BEYOND BREXIT

British referendum sparks discussion at FIU

Panelists Gwyn Davis, Cem Karayalchin, David Progder, and Markus Thiel gather to discuss the UK referendum on FIU’s MMC campus on Wednesday, June 29.

MELISSA BURGESS
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A week after British voters decided to leave the European Union, the so-called “Brexit” referendum has left the world with more questions than clarity.

To help answer some of the questions swirling around “Brexit,” FIU’s Steven J. Green School of International and Public Affairs brought together a panel of experts on Wednesday, June 29 to explain their take on the possible geopolitical, economic, and financial implications for Britain and Europe.

The panel included special guest, David Progder, the British Consul General of Miami; Markus Thiel, the director of Jean Monnet Center of Excellence and European & Eurasian Studies Program; Cem Karayalchin, chairman and professor in the Department of Economics; and Gwyn Davis, an associate professor in the Department of History at FIU.

With the pound plunging to its lowest level and prompting Prime Minister Cameron’s resignation, the Brexit results have already shocked global markets, roiled the stock market and thrown British politics into disarray.

In Thursday’s election, the referendum asked UK citizens if they wanted to remain or leave the EU. They voted to leave the EU with 52 percent to 48 percent.

“I am appalled of the outcome of this referendum. I cannot pretend to be anything other than appalled by it. I think it’s a serious error and the consequences are going to be catastrophic both socially and economically. It was an unnecessary referendum, but that’s just my personal opinion,” said Davis.

Progder emphasized that at the moment, Britain is still a EU member. The clock won’t start ticking for Brexit until the UK submits Article 50 to the EU. Article 50 is a European treaty that must be submitted in order to leave the EU. Once the article is submitted, the divorce is expected to be a two-year process.

“What is very clear from this debate is that the UK will continue to have an incredibly strong relationship with their European partners,” said Progder.

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ALEX ALEX
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One student in Poseidon’s group, Daniela Salinas, lost her vision due to a condition called Leber Congenital Amaurosis, which is an inherited retinal degenerative disease characterized by severe loss of vision at birth.

Salinas joined Poseidon’s Panthers about a month and a half ago to have some summer fun and stay in great shape.

Salinas says she loves the music that they play during the sessions and how much she has learned in the club.

Her coach, Ibrahim Sultan, says “it’s not as easy to teach her new things as it would be to coach someone without a disability. The way I teach her, is by having her put her arms on mine so she can get a sense of the motions.”

Sultan says he learned that someone who is blind can swim just as well as someone who can see. Most people wouldn’t imagine someone with no vision to swim, however. Salinas has proven them wrong.

She has gained so much from this club and has made numerous strides since joining. She says she has mastered her dolphin kick and her freestyle, something she couldn’t do before joining the club.

“She does a lot more than the basics and can even do laps, she is doing very well,” said Sultan.

Sultan says he has learned a lot about what it’s like teaching someone with a disability such as Salinas.

“Having her join made me less nervous to teach people with disabilities, which made me a better coach. People in the club know her and admire what she does, and it has definitely made us more diverse and has been a learning experience for all of us,”

This swim club runs through the summer and is free to all students.

Disaster student learns to swim through club

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Too dangerous to stay or far too great to leave, with hurricane season approaching, you must know how to prepare and evacuate, if necessary. Florida International University has prepared helpful suggestions for the community to know what to do during hurricane season.

“The past should serve as a guide for the future. It is easy to grow complacent, but complacency is never an excuse for unpreparedness,” said President Mark Rosenberg in a mass email. “It only takes a single storm to cause widespread, devastating effects. If you haven’t started to prepare, now is the time.”

Rosenberg encourages the community to have a hurricane plan to be prepared, if and when a disaster strikes.

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“Begin to review, revise or create your personal hurricane plan, become familiar with the University’s emergency communication procedures – which apply to all potential hazards – and purchase the supplies necessary for your disaster kit,” wrote Rosenberg.

Before a storm, you should always follow any protective actions issued by emergency officials.”

Some recommended disaster supplies are water, non-perishable food, battery powered radios, flashlights, batteries, first aid kits, can openers and local maps. More recommended items recommended for hurricane preparedness can be found on ready.gov.

FIU housing students are responsible for acquiring their own supplies. They are also responsible for seeking out their own shelters if they do not wish to remain in a common area on campus.

In the event of an emergency, FIU has designated a site known as FIU Alert, which will help advise the FIU community during the disaster. In addition to checking

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US in diplomatic talks with Venezuela while backing recall referendum

The reopening of diplomatic talks with Venezuela wouldn’t clash with the Obama administration’s support of a recall referendum that could oust President Nicolas Maduro, a top U.S. diplomat said Friday.

