FIU welcomes Shakespeare’s First Folio

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The University has been selected as the only university in Florida to host Shakespeare’s First Folio as it tours the U.S. in celebration of the 400th anniversary of the Bard’s death.

As part of a competition held by The Folger Shakespeare Library, the English department, Frost Art Museum and libraries worked together to develop a bid to host the exhibit, which beat out other universities’ bids from the state.

The winning bid includes several events, all Shakespeare inspired, to occur throughout February while the exhibit is present.

“We knew this would be a blockbuster exhibit whose appeal would go far beyond just English professors and majors,” said James Sutton, English department head and Shakespeare professor. “To have the First Folio here is to have a book that, not only saved a lot of the plays,” Sutton said. “It means that these plays without the First Folio wouldn’t be available more widely to an audience of all religions and sciences and backgrounds. The plays are, thought this has become a hackneyed phrase, Shakespeare does seem to be universal in ways that are constantly surprising me.”

The English department did not experience any resistance within the department in bidding on the First Folio. There were other sites in Florida that were expected to bid but FIU is the only location in Florida chosen to host it.

“We just had to convince Folger Shakespeare Library that we could take care of their book,” said Sutton. “And build a program around it, for one month.”

The English department is offering a range of lectures, movies, concerts and plays throughout the month. The topics extend from celebration to criticism of the Elizabethan era and their traditions.

Ryan Schlussler, a senior English major, is also excited about the First Folio and the events that circulate it.

“It’s definitely a pride point,” Schlussler said. “I hope the school gets the recognition it deserves.”

The First Folio contains 36 plays, 18 of which were never published during Shakespeare’s day because of the lack of money in print at the time. Some unpublished plays are widely known and studied today, like “Julius Caesar” and “Macbeth.”

“I’ve been sharing stuff on Facebook, especially to friends who used to go [to FIU],” said senior Alex Petras.

Petras, an English major, also hopes the First Folio educates the public over the importance of older literature.

“The events are not just restricted to FIU. There are numerous associated events throughout South Florida,” said Petras.

“The best thing that could happen is that it puts FIU on the map and more old pieces of literature come to FIU,” said Fernando Fernandez, an English major who felt that the Folio was a piece of history.

The First Folio is opened to Hamlet’s “To Be or Not To Be” speech in the Patricia & Phillip Frost Art Museum.

There are only 222 surviving copies of the estimated original 750. Folger owns 82 of them.

The First Folio of Shakespeare is planned to remain at FIU until Feb. 28.

CARE FOR A BEAR

Samantha Gyuym, an international relations senior; Gabrecon Davis, a hospitality management senior; and Anna Williams a biology senior, choose their preferred animal to build at the Build-a-bear event held in the GC pit Wednesday, February 10, 2016.

Peer educators spreading awareness on campus

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Spreading awareness at FIU, the Counseling and Psychological Services as well as the Victim Empowerment Program educated students on healthy relationships and domestic violence during the 50 Shades of Lust and Domestic Violence event.

“This event took place Tuesday, Feb. 9 from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. at the GL Breezeway. At the event, CAPS peer educators advised the students on the do’s and don’ts of relationships, as well as what to do, when to react and how to go about a sexual assault situation. The team of peer educators were inviting the students to participate in fun educational activities that led to free giveaways included graphic t-shirts that served as token of awareness to those who wore them proudly.

“Kiwi, CAPS alien mascot was also present at the event to welcome students and provide comic relief. Cindy Guzman, one of the peer educators explained “Sometimes college can make you feel like an alien but we can help you adapt to the panther galaxy.”

A portion of the FIU students who were present at the event had, at a certain time of their lives, experienced or knew of someone who had encountered sexual assault. Peer educators also promoted the services and resources that CAPS provides for students dealing with sexual assault or any type of domestic violence.

Services include a variety of help hotlines and over the phone, counseling centers on campus as well as medical centers.

The event educated students with its informative tactics on the topics. They did this by sharing scenarios of sexual assaults and then providing the available options and possible solutions to the problems at hand.

With some of the peer educators having had previous experiences with sexual assault, they now serve as advocates who spread awareness throughout the campus.

During the event, CAPS emphasized the “It’s On Us” campaign.

