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FIU will graduate more than 5,500 students this year, according to University President Mark Rosenberg at Monday’s State of the University Address.

“It’s really been an unbelievable year of celebration and graduation,” he said.

The Address, held Monday, April 11 in the GC Ballrooms, was a conversation with the community about the developments and challenges that affect the University according to Rosenberg.

Second through fifth grade students from Sweetwater Elementary performed a skit to illustrate the importance of acceptance and diversity. “We have a very good, aggressive, thoughtful, creative partnership with Sweetwater Elementary,” Rosenberg said. “There’s obviously a moral to this story, particularly now in this political season when lines seem to be drawn in ways that run counter to how we can all work together to rebuild the good society.”

Following the skit and the president’s acknowledgement of faculty and staff, FIU’s measurements according to state standards were discussed, providing context to the reason for the Address.

“Every time I see the governor, it’s not that much but I will see him and he will talk to me occasionally, I have to report to him on how we’re doing on getting our students jobs,” the president said. “If we offer a degree, is there at the end of that degree, a good job for a student, or is that student well prepared to create a job. That’s all I talk about with Gov. Scott.”

With this context in mind, the University aims to get involved in ending community violence. This involvement, as well as the work of the University to aid low-income students, its research, innovation and job ratings contribute to FIU growing into a recognized and respected institution.

“What I really am excited about is the respect that this University, that you are starting to get. That respect, we’ve had it for a while, but it’s accelerated. It’s deepened. It’s enhanced.” Rosenberg said.

This growing respect, the president explained, grew from recognitions such as the Carnegie R1 rating that was received this academic year, the No. 2 ranking on the Forbes list for top employers in Florida, and recognition from President Barack Obama, the White House and the Department of Education for the work and support of low-income students.

President Rosenberg addresses the FIU community.

State of the University addresses future plans

Democrats scramble to replace Marco Rubio in Florida

JAMES ROSEN  
McClatchy Washington Bureau  
NS


A day after release of a detailed referral by the Office of Congressional Ethics to the Ethics Committee, Murphy spoke as if the referral’s allegations against Grayson had been proved.

“The committee has voted to keep the investigation of Congressman Grayson going because he broke the law,” Murphy told reporters in a conference call. “He broke the law to make money with an offshore hedge fund. It’s that simple.”

Murphy added: “With this unethical action, I believe, quite frankly, that he’s disqualified himself to be a public servant.”

Grayson’s Senate campaign fired back.

“Patrick Murphy needs to stop wasting the time of voters and taxpayers with his political smear campaign and start talking about the issues,” said David Damron, Grayson’s campaign communications director. “Rep. Grayson wants to expand Social Security and Medicare, ensure that everyone can see a doctor and make a livable wage at $15 an hour. That’s what this race is about.”

The referral released Tuesday said “there is substantial reason to believe” the multiple allegations regarding Grayson’s Senate campaign “are true and concern the president’s employment discrimination, sexual orientation and gender identity.”

Grayson’s campaign communications director said “Murphy is lying on the Forbes list for top employers in Florida, and recognition from President Barack Obama, the White House and the Department of Education for the work and support of low-income students.

Building support in local communities, a concern for

UNIVERSITY, PAGE 2

Tom Wolf signs orders for LGBT protections

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Pennsylvania Gov. Tom Wolf is using his executive office powers and calling on the state’s Republican-controlled House and Senate to take an exact opposite approach to nondiscrimination protections that lawmakers recently have passed in North Carolina and Mississippi.

In reaction to North Carolina’s House Bill 2 and Mississippi’s House Bill 1532 - both laws that exclude gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgender people from state anti-discrimination legal protections - Wolf, a Democrat, signed two executive orders Thursday extending equal protection under Pennsylvania law to LGBT state employees.

“What happened in North Carolina, and what is going on in other states, should be a call to pass nondiscrimination legislation in Pennsylvania now,” Wolf said in a statement.

“I call on the General Assembly to swiftly put legislation on my desk that ensures that people throughout the Commonwealth - regardless of sexual orientation, gender expression or identity - are treated equally under Pennsylvania law,” he said.

A similar bill to the one restricting trans North Carolinians bathroom use was killed in Florida in 2015.

According to lgbtmap.org, Miami-Dade county also has anti-discrimination laws that prohibit employment discrimination based on sexual orientation or gender identity. However, Florida has no statewide anti-discrimination policy protecting transgender individuals.

“South Florida is typically your liberal base, where they’re expecting support. They have to fight for it, but they’re expecting support from there. Where in Central and North Florida it’s such an uphill battle,” said Daniel Capote, president of FIU’s Stonewall Pride Alliance.