Thomas Shannon, the U.S. undersecretary of state for political affairs, described Wednesday’s talks with Maduro as a first step toward finding common ground with the Venezuelan government. But Shannon emphasized that the administration would not back off its pledge to back an organization of American States investigation into the erosion of democratic institutions in Venezuela.

There are signs hole in ozone layer has begun to heal

For the first time in 30 years, the gaping hole in the ozone layer above Antarctica is showing signs of healing.

Every year since it was discovered in 1985, scientists have watched the hole grow bigger from one Antarctic spring to the next, eventually covering 10.9 million square miles in 2015.

Now researchers are noting an encouraging trend. Though the hole still exists and reached a record size last year, it is forming at a slower rate, according to a report published Thursday in the journal Science.

STORM, PAGE 1

FIU talks hurricane preparedness for this year’s season

FIU emails accounts, FIU recommends using tools such as text messages, infomachat, checking emails on FIU account, updates on the FIU homepage, social media, FIU Help Line, FIU WRGB Radio at 95.3 FM and local media.

Since Miami is estimated by Google maps to be 5:00 feet above sea level, this potentially leaves FIU at great risk of flooding or heavy rainfall, the latter usually falling in between classes. As a result, FIU has prepared these measures because it can be directly impacted.

“Carefully study our entire FIU family, which is why we have taken the appropriate and precautionary measures to ensure their safety,” said Rosenberg. “Being prepared and following these steps will make for a safer hurricane season and quicker recovery, should any hazardous event affect our university community.”

Hugh Gladwin, an anthropologist and associate professor for the department of Global and Sociocultural Studies has been published for his field research in hurricane Katrina, Andrew and Sandy. Much of his research focuses on decision making and hurricane disaster planning.

Gladwin highlighted two main points: being prepared for a hurricane and knowing when to evacuate. “When people know there’s a hurricane coming, they go crazy,” said Gladwin when referring to storm search. It is known to be the four days before a storm hits, and forecasts can accurately predict a hurricane’s strength and path.

Gladwin mentions that by this time, it is too late to be prepared. Supplies run out, traffic escalates and gas prices begin to increase. A category one hurricane can knock off power in certain areas for 10 days, so Gladwin recommends to start preparing for hurricanes about two weeks before the season begins.

Gladwin’s second point is knowing when to evacuate. Depending on your location, you may not have to evacuate, Gladwin mentions the National Hurricane Center (3-1-1) that can be called during all hours to know your risk.

If you are a FIU student, the FIU Help Line, 305-348-Help, is in use and set to use for any student that may need.

Gladwin recommends relocating as less as possible; if your location is unsafe, it’s best to stay at a friend’s house in a safe area. If you are however a Panther staying in housing, information on location is unsafe, it’s best to stay at a friend’s house in a safe area.

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Additional reporting by Stephanie Espaillat

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BREXIT, PAGE 2

leaving the EU.

Karayalchin mentioned that there are numerous reasons why UK citizens may feel that leaving the EU is for the best, including regaining control of their regulations in trade, less meddling from EU bureaucrats in Brussels and the abysmal performance of the European economy.

It’s not about regulation, but the discontent of a large number of UK citizens have, due to the economic austerity, seen a disparity in income gap between the lower and upper classes in the UK, he said.

However, Karayalchin predicted an estimated loss of 3.4 percent in GDP, and will face other economic consequences including the potential long-term damage to trade and foreign investments with the EU.

Yet throughout this historical moment, no one really knows what’s going to happen next. Thiel, who sees Brexit as a “geopolitical earthquake”, suggested that many building relations similar to Brexit don’t always occur. So, he wondered whether this will lead to unending hostility toward Brexit and the EU.

Thiel acknowledged that since other EU countries have the common currency and trade within the Euro - they would be discouraged from exiting since it would be more expensive.

Ultimately, when asked about the special relationship between the UK and the U.S., Progro said that it would remain that same.

The UK has been very grateful for the many kind words from our partners here in the U.S. and whatever measure we decide to take. The U.S. is one of the UK’s most successful alliances. The U.S. will remain one of our closest and most enduring partners,” he affirmed.
Letter to the Editor: FIU is reaching higher, setting new standards

Last month, the FIU board of trustees held our last meeting of the academic year, where we approved the university’s $1.3 billion budget and work plan for the 2016-2017 year. As Miami’s only public research university, FIU has charted a course that honors its responsibility to serve local residents, and my fellow FIU trustees and I want to share with you our vision for the future of this university under the leadership of President Mark B. Rosenberg.

Since taking the reins of FIU in the fall of 2009, President Rosenberg has pursued a strategy of controlled growth and improvement that has yielded excellent overall results, especially in two key areas that are often judged by: research and student success.

Earlier this year, FIU made it into the top category of research universities in the nation – R:1 Doctoral Universities, with more than 21,650 million of research funding a year and high production of Ph.D.s. This fall, we will welcome a freshman class with the highest average high school GPA in FIU history – 3.9. We have found that GPA is the best predictor of success and timely graduation. That is why in the last few years, while adding about 2,000 students a year, we have prioritized GPA over standardized test scores in the freshman admission process. Even then, average SAT scores have remained above 1120, which is higher than they were 10 years ago.