The campaign encourages students to speak out and act in order to prevent sexual assaults. They provided much information, brochures and even pins on the importance of sexual assault prevention.
NATION & WORLD

BRIEFS

15 percent of US adults have used online dating sites

The survey included about 2,001 U.S. adults, 18 or older, contacted June 10-July 12, 2015, via landline and cellphones.

“I’m a Tinder man, I admit it,” said Dave Mechler, 28, of Jefferson Hills, Pa. “You don’t really meet people at work, and the bar scene is intense from a guy’s point of view, striking up a conversation at a bar is really, really hard. I guess online, you’re on the same playing field. She’s not laughing at you. There’s no expectation other than saying ‘I’m not interested.'”

Microsoft rolls out dog-identifying photo tool

Microsoft’s latest trick: analyzing a photo to identify the dog breed of your canine companion.

The tool, released on Thursday, lives at dogs.net and comes as a Web app or download for devices running Apple’s iOS.

Previous Internet-friendly efforts include apps that tried to peg your age, reviewed mustaches and evaluated whether two people looked like twins. Computers are great at solving defined problems and making quick calculations, but identifying the content of images has proved a stumbling point for developing smarter software.

Missing admissions tests leave would-be lawyers in the lurch

KIM CHRISTENSEN

Los Angeles Times

Eliana Spero spent three stressful months preparing for the Law School Admissions Test Dec. 5. She has spent the time since then trying to put it out of her thoughts.

“I did it,” she said. “That was it. It was done.”

Except that it wasn’t. Spero and about 10,000 other would-be lawyers who took the test at the University of California, Santa Barbara, got emails last week that countered any feelings of accomplishment.

Instead of their scores, they received “Dear Test Taker” letters from LSAT administrators, telling them that their answer sheets were missing and they would have to repeat the grueling exam.

“At this point,” we have declared the answer sheets to be lost,” read the email from the Law School Admission Council in Newtown, Pennsylvania.

“To protect the integrity of the scores, we will not score these answer sheets even if they are found.”

There was an apology, notification that the $175 registration fee would be refunded and instructions that those affected could retake the test in January or February at no charge.

“I anticipated learning my score by early January and had planned to apply immediately upon receiving it,” he said. “That timeline is no longer feasible.”

Spero, a 2012 graduate of the University of California, Santa Cruz, said he’ll retake the LSAT in January but is more concerned about the timing than the do-over.

Spero, who graduated from UC Santa Barbara in June, said she won’t be able to retake the test until February, which could put her far back in the applicant pack that she might have to postpone law school until 2017. She said she was floored by the impersonal email from the council, especially in light of its usually meticulous attention to detail and test security.

“I was very upset, extremely upset,” said Spero of Marina del Rey, whose family spent thousands of dollars on an LSAT prep course. “This was a huge mistake, and I thought it was just 100 percent unacceptable. This organization is so strict that you have to bring a passport photo to the test — how is this even possible?”

“I wish we knew what happened - UPS lost them,” said Wendy Margolis, communications director for the nonprofit Law School Admission Council.

“The process in place has worked perfectly well 99.9 percent of the time,” Margolis said. “We still look for the package, but even if we found it, it has been out there too long.”

Margolis said she did not have tracking information or other details of the shipment, but that the protocol was to send the sheets out immediately after the test was completed. She declined to name the vendor shipper responsible for shipping them.

A UPS spokeswoman said that she could not comment without a tracking number for the package. The council administers about 100,000 tests annually, according to its website. The December test is one of four scheduled exams, Margolis said, and in 2014 was taken by 28,500 people.

It is “extremely rare” for answer sheets to get lost in transit, she said.

In 1999, more than 280 were missing while en route from three test sites to Newtown. And in 2012, more than 50 from the University of Tampa were lost, according to news reports.

Margolis said the council would do all it could to prevent a recurrence and that it is contacting law schools to ask them to consider alternate applications from those affected. She also said she gets why those whose papers were lost are upset.