“The energy in Tallahassee is so not the energy that you see here.”

In 2014, the county’s human rights ordinance was expanded to include gender identity and expression, when originally the only LGBT issue it covered was sexual orientation, according Capote. This ordinance takes on the same language as FIU’s anti-discrimination policy, FIG-105.
BuzzFeed stunt highlights Facebook’s push into streaming

Viral video maker BuzzFeed got at least 3.1 million people to flip over to Facebook to watch a pair of people in hazmat suits and goggles wrap rubber bands around a watermelon until it exploded. The live stream Friday placed a major spotlight on Facebook Live, the social media company’s push to get people to stream live footage of anything and everything in their lives. To encourage early adoption, Facebook has been paying a small number of media companies, including BuzzFeed, to get creative content into Facebook streaming, according to news reports this week.

Thousands plead to keep beloved manatee on ‘endangered’ list

On the final day for public comment on whether to downgrade the West Indian Manatee from “endangered” to “threatened,” the unofficial consensus was overwhelmingly clear. Over the last three months, virtually all of the 3,700-plus people who’ve weighed in on the matter with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service want the big sea cow to retain its current federal classification. “The manatees’ future is far from certain, which means the work is far from over, and the time for downlisting is NOT yet here,” Colleen McGlone, of New Port Richey, Fla., wrote in a March 21 comment posted on the wildlife service’s website.

European anti-terror efforts hobbled by lack of trust, shared intelligence

At the beginning of this year, the acting president of the council of the European Union asked the respected International Centre for Counter-Terrorism in The Hague, Netherlands, to figure out, among other things, exactly how many Europeans have gone to Syria to fight in a civil war that’s entering its sixth year. The request, on its face, seemed simple enough. It came from the governing council of the European Union, a collection of the heads of state of the 28 member nations in the EU. Its importance has been made clear by three deadly terror attacks in the past 15 months all linked to Syria and the Islamic State. And yet, in the end, only a rough approximation could be done.

TRIBUTE NEWS SERVICE

Governor signs LGBT protection orders

against Grayson, but it is up to the House legal panel to investigate those allegations and determine whether they are true. Among the allegations are claims that Grayson lured investors to his main $2 million - d u l i x Cayman Islands hedge fund by marketing his access to information and decision-makers. Grayson also is accused of omitting information from annual financial-disclosure forms, receiving fees from litigation involving the government and keeping ties to companies that hold federal contracts.

Florida looks to replace Rubio in elections race

Beyond new legal protections for employees of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, Wolf also signed an executive order related to nondiscrimination in the “grants and procurement process,” according to his office. Wolf’s statement and action come as at least one political group in Pennsylvania this week started a campaign against legislation that’s been pending for months in the state to include LGBT as a class protected against discrimination.

Rosenberg addresses future of University

The University, the will also be seen in the University’s building of a bridge across Eighth Street at Southwest 109th Avenue. “If you give us a pile of rocks, we’ll build a bridge,” the resident said. Funding for the bridge is provided by the United States Department of Transportation in the form of a $1 million Tiger Grant. Rosenberg says this is the first time this grant has been given to a university. With the growth the University has seen there have been setbacks, said Rosenberg. This year, in performance funding... we’ve dropped to fifth place. We are not happy about this, but it’s what we said was going to happen. Other universities are starting to pick up the pace,” Rosenberg said. “For next year, we know right now that we’re going to drop in our graduation rate from roughly 57 percent or 58 percent then to 52 percent. So that means we’ve got to do better.” In looking forward to the time this grant is in play, Rosenberg said, “The energy needs to shift,” he said. “The attention to whose rights we need to protect is wrong.” He continued by saying, that, when discussing “bathroom bills,” trans people are portrayed as perpetrators of violence and harassment, when they are more often the victims. "They’re the people that actually need to be protected, not us be protected from them," Cuppate said.

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Rosenberg says some 50 percent of the state’s population is living below the poverty line. “If we’re to build a bridge, we have to start somewhere,” Rosenberg said. “This proposal is a step in the right direction.”

The Grayson-Murphy case is still pending, said Murphy, who is appealing a $10,000 payment from his campaign to Perkins Coie. “The Grayson-Murphy primary campaign to replace the Republican Rubio in office place as Democrats hope to gain control of the Senate from Republicans in November. Rubio’s is one of 24 seats currently held by Republicans that are being contested in the fall election; only 10 are seats currently held by Republicans that are being contested in the fall election.

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This proposal was introduced this week by a state senator from South Carolina.

