the season. Do you think any of those girls are having fun? Athletes have professional pride as much as any other profession. They care about their craft. That’s why they have sculpted their skills over years and years. While an engineer works on math all their life, a basketball player crafts their post game or jump shot. An engineer can’t write a novel and a novelist cannot calculate heat loss in a drainage system. They also can’t dream shake.

Interestingly a basketball player probably can’t write a novel or solve calculations. That in academia like it is in America. The Japanese would call a great chef a genius or brilliant musician or even a great athlete. They seem to understand that expertise in a specific field is what a genius does. Not just a great novelist or engineer.

As teams continue to lose, fan bases will continue to act like maniacs. Demanding accountability from the entertainers while not

Panthers can’t come up with header

Winter break was a long one for the Swimming and Diving program at FIU. The Panthers were handed their second loss of the season by the Seminoles of Florida State University to kick off the break at Indian River State College. Of course they followed it up by defeating the former community college of Indian River. Towards the end, the Panthers were beaten badly by N.C. State, although by a much smaller margin.

So far, the Swimming and Diving team have dropped three contests over the duration of this 2015-2016 season. This can be blamed on the fact that this season’s schedule have featured meets against no less than five ranked opponents, with every loss coming against a ranked program. FIU is a novice by no means, to taking on legitimate competition, and competing at a high level, but this season’s schedule reflects their performance and finish from last season. Bigger and better major colleges are paying a lot more attention to the other Division-I school in Miami now.

Head coach Randy Horner seems to have an open door policy to any school daring enough to make the trip, or to welcome the Panthers into their facility for a meet. He trusts his team’s ability to not only win, but to prepare themselves in just the right span of time and at just the perfect pace to reach peak condition and form by Conference USA Championships in late February. The difficulty in this season’s schedule not only lies in the talent faced, but also in the number of meets, with three more this season than last. The length of the regular season this 2015-2016 regular season will last at least another week more than it did in 2014-2015, as well.
Future Panthers represented in National Signing Day

Nothing is more intense than a high school athlete making a big decision in what university they want to play and get their education for the next four years. That’s what National Signing Day is all about. Wednesday, Feb. 3 will be National Signing Day. It is an event that all top high school athletes signing their letter of intent to play for a college of their choosing. Nothing is more exciting than a football player dressed up in their future team colors and signing that dotted line to the college of their dreams.

It’s going to be a busy day for FIU’s football head coach Ron Turner. Right now FIU’s football team currently has 22 verbal commitments in the recruiting class of 2016 and four players have already enrolled this semester. Last year’s class Turner made an attempt to put this football program one step in the right direction.

For FIU, last year’s recruiting class had a few freshmen that played key roles on the roster. Tyone Johnson started eight total games this past season finishing up 57 total tackles, 1.0 tackle for loss and four pass breaks up as a true freshman. Anthony Jones was used for multiple positions at running back, wide receiver and return specialist. His numbers weren’t as impressive as recruits expected, but it won’t be surprising if he gets more opportunities to play next season.

There were still some freshmen who didn’t play as much but still impacted the game. Fermin Silva, at defensive end, who was the field finisher with seven tackles and 0.5 this season, Stone Wilson, who started every game at punter even when Kenyatta Anderson, who blocked a punt during a game that Charlotte had their share of contributions that led to FIU victories. Coach Turner and his staff could find players who can contribute right away or step in when someone goes down. Turner has taken advantage in searching talented players in the state of Florida. Even though ranking high school players from 0 to 5 stars isn’t very accurate than what people think, Turner and his staff will for sure look for players that fit their system and who could be that hidden gem like T.Y. Hilton, Jonathan Cyprien or even Richard Leonard. When you look at the latest recruits, don’t look at how many stars they received or the rankings because clearly the coaches know something that we don’t.

I think Turner’s main focus in this year’s class is depth, which was an area of the Panther’s weakness all last season. Most injuries from last season were on the offensive line and the secondary. After Jordan Budwig went down for a few weeks during the summer, the coaches had to rotate different players in the front line until they find the right pieces that can get on the same page. On the defensive side, majority of the starters are gone. This leaves some positions wide open for even a true freshman, redshirt freshman or a junior college transfer to step up.

This is pretty much why National Signing Day is the paramour of the offseason. It’s similar to the NFL draft. The only difference is that it’s the player’s decision. Majority of them already made their commitment and only needs to sign the letter of intent. While for some players, it comes down to the tip of their hat.

