The FIU community came together to reflect on the escalation of tragedies and police brutality taking place around the world. FIU gathered to reflect on the significant horrors taking place in Turkey and Bangladesh, and also the systemic issues concerning police brutality and violence here in the United States.

Invited speaker, Nykeema Radway, president of the Black Student Union at FIU, said “It feels like I have been in this place before. In a place of grief, anger, a lot of confusion, and pain.”

Radway told the audience who gathered in GC 140 on Friday, July 8, that she and many others in the community have been mourning the deaths of many victims in the past few days and in the last few years.

“A year ago, we were mourning the deaths from the Charleston shooting, the murder of Sandra Bland, and a young Black boy, Mike Brown, who laid in the streets in Ferguson for four hours after being gunned down,” said Radway. “By who? Yes, it was an individual person, but it was a system. A system of violence which was preceded by the decades of the Jim Crow laws and the centuries of the institution of slavery.”

Radway mentioned that even though the recent tragedies impact her and the Black community at FIU, many of us can unite in our struggles to create change.

“This is the history of the African descendants in the nation, but this rhetoric is the same for places impacted by imperialism and European colonialism,” said Radway. “Orlando, Baton Rouge, Minnesota, Dallas, Turkey and Bangladesh is a collective struggle that calls for many solutions.”

Radway asked the FIU community to take time to recognize those issues and to heal. She asked that the community process their emotions before taking immediate action.

“If you need to cry before standing, then do so. Or if you need to cry while standing, then feel free to do that, too,” said Radway. “This is not a battle between us or them. We as a people of color fight for the liberation of all the oppressed folks. It will be the task of allies to stand up.”

Radway also encouraged allies to join the conversation and take part in creating change within our communities.

“You do not need to be Black to promote change within our communities. You don’t need to be Black to fight or be held responsible.”

Radway also encouraged allies to join the conversation and take part in creating change within our communities.

At FIU, our diversity is our strength, according to Larry Lumsford, vice president of Student Affairs. These words were sent in a mass email to the student body following Wednesday’s vigil hosted by Black Student Union.

At the vigil, students and faculty members expressed their feelings of frustration and hopelessness.

“Getting it out on the table is a good place to start,” said Hardy. “We’re doing these dialogues, of course we have ambitions and goals like helping communities and people to feel safe, but we also want people’s voices to be heard.”

According to Miami Dade County's Office of Economic & Demographic Research, close to 3,500 juvenile delinquency complaints were filed between 2013 and 2014. Reaching students during the ages where they’re most susceptible to police interaction is an important part of the dialogues.

Radway also encouraged allies to join the conversation and take part in creating change within our communities.

“You do not need to be Black to promote change within our communities. You don’t need to be Black to fight or be held responsible.”

At the vigil, students and faculty members expressed their feelings of frustration and hopelessness.

At the vigil, students and faculty members expressed their feelings of frustration and hopelessness.

At FIU, our diversity is our strength, according to Larry Lumsford, vice president of Student Affairs. These words were sent in a mass email to the student body following Wednesday’s vigil hosted by Black Student Union.

At the vigil, students and faculty members expressed their feelings of frustration and hopelessness.

At the vigil, students and faculty members expressed their feelings of frustration and hopelessness.

At the vigil, students and faculty members expressed their feelings of frustration and hopelessness.
Feds nearing a decision on whether pot has medical potential

In legal parlance, pot is a Schedule 1 drug, with In high potential for abuse and no medical purpose. Twenty-six states already have legalized its medical use.

Dallas shootings might stall efforts to demilitarize police

Justice Grand said Friday that the deadly ambush in Dallas could undo two years of precinctous progress toward demilitarizing police since the protests and riots in Ferguson, Mo.

The conflicting trends of community policing and the militarization of law enforcement have coexisted in a delicate balance since the Sept. 11, and the militarization of law enforcement have transpired must galvanize us to protect and serve, and we need to feel that way," said Gauthier. "In order to create that type of setting, we need to create dialogue so that police officers can understand the concerns of the community and address them, and the community can address concerns of the police officers, which are sometimes validated.

Throughout the dialogues, students asked about bullet proof vests, the reasons for police tactics such as shooting for the chest when using deadly force, and how to de-escalate a typical traffic stop.

"I feel like this conversation helped me understand more about police," said Prophete. "There was a lot that the student body, FIU’s commitment “to fostering understanding and open dialogue about racism among our students and the community as a whole.”

Amber Clark, a recreational therapy major, says “FIU students can be more active by attending events like this [and] speaking up ... We are here to let you know that we stand with you. We are here. We are part of this country.”

The vigil concluded with students holding hands in a circle praying for a resolution.

Florida’s algae problem stems from decades of Lake pollution

The algae fouling South Florida beaches traces its origin to cattle ranches, farms and neighborhoods as far north as Orlando.

A vast area drains into Lake Okeechobee, where water laden with phosphorus has fertilized the growth of horrific algae blooms that have been discharging to the ocean. The target phosphorus level for the lake is 105 metric tons a year. Last year, the lake received 450.

The problem has been building up over decades, and defies easy solutions.