The Pennsylvania Family Institute is calling on people to protest the Pennsylvania Fairness Act and claims the proposed legislation is a “bathroom bill” that would violate privacy in restrooms and locker rooms. Cuppate finds that the wrong issues are often discussed when dealing with LGBT rights. “The energy needs to shift,” he said. “The attention to whose rights we need to protect is wrong.” He continued by saying, that, when discussing “bathroom bills,” trans people are portrayed as perpetrators of violence and harassment, when they are more often the victims. “They’re the people that actually need to be protected, not us be protected from them,” Cuppate said.

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Society is two-faced toward snitching

It seems that people don’t just hang out on basketball teams these days, but also hate to lose the unlucky person of the week. Who you are dictates what you’re allowed to get away with. Many aspects play a factor, such as the position you hold in a society or group, how well liked you are, etc. Recently, Nick Young, also known as “Swaggy P,” was secretly recorded confessing to cheating on his fiancé, Iggy Azalea. The video was taken by fellow Lakers teammate D’Angelo Russell. When a grown man is still calling himself “Swaggy P,” it’s not really surprising that he would do something so immature. The surprising thing was that Russell caught most of the heat since the video’s release.

Back in the day, Kobe Bryant snitched on his teammates and kept it moving. Maybe all those championship rings gave everyone amnesia. Unfortunately for Russell, he hung rings to erase the public’s memory “Men In Black” style like Bryant did.

Russell is not only getting labeled as a rat, but whether he can be trusted enough to continue playing with his team is being questioned. At the same time, Young’s morals are not being challenged even though he was disloyal to the woman he was supposed to spend the rest of his life with.

Perhaps it’s the way so many people view Iggy Azalea, as she’s the Hip Hop music, that has led to Young being portrayed as the victim. Young is also one of the center of a popular meme that people relate with. That may be helping several with him.

Today, people text more than they call, and since they’re more likely to send a text message, this service could become a great tool in helping others and/or members of the University community.

To combat depression and help people by providing direct support as well as anonymous data about people in crisis, the non-profit Do Something started a 24/7, free “Crisis Text Line” to give people access to crisis counselors. Today, people text more than they call and since they’re more likely to send a text message, this service could become imperative to saving lives.

Launched in 2013, NXTL is the first around-the-clock hotline in America to provide its services solely over text messaging, helping more and more teenagers and adults in distress.

As more people send messages to trained volunteer counselors using the number 741741, data from those conversations has helped provide many possibilities for how trains to people before a crisis occurs.

Do Something’s CEO Nancy Lublin said “[T]he texting line lets us communicate with young people is by text, because that’s how young people communicate.”

Due to the privacy of text messaging, Lublin said that more teenagers are likely to share the most private details of their lives that they would never voice aloud.

Moreover, by taking the steps immediately right to the chase rather than crying and hyperventilating over the phone. As a result, CAPS is now able to pick up certain patterns before a counselor sees a text, meaning keywords give an idea about what the situation is and the severity of the case.

For example, if a text contains words like “die” or “kill,” suggesting immediate danger, the message goes to the top of the queue for faster response.

From the data gathered by CTL, a trend shows that 30 percent of texts are about suicide and depression, with Sunday being a peak time. The day people most often write in about killing themselves.

Texts asking for help with eating disorders, usually peak on Sunday and Monday. In addition, two-thirds of all crises happen at night, between 8:00 p.m. and 4:00 a.m.

From this data, schools should make more of an effort in preventing crises.

According to The National Survey on Drug Use and Health from 2009-2010, about eight percent of college students experience a major depressive episode each year.

The 2012 survey conducted by the National Alliance on Mental Illness, of the students with diagnosed mental illness, depression was the most commonly cited condition.

However, the majority of students don’t access the clinical services or academic accommodations provided by their institutions, either due to lack of knowledge of the services or because they’re too scared or embarrassed.

With the added resources, CAPS also has multiple programs in effect at Everglades Hall already houses a consultation office which offers consultation and referrals, stress reduction programs, a behavioral sleep lab, and takes workshop requests. Access FIU adds to its list of stops promised, Walmart, however, is outside of the jurisdiction of Sweetwater Trolley.

Additionally, Access FIU promises to give more student input on the “2020 Initiative.” Beyond Possible 2020 is not only already set, it is an administrative plan detailing University goals. Students do not have input because it’s based on standards the administration wishes to uphold. This means that when students give false hope and furthers the idea that SGA candidates are self-serving and pandering for votes.

Access FIU also wants to achieve increased representation within SGA to better reflect the student body seen at FIU. FIU is a diverse space where the average student embodies the intersection of multiple identities. It’s not right that a government meeting that represents the best interests of students should be inclusive of students from FIUs various communities. The FIU Student Government is the only representation in the Nature Preserve, where students were left feeling like SGA represents the interests of administration rather than the interests of students. Access FIU’s promise to promote and expand outdoor green spaces and study spots for students potentially addresses that issue.