In addition, they are graduating at rates never before seen at FIU: The six-year graduation rate is now 58 percent, up from 42 percent 10 years ago, and climbing. In the last three years, the graduation rate has become important to the funding model adopted by the Florida Board of Governors, which governs state universities. FIU has done very well under this model, always scoring in the top half among Florida’s 12 public universities.

Education is the key to success in the 21st Century economy, and FIU is working to make sure that anyone in our community who has the desire and the preparation to pursue a college education, has the opportunity to do so right in our community. It is a pleasure and an honor for us to serve on the board of trustees of FIU. Together, we have charted a course that will help make FIU one of the great universities of this nation, building on our success as an agent of change that transforms lives. We are counting on the energy and the talent of our students, faculty, staff, alumni, elected officials and this community to help us reach higher.

As an editorial board, we believe that holding our athletes to different standards is a disservice to the athletes themselves. We know that it feels great for these athletes to achieve academically, and encourage the University community to promote academic progress and growth for all student-athletes as much as they would any other student.

We are proud of the academic success of our student athletes and do not wish to diminish the hard work it takes to achieve a high GPA. We congratulate and applaud the 143 Panthers who were named to the FIU Dean’s List in the spring.

We admire the dedication that it takes to dedicate oneself to a sport, attend multiple practices, and travel for games while ensuring to aim high academically. That is no small feat. We would also like to wish our student athletes the best in the upcoming academic year, both on and off the court.

Claudia Poig Chairperson
FIU Board of Trustees

Letter to the Editors are published once a month. They are not written by FIUSM staff but by members of the FIU community. If you would like to submit a letter, please email it to opinion@fiu.edu.
**Letters to the Editor: ‘Distorted sense of power’ contributes to dislike of police officers**

As a white male history professor at FIU, I am an unlikely target for police harassment, but a cop attempted to intimidate me one spring Monday at the entrance of Green Library before a class.

An officer barked: “Did you put out that cigarette? What cigarette?”

He persisted, insisting I had been smoking and threatened to cite me.

–For what?

–For being disrespectful.

What was offensive was not his assuredness, but his distorted sense of power. I respect men and women in blue, if they command respect.

English defer to authority without asking why. Americans defer to authority only if we know why. Police are citizens, and we should police them as citizens.

To write with a balanced perspective, I spoke with other professors and students who said they, or someone they knew, had had a run-in with an FIU police officer.

Many of these were for traffic disputes, but not all.

I went to speak to the officer’s superior and peers, none of whom refused to defend their colleague.

These FIU cops were courteous and professional. Maybe nearsightedness should relegate some police to desk duty, and the department should do more to reward its brightest stars.

At least, FIU and University should require the less bright to do a course in professionalism and sensitivity training when addressing faculty, staff, students or visitors.

**RIVERS OF TRUTH**

**LINDA RIOS**

Friday, June 16 the Miami Herald reported that FIU business professor, David Ralston was taken into custody last Thursday after a month-long pursuit. Ralston was found hiding in a motel 20 miles from his Weston home, in Fort Lauderdale.

According to CBS Miami, Ralston refused to turn himself in due to the lack of a warrant that required him to do so.

According to the Lee County Sheriff’s Office, the 69-year-old professor had allegedly hired his maid this past April to clean his Ft. Meyers home through Craigslist.

CBS Miami reported that on the afternoon of April 29 Ralston offered his maid a drink, and after accepting it, she felt like she was not herself. Half an hour later, she concluded that she had been drugged.

The victim’s statement said that she felt Ralston taking her clothes off, something she was not aware of being done and the accused penetrating her.

The woman was able to get away from Ralston’s house late at night, and sought help from a neighbor who was then able to contact her husband and the authorities.

After the assault took place, the sheriff’s deputies performed a search and walked out with what had been thought to be at the time, the surveillance tape containing the evidence incriminating Ralston.

Ralston is pending to appear in front of the court in Ft. Lauderdale and then he will be transferred to Lee County for prosecution.

It’s important to always be cautious and keep yourself safe because we never know who they might turn out to be and if they will be a threat to our safety and peace of mind.

Linda Rios is a contributing writer for FIU Student Media. Her column, Rivers of Truth, is a commentary on the crime scene. For suggestions or comments, please contact Linda at opinion@fiusm.com.

**Send us your letters**

Have something on your mind? Send your thoughts (400 words maximum) to opinion@fiusm.com or drop by our offices at GC 210 or WUC 124. With your letter, be sure to include your name, major, year, and copy of your student ID. The Beacon will only run one letter a month from any individual.