“You would be really angry. I was really angry, too,” she said. “We are very upset that it happened. No matter how many are affected, it’s a horrible thing.”
Cam Newton is not a sore loser, he’s just human

Cam Newton, quarterback of the Carolina Panthers, has danced his way through the season and angered many as a result. Therefore, it’s safe to say he was in a lose-lose situation the night of the Super Bowl. If he would have won the Super Bowl, the mainstream media would be upset and relentless. Within less than an hour of his loss, the media began to do what we knew it would, tear him apart. While nobody is exempt from criticism, some of the expectations placed on athletes and other celebrities are just downright unreasonable. Sure, they’re supposed to be role models but why place them on such a high pedestal if you’re just going to tear them down?

Many tend to forget that they’re more than a touchdown or a championship. They’re human beings with real emotions and struggles. That’s why I stand with Newton.

Online and offline, Newton has been called everything ranging from classless to cowardly. Actor Rob Lowe couldn’t wait to show his dismay after Newton stormed out of an interview; but he was biased. It was inevitable yet that doesn’t mean we can’t point it out.

I find it hard to believe that being upset about a loss is forbidden. Newton had just lost one of the biggest games of his career and was unhappy about it, as he should be. We love to point fingers at people being just that—people. Athletes are no different from us besides the fact that they have a million eyes on them. How many of those criticizing him can say they wouldn’t or haven’t acted similarly? He wasn’t profane nor was he mean we can’t point it out.

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Tea Time highlights social issues affecting upcoming professionals. Alia Bennett is a contributing writer for FIU Student Media. For more commentary, contact her at opinion@fiusm.com.

Send us your letters

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University gets full taste of Shakespeare

Students and faculty of the University had the pleasure of drinking like it was 1599 at the Biscayne Bay Campus.

Working in conjunction with the Department of English and the Hubert Library, the School of Hospitality & Tourism Management held a special tasting of Elizabethan-era beers called “Taste of Shakespeare.”

The first-time event was held in order to celebrate the University’s exhibition of William Shakespeare’s First Folio, a first edition published in 1623.

It was the Department of English and the Library that tasked the School of Hospitality with crafting beers and ales for the commemoration of this honor.

“We were asked to produce a couple styles of Elizabethan beer and ales as close as we could make it to the beer of that period,” said Lindsey Ackerman, a brewing science technician who operates out of the School of Hospitality & Tourism Management.

Careful measures were taken by the crew in charge of crafting the brews for the event. This was done in order to ensure the historical accuracy of the beverages.

“I tried to make it as close to the product from back in the day,” said Chris Gil, a senior majoring in hospitality, who in addition to Ackerman was one of the driving forces behind crafting the beers.

The event was 1599 at the Biscayne Bay Campus.

For the event, “I didn’t filter it, didn’t do anything crazy, just used regular brewing techniques,” Gil assured that proper sanitation was a must during the fermentation process, which would have been entirely absent in the Elizabethan era.

“We do not have a chamber pot,” Gil quipped as he readied for the event to commence.

Both students and faculty were welcome to Taste of Shakespeare, which featured three beers and ales most common during the Elizabethan era: a small beer, a gruit and a honey wine.

“Back in the day you could not drink the water so beer was made more for purification…”

Chris Gil, Senior Hospitality

Back in the day you could not drink the water so beer was made more for purification...

If you are ever able to watch “Indigo Blue,” is a perfect example of how Womanmay lays down some hard truths on the audience, forcing them to take a look at their choices and prepare themselves for the journey ahead.

What’s most powerful about this song is how the guitar does most of the speaking. It comes to life and envelops you in a tornado of past indecisions.

“Indigo Blue,” is a perfect example of how Womanmay takes the blues and makes it her own, but that’s not a trumpet you hear, that is her own voice.

If you are ever able to watch Womanmay perform live; she can have an amazing effect on a crowd with just her guitar.

In addition to thanking her label and all those that supported her musical career, Womanmay has a little message for her audience “To the world, to you, this one’s for you! Para el amor de este idioma universal.”

Natalie is Local Genre Director at WRGP, her and Diana Romero co-host the live show The Pipeline every Wednesday from 4-6 p.m. For suggestions email entertainment@fiusm.com

NAMMAY is a Venezuelan electric blues guitarist that was raised here in the Sunshine State. When individuals think of the blues, usually they picture a raspy voice and an acoustic guitar. She is currently signed with Midnight Special Records which is established in Paris.