Pete’s Picks is a weekly column about football. To offer commentary contact the writer at peter.holland@fiusm.com

FOOTBALL

BEACH VOLLEYBALL

Estefanie Bethancourt steps up for upcoming season

STEFANO RIVERA Contributing Writer
sports@fiusm.com

The 2016 FIU Women’s Beach Volleyball season has yet to begin; however, the practices are in full swing and the team is preparing for another successful year on the sand.

One of the players that will be looking to compete and help the team is sophomore, Estefanie Bethancourt. Bethancourt is a native of Guatemala and attended Colegio Interamericano de Guatemala.

In order to play beach volleyball, you have to be at least 17 years old, so Bethancourt had to wait until she was 18 to join the Panama National Team. Once she was old enough, Bethancourt went on to attend the 2015 Panamanian University of Panama where she played her freshman year before transferring to FIU and competing in the American Conference. She was named to the All-Tournament Team and was named the conference’s Newcomer of the Year. In her second season, Bethancourt and her teammates made it to the quarterfinals of the AAVC Beach Volleyball Championships and were the first program to advance to the quarterfinals after losing the AVCA National Championships in 2014. She hopes to receive an All-American nod this season, which would be a dream come true.

Bethancourt has had many opportunities to play, but this year she wants to be more consistent on the court. Last season, Bethancourt only appeared in three matches before the regular season. She had a combined record of 1.2 in those matches, but this season Bethancourt will be looking for a top-ten spot in the team now that she is a more experienced player. The Panthers had six players that graduated last year, making Bethancourt’s experience and talent upperclassmen had.

Bethancourt did not play much in her freshman year, but she was the shortest player on the Panthers; however, she has not let her height affect her style of play.

Last season was a fresh start for Bethancourt. Bethancourt did not play much, only appearing in three exhibition matches before the regular season.

The team will start out at the 2016 FIU Women’s Beach Volleyball Championships on March 4 against the University of Central Florida. The team fell short in the quarterfinals of the AAVC National Championships in a rematch against Pepperdine University.

The team are aware of the level of competition and know they are capable of accomplishing such a feat. Bethancourt said, “I think we want to get to Nationals first, then do our best to get to the title.”

The team will start the season off in the FIU Fort Lauderdale Beach Invitational on Friday, March 4 against the University of New Orleans.

BEACH VOLLEYBALL

Pete’s Picks is a weekly column about football. To offer commentary contact the writer at peter.holland@fiusm.com

SMILING AND SWIMMING

Panthers prepare for Conference USA

CONFERENCE, PAGE 6

Any skeptics of this season’s squad compared to last, should be cognizant of the fact that most of last season’s top talent returned, not to mention that FIU has swept Conference USA. Swimmer and Diver of the Week honors four times this season.

Understand also that Horner falling asleep at the wheel of this superior vehicle that he has turned his division-1 program into, is not the problem here. Those three losses, while frustrating for FIU, are not real concerns, from everything Horner has said in the past. To him, it’s not about wins and losses, yet. Until Wednesday, Feb. 24 in Atlanta, Georgia. FIU has dropped to No. 20 in the CollegeSwimming.com Mid-Major rankings, as of their last meet against N.C. State. This is lower than they’ve been ranked in quite some time, and will likely be a motivator for this team to work harder than ever, exactly a month away from Championships, “Holding things together” according to Horner, is a lot of what they’ve really been focusing on throughout this season, which is really all that needs to be done with such a well-oiled machine as this Swimming and Diving program.

As far as when he believes they’ll be ready, and this was said long before the season had even started “The day before conference Championships.” is that day. For now though, they have a meet Saturday, Jan. 30 to face the University of Miami for a second time this season, and attempt a season sweep on them. They’ll finish their season against a much improved Florida Atlantic squad on Tuesday Feb. 6, although the Panthers’ mind will likely be thinking more about the Super Bowl the day after that meet, as the Owls pose no real threat to the Panthers.

BASEBALL SCHEDULE
FIU’s Lillian Lodge Kopenhaver Center for the Advancement of Women in Communication at BBC will be hosting a webinar with award-winning journalist and NBC 6 reporter Stephanie Bertini, Tuesday, Jan. 26 at 1 p.m. Bertini will be discussing what she’s learned from her 10 years of experience and the importance of perfecting one’s craft.

“I basically going to be speaking about what it takes, not only to work in the business, but to be successful. Your craft is what you do and how you do it. We’re going to cover everything,” Bertini said.

Bertini, who was born and raised in Toronto, realized she wanted to become a journalist after results from an aptitude test taken at her university revealed television broadcasting. After graduating, she kicked off her career by working at Canadian television station CTV News. Bertini always had intentions to venture into American television station CTV News. After graduating, she kicked off her career by working at Canadian television station CTV News.