Access FIU will likely face the same problems that the administration has when trying to expand anything. It can only be hoped that green-space expansion is not limited to the FIU Student Government’s desires. Access FIU’s promise to protect and expand outdoor green spaces and study spots for students potentially addresses that issue.

Beyond Possible 2020 is not only set, it is already in progress. For more information or comments, email Damitn at damitn.gordon@fiu.edu
DRC student ‘excels’ in education and music

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It’s one thing to enjoy music, but it’s another for it to change your entire life. Fabian Carrera, a senior music and social work major at FIU is living proof of how music can not only your happiness, but also your health as well.

As a 9 month old in Cuenca, Ecuador, Carrera contracted Poliomyelitis, a disease which paralyzed him from the neck down for five years and impaired his ability to breathe by himself. However, in the hospital, music would filter into the room from a radio next to the bed. Slowly, Carrera would move to the rhythm. First his head, then his hands, until the doctors realized he was regaining mobility. After being released from the hospital, it was no secret to Carrera that music was not only a hobby, but an actual form of therapy with the potential to heal.

“I started noticing that I had a unique talent in music and tried to imitate singers,” Carrera said. “People would laugh, and so I was worried because I wanted them to know I was serious. It was because I was singing so precisely.”

Despite being put in a school for the mentally disabled as well as being marginalized for his disability and race, Carrera continued to persevere and practice his music, studying music and English diligently in Ecuador. Then pursuing higher education in the United States.

“As a disabled individual, there aren’t many opportunities. But deep inside of me, I knew I wanted more. I was denied education, I wasn’t allowed to take public transportation, but I always wanted something more.” Carrera added.

Today, he holds a 3.92 GPA and is working hard in his Master of Social Work program in order to become a clinical therapist with credentials in music therapy. In the future, he hopes to help others who are facing chronic disease through music.

“When a disabled person asks for accommodations and is told it’s unfair, it’s difficult to deal with...let people learn that way they learn,” said Carrera.

Besides excelling in his education, Carrera is an accomplished musician. His music career in the United States has been marked with performances from New York City and Washington, D.C...

On April 3 during his senior recital, Carrera performed “Raisers,” the first Ecuadorian concert written for guitar and orchestra, accompanied by Masami Miyazaki on the piano. The piece was doubly special for Carrera, both because of its meaning as an homage to the Ecuadorian indigenous lifestyle, and because the composer, Carlos Bonilla Chavez, was close to him.

“[Bonilla] was my teacher for 10 years, during which I wrote conscriptions for him,” said Carrera. The concerto, later to be performed with an entire orchestra, fused Ecuadorian rhythm and folk tradition with the standard three measure concerto format. This, in turn, formed the three Movements. The Allegro employed the “Sanjuanito” rhythm, the Adagio was set to the tune of “Pasillo” and the Presto represented the “Yumbo.” As an Ecuadorian, the piece proved to be very influential and close to Carrera’s heart.

“At first, I was blown away. It’s a beautiful nationalistic concerto,” he added.

Though his background of performing music didn’t develop until later, Carrera said he’s dealt with being in the spotlight his whole life.

“When you’re in a wheelchair, you’re on stage at all times. I got used to it pretty quickly,” he said. It is because of this, that he feels in his element on stage. “In front of the audience, you have it 100 percent, or the entire piece is ruined,” Carrera said.

Carrera’s music career extends beyond the educational landscape as well, having recorded an album in 2003 titled “Guitar Forever.” While achieving aspirations never comes easy to anyone, Carrera believes it is important to never doubt yourself - especially when others are bound to do so.

“Believe in your dreams. Be constant and tenacious. Even if there are people telling you you can’t, if you keep believing in yourself - you can achieve all of your goals,” Carrera said.

Fourth annual Miami Slut Walk protests against sexual assault

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The fourth annual Miami Slut Walk took place Friday, April 8.

A group of students, consisting mostly of women, started their walk at the GC Lucens by Einstein Bros. Bagels and made their way around MMC.

Originating in Canada, the Slut Walk movement began as a response to a statement made by a representative of the Toronto Police Department.

The political representative’s public statement blamed sexual assault and the use of the term “slut,” brought out a group of students from all races, sexual identity and gender to unite and stand against sexual assault against all.

For more information on Take Back The Night visit the Women’s Center in GC 2200 or visit http://studentaffairs.fiu.edu/get-involved/womens-center.

Slut Walk brought out students who were excited to participate.