This label is also home to another local artist Michelle Blades.

Womanmay has developed an experimental blues of sorts that keeps true with its heartbreaking lyrics. Its simple yet elegant guitar chords spins off into an alternative sound that can be missed if you don’t listen closely.

Her newest album “Ahi- Ahi”, is exactly what you would imagine playing in a small town bar close to last call.

The title track is sung in both Spanish and English, an homage to Womanmay’s heritage. This song carries a romanticism that can only be properly expressed in Spanish and a desperate questioning in English.

Halfway through the song Womanmay, uses spoken word to explain her fascination with the “little woman with honey colored eyes,” before returning to her hypnotic chorus. This song will speak to the hearts of everyone, even your Abuelita.

Another great song from this album is ‘Wake Up,’ it is about the narrator lays down some hard truths to the audience, forcing them to take a look at their choices and prepare themselves for the journey ahead.

What’s most powerful about this song is how the guitar does most of the speaking. It comes to life and envelops you in a tornado of past indecisions.

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Venezuelan guitarist releases her new album ‘Ahi-Ahi’

Nathalie Romero/ The Beacon

Zanah Foret, a marketing sophomore, chooses a graffiti to stuff during the Build-a-Bear event in the GC Pit, Wednesday, Feb. 10.

Tamanna Kabir, a doctoral candidate studying economics, and Farjana Siddaqua a graduate student studying mathematics, look at the penguins and Huskies provided during the Build-a-Bear event in the GC Pit Wednesday, Feb. 10.

The Beacon – 4
Motivation Monday: cardio at Nature Preserve

MONDAY MOTIVATION
FIU has a phenomenal outdoor fitness facility, the FIU Nature preserve. Though running on the treadmill might be more weather friendly and easier but if you want to enjoy the nature and have a more relaxed run, the FIU nature preserve is the way to go.

This week’s Fitness model is Daniella Villati. She is a senior double majoring in Marketing and Management. Villati is a proud Co-Captain of the FIU Golden Dazzlers and she is on the executive board of Alpha Omicron Pi.

Surrounding the Nature Preserve is a 0.6 mile jogging and running path. Research has shown that running stimulates mental health, strengthens our lungs, prevents high blood pressure, strengthens your immune system, helps control weight, builds stronger legs, relieves stress, increases bone density, increases strength on joints and boosts our confidence.

Health and Fitness is achieved by both physical and mental attribute. American Psychological Association has provided evidence that daily exercise benefits our mental being.

As human beings our primary goal while empowering fitness is to stay strong and look young. Remember, the only bad workout is the workout you did not do. One of the commonly believed attribute of running is weakening of knee, joints and legs. Just like any exercise, form is everything. If we do not maintain proper form, we will hurt ourselves and cause pain and injury.

Another big factor is the surface of our running path. If we constantly run on solid asphalt and concrete roads, then we will have hard impacts on our legs.

Luckily, the running path on FIU nature preserve is very soft but effective. The trail itself is made of approximately 5,640 recycled tires. This sort of surface provides cushioning to the impact and keeps our legs strong and healthy.

FIU nature preserve is open all day and open to the entire FIU community.

Anytime, whenever you are available: put your jogging shoes on and head to the nature preserve. The nice cool breeze and the natural beauty will keep you calm and relaxed during your exercises. You can also ask for a partner or a group to join your fitness activities.

Other than the jogging, FIU nature preserve has six workout stations targeting different muscle group. There are stations specifically catered to the abdominal muscles which we all strive for: six packs, leg raises and obliques. You can also perform leg lunges to target your lower body muscles.

The surface being soft, it will not produce any strong impact on your knees. Whenever performing exercise, it is essential to stay hydrated. As there are no water fountains in the outdoors, definitely make sure to carry a bottle of water. If you would like, choose your favorite soundtrack to keep you motivated throughout the trail. Stretching is extremely important for running, make sure you stretch before and after you run. If you are jogging at nighttime, you can take a partner with you for increased safety.

Definitely wear reflective and bright clothing so you are easily visible. Carry your cell phone for any emergency. No matter when or how, just make sure you are getting your daily exercises.

‘An apple a day keeps the doctor away’ but a proper exercise routine a day will keep many doctors away!