**Disclaimer**

The opinions presented within this page do not represent the views of The FIU Student Editorial Board. These views are separate from editors and reflect individual perspectives of contributing writers and/or members of the University community.

**Editorial policy**

Editorials are the unified voice of the editorial board, which is composed of the editor in chief, managing editor, and the editors of each of the four sections. The Beacon welcomes any letters regarding or in response to its editorials. Send them to opinion@fiusm.com.
June 20, 2016 marked the first day of summer and to FIU students, that means summer classes and SummerFest. SummerFest is an annual concert event organized and hosted by FIU’s Campus Life at the Modesto Maidique Campus. It’s “Campus Life’s biggest event over the summer… that attracts about 3 to 4,000 students and guests” according to Campus Life’s creative director and SummerFest advisor, John Parmenter.

SummerFest is a “unique campus experience unlike any other concert here at FIU,” and it introduces students “to everything else that we have to offer here at Campus Life,” said Parmenter. He explained that SummerFest “serves as a perfect engagement for all our new freshmen,” who make up the largest group of SummerFest attendees, as it’s their first college experience, their first college event.

Whether it’s freshmen going to their first SummerFest or seniors experiencing their last, students who attend this year’s SummerFest can enjoy the foam cannon theme, the concert stage decked out with LED lights, and an artist lineup “better than any of our previous lineups,” according to Parmenter. Two main headliners, Dzeko & Torres and G.T.A., will be performing, instead of one as in previous years.

FIU students attending SummerFest will be admitted for free but must bring a valid student I.D. that will be swiped at the gate. Any guest looking to go to SummerFest must purchase a ticket. They can do so online for $30, or at the gate for $35.

The event will begin at 8 p.m. and end at midnight. Doors will open at 7:15 p.m. but there will be a special early entrance at 6:45 p.m. for students who donate $1 to Campus Life’s Roar It Forward. Students who donate to the program will be helping raise funds meant to aid close to 100 homeless FIU students.

SummerFest will take place on Thursday, July 14 at MMC between the Blue and Gold parking garages.

The FIU Recreation Center is putting together a special event next month, on the lawns of the Graham Center. July 13 will see the debut of the first ever Ultimate Panther Challenge, where teams of up to five players compete and run five obstacle courses.

“I wanted to think of some ways that we could get students to be attracted to the Rec Center and learn more about our programs,” said Ratasha Iribaren, a graduate assistant in charge of public relations and marketing for the Rec Center. “I noticed that the obstacle course, the sparring races, the mud runs are all very popular right now.”

From noon to 2 p.m., the event will have many activities including a tire flip, speed drills, and a rock climbing wall. Food and drink will be provided by sponsor, Muscle Milk, who will also be giving out prizes yet to be announced.

The Ultimate Panther Challenge is accepting submissions for anyone who would like to participate in the obstacle course runs. If you’re feeling up to the challenge, you may register with the Rec Center on their website. For more information, contact Iribaren at: riribarr@fiu.edu.
LIFESTYLE POINTS

Hollywood’s search for the next big fantasy franchise for the big screen sounds simple enough, but somehow, finding it in a roleplaying game franchise, one that’s gone through several generations of gamers with little plot, seems like an odd place to land.

“Warcraft” started as a series of video game titles in the early ‘90s, released by Blizzard Entertainment. It was set as a real-time strategy game where you could choose to be an army of humans defending their world from an invading race of creatures called Orcs, or play as the army of Orcs invading the human world.

Since then, it has spawned all kinds of media, from a popular massively multiplayer online roleplaying game, to books, and a tabletop RPG. The film, released early in June with massive numbers at the box office, became the highest grossing video game film adaptation of all time.

The movie plays with the basic plot of the first game, which was simply that Orcs are invading the world of Azeroth. The Orc homeworld is being torn apart by evil magic, and so the Orc Horde enters Azeroth to start over, kidnapping humans in order to fuel a portal to transport Orcs. Meanwhile, King Llane of the kingdom of Stormwind and his commander Anduin Lothar fight the Horde with assistance from a clan of Orcs who realize their leader, an Orc warlock named Gar’dan, will destroy Azeroth the way he destroyed their world.

Without substantial context to the lore of the franchise, a lot of world building would be lost on the casual film goer. However, it’s still an exciting watch. Despite its heavy use of CGI animation, it still provides scale and practicality to its production and set design to avoid relying on CGI for most of its scenes.

On its story alone, it definitely drags - though only as much as any fantasy film of its scale would. It’s also slightly inconsistent in theme and pacing; often it places significance on certain plot points that become irrelevant later in the film, while other more important elements are left unexplored. In addition, not to spoil anything directly but there are several major deaths that fail to carry much weight, and end up being more anticlimactic than anything else.

All of this said, it’s still incredibly fun. The dialogue is on point, the visual effects are stunning and the actors play well in this film. Despite its shortcomings when it comes to the story, many aspects redeem it; it’s purely an action fantasy flick and that’s what keeps you watching.