“We had a lot of people show up before set up...it was an excited atmosphere,” said Vega.

Vega also explained that there was a comment from a bystander who said Slut Walk was an excuse for girls to walk around like whores.

“There was no situation, I think, in which [supporters] didn’t feel safe,” Vega said.

Slut Walk is a movement that grew to eradicate the idea of rape culture and the use of the term “slut,” brought out a group of students from all races, sexual identity and gender to unite and stand against sexual assault against all.

Top Right: SlutWalk participants protest in the breezeway of University Towers at MMC.

Bottom Left: SlutWalk participants continue to protest across campus at MMC.
LGBTQA 3D series provides students with community support, safe space

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The month of April is Pride month for FIU, and Thursday, April 7, marked the final day of the 3D series.

It is an event dedicated twice a year to teach students the intersectionality of their identities and brings the students in the LGBT community together to help them learn about themselves.

This series was targeted toward people who struggle to find or accept themselves for who they are while sharing their experiences - not only about the LGBT community, but also about other issues.

During the last event, Director Mario Lara explained further what this gathering was about. This 3D series stands for “Dine, Discuss, and Deliver.” At each event they discussed different topics such as human trafficking, domestic violence, while not excluding abuse among same-sex couples, as well as equality.

More than anything, they discussed how to be priderful in who they are as people, despite how much the world shames them in doing so. This event branches off the LGBT initiative and speaks on how our social identities are intertwined with each other. According to Assistant Director of the Council of Student Organizations Marissa Lucchesi, this event allows people to talk about things with others going through similar situations with complete confidentiality.

During Thursday’s three-hour session, they covered topics that they wouldn’t be able to entertain or share with others very easily. Sitting among others who silently harbor comparable hardships, these students are allowed to be open with one another, while meeting new people along the way that share the same struggle; in the midst of this you will find that everyone has a story to tell and that there’s no shame in doing just that.

Fortunately, you don’t have to wait until next year for the upcoming event to arrive to finally be among like-minded people.

There are resources on campus that can help... including mentors that are willing to have this conversation with you and your friends.

There are resources on campus that can help... including mentors that are willing to have this conversation with you and your friends,” said Lucchesi. She also suggested the alternatives to lighten any hardships.

“Put yourself in challenges that have you think critically,” Lucchesi said. When you’re challenged, there are usually two choices: remain where you are or acknowledge your challenges head on. Stepping out of your comfort zone could also play a part in learning about yourself, if you allow it.

“Educating ourselves is an important step in overcoming this struggle. Learn about yourself [and] what you stand for and the purpose of the community,” said Lara.

Lara also said to “strive to help people understand the importance of your work, while realizing that in helping others, you also soothe the aching in yourself.”

Despite the shortness of this event, much can be taken from it. While striving to be a better individual, this event points out ways that you can be a better advocate for the community, not only as a member of the LGBTQA community, but also as an ally.
Monarchs reign in Miami after three game win against the Panthers

FIU is has dropped even lower in the Conference USA standings after being swept the weekend of April 8 by the Old Dominion University Monarchs.

The Monarchs came all the way from their home in Norfolk, Virginia to score three consecutive wins on the Panthers in their home field.

On Friday, Andres Nunez (2-2) was given the ball and an opportunity to make his record a winning one. Things looked good to start with a strikeout of the first batter of the night, but a couple consecutive hits and a pitch left too high later, Nuñez and the Panthers were down 4-0.

Nunez would give up another run in the second inning before being pulled out in the bottom of the third after loading the bases. Cody Crouse would come in for relief and although he let up a run on a deep sacrifice fly, would get out of the inning suffering minimal damage.

With all this offense from Old Dominion, the Panthers would have to have something in the form of a response, right? Well, not exactly. Through the first three innings, ODU right hander Sam Sinnen had only allowed one hit. I say “had” because, in the bottom half of this fourth inning, he gave up six runs on five hits to FIU bats in the hands of Kenny Meimerstorf, Irving Lopez, Rey Perez, Oliver Francis and Zack Soria.

Sinnen was pulled from the game and replaced by Culver Lamb. Lamb inherited runners on both first and third, and a face off with Zach Files. Files would ground out, but the ground out was the score 4-2 ODU, but that would be the first of the scoring in the first for both sides. The rally wouldn’t end there, though, because in the bottom of the fifth, FIU would score four more runs off of hits from Lopez, Perez and Eddie Silva. ODU would tie things up in the top of the seventh amidst, and possibly even because of, heckling from the home fans.