After graduating, she kicked off her career by working at Canadian television station CTV News. Bertini was born and raised in Toronto, realized she wanted to become a journalist after results from an aptitude test taken at her university revealed television broadcasting.

“We’re going to speak about what it takes, not only to work in the business, but to be successful. Your craft is what you do and how you do it. We’re going to cover everything,” Bertini said.

Bertini’s first reporter job in the U.S. came in 2010 in south Texas by the Mexican border. During the three and a half years she spent there, one of the stories she worked on exposed the Mexican drug cartels making its way into the police department at the border in the Rio Grande Valley. The story gained her a National Edward R. Murrow Award.

Bertini moved to South Florida and joined the NBC 6 team in May of 2015. Although this will be her first time speaking at FIU, she is eager and excited to share her experiences with SJMC students and prepare them to be leaders in the world.

“I feel a responsibility to share what I’ve learned. It’s my business to make myself available to you. I’m very excited to teach what I’ve learned from others and hopefully inspire future journalists."

Philanthropist donates millions for a chair of transgender studies

ADRIAN SALGADO
Asst. News Director
adrian.salgado@fiusm.com

Jennifer Pritzker, a Chicago billionaire philanthropist, donated $2 million to a university in Canada in order to create a chair of transgender studies, which will be supported by any research position in global academia.

The funding for the University of Victoria in British Columbia comes from Pritzker’s Tawani Foundation. Half of the money will support the chair position for five years, and the other half is pledged to match other donations to the program.

Aron Devor, a sociology professor who has studied transgender issues for three decades, was named inaugural chair.

“It’s important that we don’t conform or adhere to just one stereotype of gender or one sense of self,” said Katherine Marcelino.


“The chair in transgender studies sets (University of Victoria) apart,” university President Jamie Casells said in a statement.

“I am proud of our campus’ commitment to diversity, as well as grateful to Dr. Devor, Lt. Col. Pritzker, the Tawani Foundation and all those who help us continually learn and grow in a welcoming environment that promotes the rights and affirms the dignity of all persons.”

Additional Reporting by TNS Staff.

"It’s important that we don’t conform or adhere to just one stereotype of gender or one sense of self."

Katherine Marcelino
Junior English

"It’s important that we don’t conform or adhere to just one stereotype of gender or one sense of self. It allows you to relate to many different kinds of people. It also helps you to be more sensitive to the needs of others."

Much transgender research throughout North America has been supported through philanthropy. Some of the first pushes for exploring transgender issues came through funding and support from the Erickson Educational Foundation, according to Devor. Reed Erickson, a transgender man, started the foundation in the early 1960s. Among other things, the organization sponsored academic positions studying transgender issues that have been established but are no longer active, according to university officials. Both were in the Netherlands. An endocrinologist was chair of transsexology at The Free University of Amsterdam for 20 years, and a psychologist was chair of gender development and psychopathology at the University of Utrecht Medical Centre for 10 years.

“The chair in transgender studies sets (University of Victoria) apart,” university President Jamie Casells said in a statement.

“I am proud of our campus’ commitment to diversity, as well as grateful to Dr. Devor, Lt. Col. Pritzker, the Tawani Foundation and all those who help us continually learn and grow in a welcoming environment that promotes the rights and affirms the dignity of all persons.”

Additional Reporting by TNS Staff.

"It’s important that we don’t conform or adhere to just one stereotype of gender or one sense of self."

Katherine Marcelino
Junior English

"It’s important that we don’t conform or adhere to just one stereotype of gender or one sense of self. It allows you to relate to many different kinds of people. It also helps you to be more sensitive to the needs of others."

Much transgender research throughout North America has been supported through philanthropy. Some of the first pushes for exploring transgender issues came through funding and support from the Erickson Educational Foundation, according to Devor. Reed Erickson, a transgender man, started the foundation in the early 1960s. Among other things, the organization sponsored academic positions studying transgender issues that have been established but are no longer active, according to university officials. Both were in the Netherlands. An endocrinologist was chair of transsexology at The Free University of Amsterdam for 20 years, and a psychologist was chair of gender development and psychopathology at the University of Utrecht Medical Centre for 10 years.

“The chair in transgender studies sets (University of Victoria) apart,” university President Jamie Casells said in a statement.

“I am proud of our campus’ commitment to diversity, as well as grateful to Dr. Devor, Lt. Col. Pritzker, the Tawani Foundation and all those who help us continually learn and grow in a welcoming environment that promotes the rights and affirms the dignity of all persons.”

Additional Reporting by TNS Staff.