“Warcraft” has been out for almost a month now, and promises a wild adventure. There’s no need to skip out on it for a prerequisite on nerdy RPG gaming, the movie works as its own, with only its setting supported by the mythos of the franchise.

Lifestyle Points is a column covering films and pop culture. To contact Joseph Cardenas for suggestions and comments email joseph.cardenas@fiusm.com.

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On Tuesday, June 28, Biscayne Bay Campus’ Campus Life hosted an event called Creative Panthers Day, in The Wolfe University Center’s Panther Square.

For the event, four long tables were set up with different creative activities, along with mini posters of FIU fun facts, for students to enjoy. The first table was an emoji pillow station where students could sign in and pick up an empty emoji pillow of their choice. They would then pass to the other side of the table and fill their new pillows with stuffing.

From the emoji table, students could then go on to the three other tables where they could make a paper-craft Roary, create personalized key chains, or write on a banner what they would like to get out of FIU and leave their paw print.

BBC’s Campus Life program assistant Kaytien Franco said that “these creative things, these little creative stations its (sic) to help them [new students at BBC] network and connect with other FIU students.”

Franco mentioned that the event is just one of many being hosted at BBC this week to introduce summer B students, which are mainly freshmen and transfers, to the campus and “to get students engaged and most importantly, make them feel welcome at FIU at BBC.”

Shannon Joseph, junior majoring in geosciences, said that she found the event “very creative and very fun and engaging. It’s very much something that’s different and something that reaches out to the taste of a lot of people.”

SLS professor and academic advisor Giovanna Tello brought her SLS students to the event on their first day of class in an effort to encourage them to “go and get involved” and “practice what we preach.”

To transfer student Angelica Walker, senior majoring in hospitality management, Creative Panthers Day was another chance for her to be involved and she thought it was “a fun environment. It helped students to interact with one another … to interact with students you don’t know … it makes you feel welcome.”

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Shannon Joseph, junior majoring in geosciences, said that she found the event “very creative and very fun and engaging. It’s very much something that’s different and something that reaches out to the taste of a lot of people.”

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Creative Panther’ Day at BBC

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Chloe Gonzalez
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Women in sports: rising, prevailing and enduring in the male-dominated industry

The world of sports has always been thought of as a male's platform. The concepts of strength, performance and adrenaline put forth in sports are often attributed to women. However, for all of us, especially those who desire the ability to run faster, throw farther and fight harder than a man, it’s like being a woman playing in sports after being the first FIU student-athlete to qualify for the Olympics. I’ve been told that I swim like a man because I’m fast, and I don’t think that a woman has to be a man in order to be fast or to train well,” Ruele said.

In addition to participating in sports, women also started reporting for sports. In the late 1930s, the wife of Harry Johnson provided color commentary during Johnson's broadcast, and became the first woman sportscaster. The few women who started their sportscasting career after her were Jane Chastain, Donna De Varona and Jeannie Morris. During that era there was no communal space for people to voice their opinions. Now, people run straight to Twitter and Facebook to voice their opinions. Twitter, especially, has been a very ugly place for women in sports media.

Julie DiCaro, an anchor for 670 The Score, has witnessed disgusting tweets by male sports fanatics who often disagree with DiCaro’s opinions. One once told her, “You need to be hit in the head with a hockey puck by one of the BlackHawks and killed.” It makes you wonder, is it really that serious?

Jas Reports is a biweekly column about issues in sports. To contact Jasmine email her at jasmine.casimir@fiusm.com.

I’ve been told that I swim like a man because I’m fast, and I don’t think that a woman has to be a man in order to be fast or to train well,” Ruele said.

“...I thought about this job with knowing that he had been here. One thing he had said to me was, ‘Mervyl, I think that you would do a great job there if the opportunity presents itself.’”

Mervyl Melendez, FIU’s new baseball coach, speaks about his plan for the team for the upcoming season.

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**Swimming**

Head coach and swimmer grateful for Rio Olympics opportunity

**Staff Writer**

Randy Horner, head coach and swimmer, was grateful for his Olympic experience.

**Staff Writer**

Ruele made her Olympic debut as she waved to a packed stadium waiting for her to greet you. Because of our respective moves, I couldn’t register in my head that I was at the Olympic Opening Ceremonies. In Rio, Ruelle competed in one event: the 50-meter freestyle. In the event, Ruelle placed second in her heat with a time of 26.23 seconds. While her time was not fast enough to earn a place in the semi-finals, Ruelle was able to break the top 50 times at the Rio Olympics, posting the 47th overall fastest time.

After my events, I went and watched several other sports. I would normally not be able to watch. Ruelle said, “I watched the USA men’s basketball team play against Serbia and women’s gymnastics. I believe gymnastics to be one of the toughest sports to master and seeing those athletes master it with such precision amazed me.”