Motivation Monday is a weekly column covering fitness and health. Nihat is a certified personal trainer, for comments or questions email life@fiusm.com

CEO and Founder of FUBU company visit Books and Books in Coral Gables

COLLIN SIMPSON
Contributing Writer
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If you live in Miami, you probably know that one of the best places to meet famous celebrities and authors is no other than Books and Books, located in Coral Gables. This store hosted quite a guest list last year, including Richelle Mead, Rick Riordan, Chelsea Clinton, and Patrick Kennedy. Apparently, they have no intention of slowing down this new year.


Daymond John is the CEO and Founder of FUBU, a much-celebrated global lifestyle brand, with over $6 billion in sales. But, you may know him best, as one of the stars of the hit ABC series Shark Tank - a show that follows aspiring entrepreneurs as they present various business ideas to “the sharks,” in hopes of landing an investment for their ideas or business.

Daymond John came to Books and Books to promote his new novel “The Power of Broke,” a novel about his experiences as an entrepreneur and branding consultant.

The novel peaks behind the scenes of the set of Shark Tank and provides stories of dozens of entrepreneurs who have hustled their way to wealth. The book shows how we can all leverage the “power of broke” to gain phenomenal success.

The store was jam-packed with fans eager to learn the secrets to success. During his presentation, John answered questions submitted by fans, including his experiences on Shark Tank and how he had made his fortune.

“We all know that success is not money. Success is being a great wife or husband. Success is raising beautiful kids. Success is stopping human trafficking. Success is fighting for our planet or fighting for animals that can’t fight for themselves. Now that’s success.”

He also thanked his mother for her support, and had her stand, getting a standing ovation from the crowd. He encouraged people to always keep trying. He also encouraged people in the audience to “Being broke is temporary. Poverty of the mind: that’s permanent.

If you don’t learn to open your mind, you’re never going to see success. Somebody sitting next to you could be a millionaire, a builder, a designer, a manufacturer, a vendor, a new customer. Take the time to get to know the people that are around you. The people that are here are here because they aspire to be somebody.”

After his presentation, John signed copies of his novel for fans and took pictures with them. As an extra treat, he told fans that if they posted their photos with him, he’d give them a shout out on social media.

Unable to attend? Don’t worry, Books and Books will be hosting an array of upcoming authors including famed actress Kate Hudson and fantasy writers Susan Dennard and Veronica Rossi.

For more information, you can view Books and Books’ schedule of events on their calendar which is located on their website.
The men’s basketball team (11-14, in Conference USA) lost their fifth straight game Thursday Feb. 11, in an 84-74 defeat to the University of Texas at El Paso Miners.

Junior forward Elmo Stephen scored a team-high 18 points in a reserve role in a context that was not as close as the final score may indicate.

“They did the same thing to us here [defensively] that they did to us there, we just handled it better then,” said Head Coach Anthony Evans.

Second chance points – a problem that has bothered FIU for the past couple of weeks - did not doom the Panthers on Thursday night, in fact, they only surrendered two of the kind, even with senior center Adrian Diaz sitting the majority of the first half.

Turnovers weren’t the problem either. FIU coughed up the ball 14 times, UTEP turned it over 12 times and both teams scored 16 points each off of those turnovers.

Instead, what sunk FIU was their miserable 15-32 shooting from behind the arc did not help either. The Miners finished shooting better from three point range than they did from the field (56 percent).

The Panthers stayed in the game by attacking the paint aggressively and racking up second chance points. At halftime, FIU was down 45-37.

In UTEP’s last time out against the Miners Saturday, Jan. 23, it was the Panthers who sat on top by 10 points at the final buzzer.

That was before they dropped four games in a row and lost its defensive intensity. Heading into Thursday night, the Panthers knew they would need to play excellent defense in order to hold off a hungry UTEP offense searching for its first conference road win.

The Panthers played a competitive first half. Junior guard Donté McGill scored the first points of the game on a three, FIU’s defense forced a travel and then McGill went right back with a second-chance layup.

His team’s defensive effort did little to stop a red-hot UTEP - even with most of the shots being contested. The Miners ran away with the game with 14:52 left, a Kimar Williams free throw closed out UTEP’s lead to 55-51.