11-11 was the score then. Soria had a chance to give FIU the lead with runners on second and third, but with two outs, he’d strike out swinging and we’d go on to the eighth. Two failed pickoff moves advanced to leadoff hitter from first to second and second to third, eventually being hit in by Old Dominion right fielder Nick Walker and the Monarchs would take a 12-11 lead.

The heckling was getting louder from both sides and there were even pleasanties exchanged between the home plate umpire Tony Maners and FIU’s dugout, who had a couple of instances skit zone on this night.

Maners made multiple errors and a had a lack of production in the later innings that would lead to a heart breaking extra inning loss 12-11 for the Panthers.

Chris Moretti (4-3) would have similar, if not worse, luck on Saturday night giving up four runs before any of his teammates could step into the batters box. Luck was on his side though in the bottom of the first, when Nick Day batted in his 15th RBI of the season and Kenny Meimerstorf brought across his team leading 23rd RBI of the season to make the score 4-2 ODU, but that would be the extent of the scoring in the first for both sides.

If FIU scored any more than twice on Saturday, it didn’t occur on the baseball field, because two runs was all they’d post in the later innings that would lead to a 12-11 loss for the Panthers.

After being swept two weekends ago in Stetson, many heads were down; however, all that was needed was a little motivation and willingness to build strong character. The Panthers got right back on track the following weekend, winning four out of five matches in Miami.

Outfielder Kalby Folliis dives back to first base on a pick off attempt from an Old Dominion University pitcher Saturday, April 9. FIU lost that game by a score of 10-2.

Panthers finish regular season 11-7

Although the University beach volleyball team hasn’t achieved the same amount of success it’s had the previous two years, it is finding its stride late in the season where it counts.

After being swept two weekends ago in Stetson, many heads were down; however, all that was needed was a little motivation and willingness to build strong character. The Panthers got right back on track the following weekend, winning four out of five matches in Miami.

To conclude the regular season, the Panthers participated in the Fiesta on Siesta Key Saturday, April 9. The team competed against Grand Canyon University and Texas Christian University in this brief one-day event.

The Antelopes of Grand Canyon came into the match with a 13-3 record, defeating the College of Charleston and Florida Atlantic University the day before Friday, April 8. However, the Panthers were a whole different animal.

The Panthers nearly swept the Antelopes, getting off to a 4-0 lead, and ultimately winning 4-1. The lethal tandem of graduate student, Tina Toghiyani, and senior, Ares Cupp, got the team on the board first, winning 21-16, 21-17. At the No. 4 slot, they defeated Grand Canyon’s sophomore, Emilee Erischen, and junior, Jordyn Sanchez.

At the No. 5 spot for the Panthers, redshirt sophomore Savannah Davis and sophomore Natalia Giron, showed why they won CCSA Beach Pair of the Week honors last week. Together, they had a lack of production in the later innings that would lead to a 12-11 loss for the Panthers.

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The runs just kept coming from Old Dominion, the Panthers would have to have something in the form of a response, right? Well, not exactly. Through the first three innings, ODU right hander Sam Sinnen had only allowed one hit. I say “had” because, in the bottom half of this fourth inning, he gave up six runs on five hits to FIU bats in the hands of Kenny Meimerstorf, Irving Lopez, Rey Perez, Oliver Francis and Zack Soria.

Sinnen was pulled from the game and replaced by Culver Lamb. Lamb inherited runners on both first and third, and a face off with Zach Files. Files would ground out, but the ground out was the score 4-2 ODU, but that would be the first of the scoring in the first for both sides. The rally wouldn’t end there, though, because in the bottom of the fifth, FIU would score four more runs off of hits from Lopez, Perez and Eddie Silva. ODU would tie things up in the top of the seventh amidst, and possibly even because of, heckling from the home fans.

11-11 was the score then. Soria had a chance to give FIU the lead with runners on second and third, but with two outs, he’d strike out swinging and we’d go on to the eighth. Two failed pickoff moves advanced to leadoff hitter from first to second and second to third, eventually being hit in by Old Dominion right fielder Nick Walker and the Monarchs would take a 12-11 lead.

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If FIU scored any more than twice on Saturday, it didn’t occur on the baseball field, because two runs was all they’d post in this game. Two is also how many strikeouts Morelle would manage.
Panthers sweep Fiesta on Siesta Key

BEACH, PAGE 6

Head Coach Rita Buck-Crockett made a slight tweak to the lineups, pairing Boulanger with Sataric and Glachowiak with Bethaucourt, which proved to be successful. Both duo won both of their matches in two sets.

The rookie duo of freshman Dominique Dodell and junior Katie Hogan got another victory, finishing the afternoon 2-6. They won a closely-contested three-set match 19-21, 21-18, 15-11 at the No. 1 seat.