Ruelle was satisfied with her Olympic experience. “After my events, I went and watched several other sports. I would normally not be able to watch,” Ruelle said. “In the opening ceremonies, you would walk out and there would be 500 cameras and a packed stadium waiting to greet you. Because the ceremonies were so extravagant, I couldn’t register in my head that I was at the Olympic Opening Ceremonies.”

Ruelle floated to the country’s two swimmers. “It was a smooth stay,” Ruelle said. “I watched Usain Bolt win the 100-meter for the third time and watched women’s gymnastics. It was amazing to see athletes nail their respective moves with such precision and skill. It was fun to watch.”

Ruele was satisfied with her stay in the Olympic Village; her room, which she shared with two Botswana runners, was free of any electricity or leakage issues. “It was a smooth stay,” Ruelle said. “It wasn’t the most extravagant of places, perhaps because we were fitting 14,000 athletes, but it was a nice place to stay and relax in between training and events.”

The Swimming and Diving team begins its season Sept. 30 against the University of Miami in Coral Gables. The first event is scheduled for 6 p.m. “Our goal for this season is to repeat as Conference USA champions and make the NCAA tournament,” Horner said. “Our swimmers have grown a lot during the offseason, and we have all of our great swimmers returning, which was our greatest strength last season.”

**Men’s Soccer**

Soccer player aims for a memorable season

**Staff Writer**

Luis Betancur, forward for the FIU men’s soccer team, is looking to making his final season, a historic one. Following a strong season his junior year with 19 points – 9 goals, 1 assist – Betancur wants to leave with his name forever remembered in the books.

Nandi, as his teammates and close friends call him, strives to be the best, often working on drills after practice to improve his game and ensure a great season with the team. The Panthers currently find themselves ranked No. 23 in the nation, ending the season with 12 wins, 7 losses and 1 tie. For this upcoming 2016 season, Betancur and his teammates want to go even further as they defend their Conference USA title. “Our goal for this season is to repeat as Conference USA champions and make the NCAA tournament,” Betancur said. With a widely diverse group of players, Betancur believes having players with different backgrounds and cultures only make their bond more special.

“Turnover sets Panthers up for second win”

Paul Marie, junior defender, attempts to steal the ball from Wisconsin defender.

The men’s soccer team received its second straight win of the season after defeating the University of Wisconsin Badgers 1-0. Forward Santiago Patino scored the first goal of the game after the Badgers created a turnover in the fifth minute, setting the Panthers up for a victory.

The Panthers’ next game will take place on Saturday, Sept. 17 at 7 p.m. against the University of Kentucky.

Santiago Patino, sophomore forward, before scoring the first point for the Panthers after a turnover by Wisconsin.
FIU alumni hosts celebrity softball game for charity

T.Y. Hilton, wide receiver for the Indianapolis Colts and University alumnus, bats for the CYP Squad during the charity softball game held by Johnathan Cyprien.

**PETER HOLLAND**
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FIU alumnus Johnathan Cyprien, who is currently a safety for the Jacksonville Jaguars, held his second annual celebrity softball charity game at the FIU Baseball Stadium for his CYP Squad At Risk Youth Foundation.

Alumni from FIU reunited to face alumni from the University of Miami and other Miami-native NFL players in a friendly softball matchup. Before the game began, Cyprien gathered all of the children who attended the game and explained to them why the event took place and how much he cared about them and their future. "I would throw different events like the softball game for example, and raise a good amount of money to sponsor kids to do things throughout the summer, such as after school programs to keep them out of the streets and give them a choice of doing something better than getting into trouble," Cyprien said.

Current and former NFL players were the main attractions from both teams. Players such as T.Y. Hilton, wide receiver for the Indianapolis Colts; Torek Williams, linebacker for the San Diego Chargers; and Iasme Faciane, guard for the Minnesota Vikings, were some of the players who represented FIU.

Recent graduate Jeremiah McKinnon, who played with Cyprien, made an appearance as well. He has a brotherhood coming out of high school in Miami, and we just want to support each other." The final score was 20-10, with FIU coming out on top. For the players who participated, it didn't matter who won. Their focus was to give back to their community and entertain the children who attended. After the game, fans came down to the field to take pictures with the NFL players and to get autographs.

"Football is like a family," Cyprien said. "We always look out for each other, especially when it's a good cause for the kids."