FIU’s defense forced three turnovers in the second half. The Panthers cut their lead in half when the Miners missed eight of their last 10 shots, but still could not find enough in the tank to come back.

“Our defense was never bad,” said guard Taylor Shade. “We were just scoring a lot of points.”

Despite what Chinn is saying FIU is not only their first conference win of the season but their first conference win since 2014, when the fifth leading scorer in NCAA history, Jerica Coley, was in their backcourt.

“I was proud of the way that we fought tonight,” said Head Coach Marlin Chinn after the game. “We have proven we can come out and play 20 minutes, but we needed to see if we can play 40 and that’s the effort they had to give tonight.”

Despite what Chinn is saying FIU is minus 53 in the first half for the season and minus 67 in the second half. Both half’s of the game has been a problem. But for Chinn, it was not only his third win of the season but his first conference win as the head coach for FIU.

Shade had her best game of the season on an efficient 26 points on 13 of 20 shooting and 6-of-13 for three point range with 58 seconds remaining.

The Miners increased its lead all the way to 81-60 with 6:20 left in the second half. The Panthers cut their lead in half when the Miners missed eight of their last 10 shots, but still could not find enough in the tank to come back.

“We knew that we had to get back and get them again in the beginning of the second half,” said Shade. “They never gave up.”

Even with her re-emergence, FIU was still outrebounded in the game and against the Miners on Friday, Feb. 12, in UTEP, FIU still sits in last place scoring a 3-19 record and only 1-10 in conference play.

Once FIU comes back from their road trip they will play North Texas and then play Rice on Saturday, Feb. 20. On that day, the program will honor former head coach Cindy Russo.

Shade was the coach of the program’s 41 seasons. During that span, FIU had 22 straight winning seasons as well as six trips to the NCAA Division I tournament. Russo has the 14th most wins in Division I women's basketball and sports a 667-386 (.633) record at FIU.

Unfortunately, Wright isn’t the best rebounder as she barely averages over three rebounds per game for her career. However, in almost 20 minutes per game her sophomore year she averaged a shade over five rebounds per game.

With a minute and change left in the third quarter, Taylor Shade hit a layup to give FIU the lead against the University of Alabama at Birmingham Thursday, Feb. 4.

They never galloped in their lead again as the Panthers continue grinding it out with a record of 11-14, in Conference USA. To contact Giancarlo Navas, email him at giancarlo.navas@fiu.com.
Panthers ranked fifth in DiG Magazine’s polls

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Monday, Feb. 8, DiG Magazine announced that the University beach volleyball team will begin the 2016 season as the nation’s fifth ranked team.

The Panthers are behind the University of Southern California, Pepperdine University, the University of Hawaii and Long Beach State University, which are ranked first through fourth, respectively.

Aside from being ranked fifth in the nation, the team enters the season ranked No. 1 in the East. Other top schools, such as in state rivals Florida State University and Stetson University, along with Georgia State University and the University of Southern California, will be on the Panther’s tails all throughout the season to claim the top spot in the East.

This is the highest the team has been ranked as it enters its fourth season in program history. Previously, the Panthers were ranked as high as ninth at the start of the 2014 and 2015 season.

In 2016, the team finished 14-4 and made it to the American Volleyball Coaches Association National Championships before being defeated by FSU. It only improved as it ended the 2015 season 20-3 and made it to the semi-finals of the AVCA National Championships before falling to Pepperdine. The Panthers finished the season fourth in the polls.

Six of the top ten players from a year ago are not with the squad anymore. Duos such as Maryna Samodov and Anja Licka, Kristine Montfort and Summer Nash and Martyna Gluchowicz and Anna Budinska, that finished with a combined record of 58-12, will be missed.

Of the 20 players on last year’s roster, only 10 have returned to play in 2016. Players like juniors, Aren Copp and Marina Boulanger as well as Tina Toghiyani are a few of the returning experienced players.

Copp, the team’s current captain and captain last season, ended last season 19-2, including going 13-1 with Toghiyani. Toghiyani finished 23-3, including 9-1 with Boulanger. Although not posting as impressive records as her teammates, Boulanger still managed to finish 19-8.