Cupp and Toghyani once again competed together and won convincingly at the No. 4 spot, 21-11, 21-16.

For Toghyani, this win placed her at the top of the FIU beach volleyball record books. She surpassed Maryna Samoday for the most individual wins, 63, in program history.

The team will have two weeks off until it’s back in action. FIU will send two pairs to Hawaii to participate in the Outrigger Resort Akuhia Invitational, Friday, April 22. As they compete there, the rest of the team will head to Georgia to play in the first ever CCSA Conference Tournament.

Formula One

F1 eliminates new qualifying system, many fans unhappy

RACE, PAGE 6

position.

Instead, as seen in the first two races in Australia and Bahrain, there were cars were going in inspection with five minutes left in the session, leaving both spectators and teams furious at the new system.

For instance, at Bahrain with almost seven minutes left in Qualifying 2, all of the cars were sitting on pit road, waiting for the next session to start.

Because the new system was not doing what it was intended to do, the Grand Prix Drivers Association, the counterpart of the MLB Player’s Union or the NFL Players’ Association, issued a letter to F1’s stakeholders and fans regarding the decision-making of F1’s executives.

“We feel that some recent rule changes – on both the sporting and technical side and including some business directions – are disruptive, do not address the bigger issues our sport is facing and in some cases could jeopardize its future success,” the letter stated.

“The reason,” it continued, “the drivers have come to the conclusion that the decision-making process in the sport is obsolete and ill-structured and prevents progress from being made.”

Shortly after the GPDA letter was published, Bernie Ecclestone, the chief executive of the Formula One Group, said that the new qualifying system would be given another shot to prove itself.

It didn’t.

As of Monday, April 11, the FIA has overruled the new qualifying system in favor of last year’s qualifying system. The old system had the same time-restrictions as the knockout system, but cars would not be eliminated until the end of the session, rather than every 90 seconds.

The qualifying rule changes add to the question of decisions F1 has made in recent years.

At first, the new 1.6-liter 6-cylinder hybrid engines were criticized for being too quiet. Mercedes, the reigning constructor’s champion, tested out a louder exhaust system in May 2014 with poor results.

The exhaust, shaped like a megaphone, did not increase the noise of the engine and hurt the car’s performance. To this day, Mercedes aims to make the cars louder without compromising performance.

Fans have also criticized Formula One Management for being too strict on their copyright. For instance, FOM has taken down several YouTube videos and video game modifications to protect their copyright.

Also, fans cannot find race replays online because FOM does not allow anyone to reproduce their product. Compared to other racing series, such as the WeatherTech Sports Car Series or the Blancpain GT Series, FOM is stuck in the 1990s because they do not post full races online.

In the future, Ecclestone wants the modern Formula One cars to be around three seconds quicker per lap than current models by increasing downforce to all cars. However, Formula One fans are against Ecclestone’s idea.

The fans believe if the cars get added downforce, then there will be no close racing because the turbulence from the car in front will ruin a car’s handling and make passing nearly impossible.

However, not every decision FOM makes has been questionable.

The new tire rules for 2016 has been widely celebrated by fans and teams for adding another level of strategy to a race.

Therefore, the team must balance their choice of tires with Pirelli’s choice of tire for the race.

So, although Formula One has taken several steps backwards in recent years, the new tire rules and the elimination of the “knockout” qualifying system shows that FOM is willing to listen to its fans.

However, until FOM reduces its copyright holds, they are going to be falling behind other racing series that allow free use of their product.

Rey’s Tracks is a monthly column about issues surrounding Formula One racing. For commentary and suggestions, email Reynaldo Llerena at reina.do.llerena@fiusm.com.

Inconsistencies ruin potential Panther win

BASEBALL, PAGE 6

and one of the only things he could really enjoy because giving up six runs, five of them earned can’t have felt great.

The fifth and sixth runs came across for Old Dominion in the eighth inning off of a Sinnen RBI single and a throwing error. At this point, Saturday’s contest was already seemingly out of reach for the Panthers, but the Monarchs just kept piling on the runs.

Michael Agis came into the ninth inning to pitch for FIU and ODU scored three runs. Agis also allowed five hits that inning and was lucky that there were only three runs scored. If not for the fact that ODU hit two sacrifices and designated hitter Turner Bishop hadn’t rolled his wrists on his swing and grounded out the ninth could have been a lot uglier.

The bleeding stopped there, but the damage was already done. A strike out, caught foul ball and another sacrifice would be the story for FIU’s half of the ninth inning and they’d go down 10-2 and lose the first two games of the series.

On Sunday, the Panthers were playing for pride, if nothing else.