Student athletes earn highest average GPA on record

**CAYLA BUSH**
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"It was a nice feeling coming out and giving back," McKinnon said. "I was able to play with Cyprien my freshman year and it felt great to stay in touch and be a part of his charity event. Both teams made some exciting plays, including Hilton's one-handed catches and double plays, and Teddy Bridgewater, a quarterback for the Minnesota Vikings, striking out Cyprien as a pitcher. The players were energetic and gave the crowd a show throughout the entire game. "It was cool to have the guys at the event," Cyprien said. "We automatically

"The work that our student-athletes have done in the classroom is outstanding," Pete Garcia, Executive Director Sports and Entertainment.
Budokon club brings ‘warrior spirit’ out of students

Jonnu Smith confident in football team this season

After a knee injury left him unable to continue the season, Jonnu Smith, a tight end on the FIU football team, feels 100 percent stronger and more powerful off that leg once before. I feel faster, more athletic, and it feels like I’ve never been injured. I’m just appreciative of the trainer and staff for getting me past the point I was before.,” Smith said.

For a second year in a row, Smith has been named to the John Mackey Award Presented by the Food Network Watch List; this recognition is given annually to the most outstanding collegiate tight end in the nation. He was also voted to the All-Conference USA by Athlon Sports Magazine.

Smith is confident that this season FIU is going to witness his best year yet. The senior Panther is also sure that the team will get over the hump, and he’s hopeful that the Panthers will get at least six wins for the first time under Ron Turner and win C-USA.

You’re going to see the best Jonnu Smith you have ever seen since my freshman year,” Smith said. “I’m more experienced, older, wiser, better, faster, stronger, more confident, you know all the above. I’m excited for this year, and I’ll be going out with a bang.”

The Panthers’ first game will take place on Sept. 1 against Indiana at FIU Stadium at 7:30 p.m.
**Tennis program offers free tennis lessons to students**

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The Wellness and Recreation Center at FIU’s Biscayne Bay Campus is offering free tennis instruction to students from beginner to advanced levels. Instructor Tom Fowkes, who has taught tennis for almost 15 years, with 10 years working full time. Fowkes teaches kids and adults in addition to FIU students. He instructs a student who has won four national championships, and has coached other tournament players, too.

Fowkes decided to teach at FIU because “It gives him a chance to expand his program, and work with college students.” He says he has formed many relationships with the students that attend the program and the faculty and staff at FIU. Fowkes accommodates those on different levels and says “keeping everyone interested is the main idea, and I keep the instruction informative and light so that way everyone can get something out of it.”

“As a student, it’s great that it’s offered to us for free, and what I enjoy the most is Tom’s personality,” William Sturup, a participant in Fowkes’ program, said. “He is a nurturing, attentive, and motivates students to come out and do their best.”

Sturup also stated that his technique has improved significantly as well as his endurance. FIU student Remy Miller said: “Tom really plays attention to detail. For example, he noticed my stance on my serve had to be corrected, which improved a lot through practice with Tom.”

Fowkes is grateful to have formed such a strong relationship with the faculty and staff at the FIU Wellness and Recreation center, particularly with Director Elias Bardawill and Assistant Director Warren Shaw.

The tennis program will take place every Thursday from 6-7 p.m. at the Biscayne Bay Campus and will last until July 28. Fowkes’ passion for tennis is shown through his successful tennis program here at FIU.

Whether you are just discovering your passion for tennis or in need of extra practice time, this program helps students improve their techniques and gives students an opportunity to meet new people who want to learn the game of tennis, too.

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**New tv deal can put Panthers on the map**

**ALEJANDRO SOLANA**
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New FIU baseball coach Mervyl Melendez said at his press conference that FIU has always been on his radar since he began coaching at the collegiate level. The ex-Alabama State University head coach made it clear that his intention was to “find a new home.”

Melendez said: “This journey started for me many years ago. 20 years ago I became a baseball coach, thinking that one day I would be here. This is one of the few jobs that I looked at if one day could be mine. One day I could be there. One day I can call FIU home. And the day has arrived.”

The day has indeed arrived, but the journey was no quick one. The 42-year-old was born in Carolina, Puerto Rico, the same birthplace of baseball legend and hall of famer, Roberto Clemente. At the age of 13, Melendez moved to Orlando, Florida, where he attended Lake Howell High School in Winter Park.

The Puerto Rican native spent his playing days at Bethune Cookman, prior to becoming the assistant coach and ultimately the head coach of that program. Melendez spent 12 years as the head coach of the Wildcats and posted a 379-319 record.

After his time at Bethune, it was his tenure at Alabama State that really showed Melendez was one of the most respected young coaches in the nation. With a 158-116 record in his five seasons, Melendez became the third-youngest head coach in Division 1 history to earn his 500th career win.

From the moment Melendez accepted the position as the Panthers’ leading man, he says he understood the responsibility that came with the job. Melendez said: “For me, I take great honor and I take great pride leading this program. I have a responsibility. I have a responsibility to the administration. I have a responsibility to the alumni. I have a responsibility to our players.”

The players currently on the roster at FIU may have enticed Melendez, but there is no question that the hotbed of talent in the area is what truly lured Melendez to South Florida.

“The excitement comes from the players that are in Miami,” Melendez said. “The talent level here is unlimited.”