These players, along with seven others, will form the top five duos and compete throughout the season. They will also have been emulated both on and off the court, as seven players are new to the program and will be stepping foot on the sand for the first time this season.

The Panthers will undoubtedly be challenged this year. Of the 17 matches they will play, 11 are against teams that are in the top-20 in DiG Magazine’s polls. These teams include: Louisiana State University (No.19), Tulane University (No.18), South Carolina (No.17), Stetson (No.10), Georgia State (No.8), University of California at Los Angeles (No.7), FSU (No.6), Hawaii (No.3) and USC (No.1). The Panthers play LSU and Stetson twice throughout the season.

In the AVCA’s brief stint, there have been three champions: Pepperdine in 2012 and 2014, Long Beach State in 2013 and USC last season.

However, this will be the first season that beach volleyball is an NCAA-sanctioned sport. As a result, the Panthers will take aim to become the first team to win the NCAA beach title.

Univeristy’s women’s rugby team first in the state

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We’re definitely going to keep the things we didn’t mind for that game and really try to cover our basis defensively. We scored more but we are trying to minimize teams scoring on us,” said De La Rosa.

They will also be competing against Life University as an extra exhibition and are working on improving the flaws within their team.

“We did some communication and really learning the game for a lot of the new girls. We need to do a little more recruitment just to get a solid basis of girls and get the rugby knowledge flowing so it doesn’t drop off,” said De La Rosa.

As some of the players continue healing from injuries, the team looks to continue their solid play as they represent our FIU Panthers. With three days a week practice and also conditioning.

Weightlifting club ready to compete on national stage

Weightlifting club

The weightlifting club, led by Jeffrey Borrego, a senior at FIU, also the founder and president of the club, spoke about the current status of the club and rising to a promising future. I was able to check out the new facility in building PG6 and it was very welcomed.

The facility is great, it wasn’t the original facility, but it’s great because now we can train here on campus and provide our students with the opportunity that they don’t have the means of transportation,” said Borrego.

The weightlifting club is open to all students who would like to join. With the new facility and the club up and going, Jeffrey is encouraging anyone who is interested to come sign up. The Club offers you some training from all kinds of athletes who are looking to get that workout into your schedule.

“We are doing right now, is that we are spreading out training to accommodate to what our members want to accomplish. They don’t need me, as their coach to be there for their workouts, I provide them with a workout and I communicate with them through emails or group chats to provide them with feedback,” Jeffrey said.

Each workout provided to you is very specific to what you want to accomplish. “I think of that as playing chess, Jeffrey said”. Workouts usually last to about two hours per session with some great aid and conditioning. You can just see that there was some good energy in the building. They like to play all kinds of music to build everyone in a good feel while working out which is always key to get that adrenaline rush going.

One of the emphasis that I wanted to point out is what kind of nutrition intake is being involved during these workouts that will help able these athletes to get through their workouts. “When it comes to athletes being able to perform better because of nutrition, that’s like a separate talk that we can have with my more elite athletes that I have, going to National or state level competitions. My main focus is to have people to come in that don’t know how to weight lift and have a desire to learn more about the sport and teach them the basic fundamentals and get them to enjoy it,” Jeffrey said.

With Jeffrey as their founder, he hopes to get more attention and to reach to anyone that looking to joining. “This is a growing sport, this is what I love and that’s why decided to take the steps into founding it, Jeffrey said”. Jeffrey was very excited about what is to come but did also state that the number one problem with the Weightlifting club is the funding and is hoping to continue to get better and provide more. “The number one issue right now is impeding our growth, Jeffrey stated”. With the hopes of the weightlifting club getting more marketing and funding, Jeffrey hopes that sooner than later they will be able to be competing on the National stage.

Sam’s Clubs is a weekly column about FIU sports clubs to suggest clubs or offer commentary email Samir Bader at sports@fiusm.com.
**SEXUAL SAFETY**

Sex Carnival takes firm position on sex education

**Top:** Junior journalism major Amanda Flores puts on “beer goggles,” a pair of goggles that simulates inebriated vision, for a game.