Garrett Cave (2-3) only notched two strikeouts for his stat sheet on Sunday, but that is all he needed to distance himself even more from the rest of the pitching staff as he has the most strikeouts of any pitcher at FIU with 41.

The flashy stats would be of little help to the sophomore and his teammates this weekend. To start off Cave was all over the place, the first run scoring via a wild pitch. Another run would score that inning off of a sacrifice by Connor Myers.

Myers wasn’t done there, though. He’d hit a solo home run in the fifth inning to put his team ahead 3-0. The eighth inning was perhaps the most embarrassing inning of the weekend, when the Panther gave up eight runs and committed two errors.

Old Dominion’s lead was 11-0 before the Panthers scored their first run on a Nick Day RBI single in the bottom of the ninth inning. That would be all for the Panthers’ rally and the Monarchs would complete the three-game sweep with an 11-1 domination in Miami.

While FIU is still batting 310 as a team, their pitching has only gotten worse since the start of the season with a current team ERA of 4.69. They’re dropping in the CUSA standings and fast.

The Panthers are tied for third to last place in the conference, four and eight against conference competition and 15-19 overall.

The Panthers were visited by Bethune-Cookman University Wednesday, April 13, and they have a weekend road-trip to Reston, Louisiana to take on Louisiana Tech University April 15 through April 17. Even if they win all four games this week, they won’t be above .500 in respect to their overall record, or their in-conference record.

Louis Hucks is weekly column about FIU baseball. For commentary and suggestions, email Louis at louis.aiguledo@fiusm.com.

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Facebook adds features to video stream tool

**DAVID PIERSON**
*Los Angeles Times*

In the two months since Facebook made its video broadcasting tool available to all users, the social network has found people are 10 times more likely to write a comment under a live stream than an ordinary video. That intense engagement is what makes Facebook and marketers streaming in August. Facebook made its video streaming tool available to all users, the social network has found, but sorry because the games have ended with no playoffs. Now the real season has just begun, with an 82-game warmup skate about to give way to the Stanley Cup playoffs.

The Cats looked ready for it Saturday in a 5-2 skate-waltz past the Carolina Hurricanes on goals by Teddy Purcell, Jussi Jokinen and Aaron Ekblad all in the first seven minutes, a second-period blast by Jonathan Huberdeau and then a last-second empty-netter by Reilly Smith.

It's a cruise-ship foghorn sound that fills the arena with every home goal. To Carolina it must have sounded like a locomotive's warning as it's about to run over you.

"I figured we'd play well at home," said Gerard Gallant, who should be a frontrunner for coach of the year honors. "But first you want for nobody to get hurt and make sure you're ready for the playoffs."

The Cats almost won twice Saturday but did not. The New York Islanders had to lose in regulation Saturday to assure the Isles would be Florida's first-round playoff team. Now, instead of being determined Stanley Cup opponents, the Islanders will be the stronger adversary in each game. Florida's win ended with a perfect kaleidoscope: a smattering of celebratory rubber and plastic rats slapping into the ice, Panthers players giving randomly selected spectators the jerseys right off their backs, and fans standing in appreciation of the most dominating season they've seen down here. Florida's win ended with a perfect kaleidoscope: a smattering of celebratory rubber and plastic rats slapping into the ice, Panthers players giving randomly selected spectators the jerseys right off their backs, and fans standing in appreciation of the most dominating season they've seen down here.

The new features underscore the company's deepening commitment to video, which is gaining a growing share of digital audiences, especially on mobile devices, while commanding higher ad rates. Since 2014, Facebook has seen daily video views grow eightfold to 8 billion. With live streaming, the company hopes it has an even more compelling reason for users to interact with one another.

"Live is natural and it's immersive in a way that puts people in the center of the action," said Fidji Simo, director of product for Facebook.

Get up to the minute news, instant sports updates, music and talk shows, event photo galleries, and more.

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Florida Panthers still have a lot to prove

**DAVID PIERSON**
*Los Angeles Times*

This is the best Florida Panthers team in franchise history. The Cats have spent the past six months staking that claim, offering in evidence, tantalizing with the possibility.

Now all they have to do is go prove it. See, the real hockey is just about to start. That always has been embodied and claimed by the flying rats of '96. They have the talent to go wrest that crown ever will win it all again.

James and the Big 3? There certainly is no reason to think the Panthers are about to fall apart. And when its second-leading scorer (Jagr, 27) first entered the league. Has any team, ever, been able to say such a crazy thing?

This is big, this greatest-team-in-franchise-history stuff. Look around. There were 4,000 people to watch your broadcast and a map available only on desktop that shows where live streams are occurring around the world.

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