Melendez says he “has always recruited in this area.” So it comes to no surprise that he would take a job in the area where he has already established a strong recruiting repertoire.

“This is the area we are going to target first,” Melendez said. He also mentioned at the press conference that he wants to keep talent close to FIU instead of the University of Miami.

“We have to stay home,” Melendez said. “We have players in this area that need to stay in this area, not on the other side of Miami.”

As confident as FIU fans may be in their new signing, there is no denying that competing with the University of Miami and the established Jim Morris for recruits in South Florida will be no easy task.

“You start with the idea that you not only want to be successful, but you want to get to a place that you can call home,” Melendez said. Hopefully for FIU, Melendez and his family will be calling South Florida home for a while.
FIU trainer Tiffany Jackson teaching students a choreography that included voguing, a type of dance that imitates striking a series of poses like a model on a catwalk.

Former Heat dancer mixes choreography and fitness

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Former Miami Heat dancer and current FIU trainer, Tiffany Jackson, wants to see your booty work.

Her class doesn’t include jumping jacks and lunges. Instead, she creates a choreography and makes students perform it multiple times to get their hearts pumping and glutes jumping.

She includes hip rolls, ‘90s moves and a form of voguing called waacking, which consists of moving the arms over and behind the shoulder to a music beat. Although students get their workout in through choreography, Jackson makes sure to emphasize technique in all of the moves.

During her class, Jackson made students forget they were ever working out by letting them freestyle while doing her choreography and telling them to have facial expressions.

“I took her in the spring, and I try to come to her class twice a week,” Junior Victoria Padron said to Student Media. “What I like a lot is the enthusiasm, and once you leave the class it really helps with any insecurities.”

Padron said that she hopes to gain “more confidence” from the class, and Jackson does her best to make sure that’s what the students learn.

“I’m doing what I love,” Jackson said. “I love when the women say, ‘oh my God that was amazing.’ I want them to learn confidence because as women we always look at things as negative. I want women to embrace everything and just let it jiggle.”

Although the class focused mainly on the glutes, Jackson made sure to include crunches and bicycles performed on mats and arm movements to help sculpt students’ core and build arm muscles.

When students started to feel the burn she would say, “I know you feel it, but you’ve got to do the other side.”

“You don’t realize how much calories you’re burning just by dancing,” she said. “I don’t work out my arms. People see my arms and they’re like ‘you’re ripped, you must lift weights,’ and I’m like ‘no, I’m just dancing.’”

Jackson is going on her second year working at FIU. She came down from North Carolina and tried out to be a Miami Heat dancer; she made the team and danced for the Heat from 2009-2010.

Along with being a fitness instructor at FIU, Jackson has her own nonprofit organization named “Love Dolls.” The organization is for girls ages 18 and older and gives them the opportunity to be apart of a dance team without having any background experience.

Jackson says that “dedication can’t be taught, but the dancers can be taught technique.”

The Booty Work class is open to students for free and is held on Tuesdays at 1 p.m. in the BBC Wellness and Rec Center.

MEN’S SOCCER

Head coach ‘makes it easier for team to balance school and soccer’

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Entering his third season as the head coach of the men’s soccer team, Scott Calabrese has brought success to this program in little time, but has also been a mentor off the field for his players.

In only two seasons, Calabrese transformed the Panthers from a middle-of-the-pack conference team to Conference-USA champions and a team now ranked No. 22 in the nation.

Calabrese’s ability to bring the best out of his players on the field isn’t the only thing that stands out to the team.

“One of the most important things that he does that a lot of coaches don’t pay attention to, is more of the off-the-field stuff,” says redshirt freshman midfielder Andrew Booth.

Calabrese, according to Booth, makes it easier for the team to balance training, matches and school - a quality that is “really unique.”

“I’ve never had a coach who is this committed,” Booth said. “Always making sure we sleep the right amount, eat the right things, and keep us hydrated before games, our training regiment is great, so we’re not worried about injury.”

From his days as assistant coach for Clemson and North Carolina, to his days as the head coach at East Tennessee State and FIU, winning seems to follow Calabrese. The Bryant College graduate has had success at every level of the game, and his players take notice of his commitment to the game.

“He’s different than any coach I’ve had. Tactically and as a person,” said defender Ivan Benedetty. Calabrese has watched players, namely Daniel Gonzalez, graduate from FIU and continue their career at the next level. He’s also given us the opportunity to witness Cinderella-like moments with walk-on defensemen Patrick Lopez, a player Calabrese brought in, who scored championship-winning goals.

The first two seasons under Calabrese were successful turnarounds for FIU, and as his third season is underway, there is no reason to believe it won’t continue to be this way for this program.

FIU’s next home game will be played Sept. 17, as the University of Kentucky comes down to Miami for a C-USA battle. Kick-off against the Wildcats will be at 7 p.m.