**Bottom:** Gardinsky Ady, a junior biomedical engineering major, places a condom on a wooden toy.

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Students, faculty and volunteers all gathered at Panther Square for the sixth annual Sex Carnival last Thursday, Feb. 4. “It’s all sex,” said Isabel Capella, BBC health educator and organizer of the event. “We are talking about sexual health and other sex-related subjects in a nonconventional way.”

The Sex Carnival’s unconventional method for educating the public on sex awareness included a number of games and demonstrations. For example, a game-show-like wheel put the students’ carnal knowledge to the test. On the other end of the Carnival, professionals used various phallic objects for the purpose of demonstrating proper condom usage.

“Whenever you try to teach about sexual health, everyone gasps because you’re talking about sex,” said Capella. “With this Sex Carnival, we try to make it into as fun an environment so that students can learn while having a good time.”

Keeping with the event’s motto “Nothing is Taboo!” volunteers encouraged participants to feel comfortable with the notion of using amusement as a tool for sex education.

“We’re very supportive here at BBC,” said Stephanie Jamanca, a University graduate assistant and volunteer at the event. “It’s not just professionals preaching to you about safe sex or how to enjoy sex, but it’s about being able to learn about it in an environment that’s fun for you.”

Jamanka’s duty for the event was handling the inexpensive aphrodisiac booth, which educated participants on the amount of readily-available foods that stimulate sexual desire.

“Honey is a fantastic source of boron, which stimulates estrogen production in women and testosterone in men,” said Jamanca gesturing to the colorful display behind her. “One that everyone usually guesses is chocolate but there are also bananas, watermelons, pomegranates, and believe it or not, chili peppers could be a pretty powerful aphrodisiac.”

In addition to the discussions on sexual health, the LGBTQA Initiatives held a demonstration to educate students on the different kinds of sexual terms that individuals could use to identify themselves.

“We have a game where we challenge participants with terms they have never heard before using the celebrities who identify with those words,” said Mario Lara, a graduate assistant for the Multicultural Programs and Services as well as a volunteer at the Carnival.

“All of this in good fun to educate the community and perhaps help them learn a little bit about the LGBT community.”

Like Capella said, the Carnival addresses various subjects that pertain to sex using an unconventional approach. Almost sex or every component of the Carnival had figured itself to fit into the Health Center’s eccentric curriculum for sex education, but unfortunately there are just some subjects that simply cannot be handled using the same lightheartedness as proper condom usage or the dynamics of modern dating.

“We provide a number of services to victims, anything from personal counseling to medical exams to legal advocacy,” said Ediana Bocallie, a clinical social worker for Jackson Memorial Hospital’s Rape Treatment Center. “All we want is for students to know that there are services that can be accessed free of charge.”

**Annual conference encourages student leadership**

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BBC held its 13th annual Leadership Summit, Saturday, Feb. 6. This is a one-day conference that gives students the opportunity to learn about different aspects of leadership, hear experiences from guest speakers and gain knowledge for future professional ventures.

This event provided a selection of sessions to choose from. Each highlighted key points addressed by students and faculty, and lead to an active discussion of learning how to deal with issues and gain a better understanding of how to become a great leader.

A number of students came out to represent their respective organizations. Rebecca Merek, a student representative for Alternative Breaks, spoke about her experience at this year’s summit.

“It was my third time attending the summit,” she told student media. “I thought it was well put together and very motivational with an aspect of fun.”

The main event’s keynote speaker, Alex Chacon, renowned motorcycle rider and selfie expert. He was chosen this year to speak about his incredible story of adventure and perseverance.

After four years of education at the University of Texas, he graduated with honors in Biomedical Sciences. However, before going onto Medical school to get his doctorate, he sold all of his belongings, and went on a journey—traveling across the world on his motorcycle.

He has driven over 200,000 kilometers to five continents, more than 41 countries and across 75 borders, as mentioned on his website, modernmotodiaries.com.

Not only did he face being stranded for four days without food, but he has encountered bureaucratic corruption, being robbed and sleeping near a river ridden with malaria infested mosquitoes. Through all these hardships, he has overcome it all while raising money for charitable causes. He has inspired many and continues to develop new ways of making creative media content.

University student Zarina Guiterrez commented on how Chacon’s speech impacted her. “I think he was a great choice. I thought his speech was relevant, especially the part where he said that we should learn how to lead ourselves before we lead others.”