Role playing activities also highlighted the situations officers might face, to provide students with an understanding of 9/11 to-day life as a police officer.

“The dialogues are an awesome tool because it gives the public the opportunity to talk to police officers one on one, and get our input. For us to reach out to anyone with any resources they would like to know,” said officer Stracy Devero.

According to Hardy, this mutual understanding of officers and the communities they serve is the biggest benefit of holding the dialogues.

“A lot of times, both the officers and the students will tell me ‘I know a lot more now’ at the end of the dialogues,” said Hardy. “It opens the floor to new ideas, which may lead to some solutions for the issues we’re facing today.”

Community gathers together police, community for dialogues
Humanity seeks answers in wake of a tragedy

As a society, we need to become conscious of the stereotypes we give. It’s about making changes. “Sometimes we need to solve problems, to talk about how we can work some more, to have open dialogue, like the opportunity for FIU, that's not working, so it’s on us to do what we have to do to arrive.”

Cindy Cuadra is a staff writer for FIU Student Media. Her column, Pop Tax, is a commentary that raises awareness about political issues. Please reach out to her by contacting fabricienne@fiu.edu.

Cindy Cuadra

Staff writer

As a society, we need to become conscious of the stereotypes we give. It’s about making changes. “Sometimes we need to solve problems, to talk about how we can work some more, to have open dialogue, like the opportunity for FIU, that's not working, so it’s on us to do what we have to do to arrive.”

Cindy Cuadra is a staff writer for FIU Student Media. Her column, Pop Tax, is a commentary that raises awareness about political issues. Please reach out to her by contacting fabricienne@fiu.edu.

Cindy Cuadra

Staff writer

Cindy Cuadra is a staff writer for FIU Student Media. Her column, Pop Tax, is a commentary that raises awareness about political issues. Please reach out to her by contacting fabricienne@fiu.edu.

Cindy Cuadra

Staff writer

In order to stand as one, we need to have a mutual understanding, something that’s missing from the University community. There are too many questions and not enough answers. The only way to improve relations is to have an open dialogue, with officers given the space to speak to students directly.”

“Black Lives Matter” protesters, “good Samaritans”, and “Black Lives Matter” "Black LIVES MATTER" movement growth stronger now that this incident has occurred and me. We’ve been the｢go to｣ person need to do in order to be entitled to his or her own life? We look over our shoulders in fear, trying to walk a straight path without diverging but it does not suffice. Sometimes I think it never stops. If we do not take the necessary steps to bring forth change and spread awareness about what is occurring today, and find new solutions to this prominent issue, more damage will take place. Nothing needs to be done in order to ensure the future of black lives before their future gets taken away from them.

Fabiene Fleurantin

Staff writer for FIU Student Media. Her column, PoliticalBlues, is a commentary that raises awareness about political issues in the US and worldwide. She also covers events at FIU’s Biscayne Bay Campus. For suggestions or comments, please contact Fabienne at fabienne.fleurantin@fiu.edu.

Fabiene Fleurantin

Staff writer

Fabiene Fleurantin

Staff writer

Fabiene Fleurantin

Staff writer

In order to stand as one, we need to have a mutual understanding, something that’s missing from the University community. There are too many questions and not enough answers. The only way to improve relations is to have an open dialogue, with officers given the space to speak to students directly.”

“Black Lives Matter” protesters, “good Samaritans”, and “Black LIVES MATTER” "Black LIVES MATTER" movement growth stronger now that this incident has occurred and me. We’ve been the｢go to｣ person need to do in order to be entitled to his or her own life? We look over our shoulders in fear, trying to walk a straight path without diverging but it does not suffice. Sometimes I think it never stops. If we do not take the necessary steps to bring forth change and spread awareness about what is occurring today, and find new solutions to this prominent issue, more damage will take place. Nothing needs to be done in order to ensure the future of black lives before their future gets taken away from them.

Fabiene Fleurantin

Staff writer for FIU Student Media. Her column, PoliticalBlues, is a commentary that raises awareness about political issues in the US and worldwide. She also covers events at FIU’s Biscayne Bay Campus. For suggestions or comments, please contact Fabienne at fabienne.fleurantin@fiu.edu.

Fabiene Fleurantin

Staff writer

Fabiene Fleurantin

Staff writer

Fabiene Fleurantin

Staff writer

In order to stand as one, we need to have a mutual understanding, something that’s missing from the University community. There are too many questions and not enough answers. The only way to improve relations is to have an open dialogue, with officers given the space to speak to students directly.”

“Black Lives Matter” protesters, “good Samaritans”, and “Black LIVES MATTER” "Black LIVES MATTER" movement growth stronger now that this incident has occurred and me. We’ve been the｢go to｣ person need to do in order to be entitled to his or her own life? We look over our shoulders in fear, trying to walk a straight path without diverging but it does not suffice. Sometimes I think it never stops. If we do not take the necessary steps to bring forth change and spread awareness about what is occurring today, and find new solutions to this prominent issue, more damage will take place. Nothing needs to be done in order to ensure the future of black lives before their future gets taken away from them.

Fabiene Fleurantin

Staff writer for FIU Student Media. Her column, PoliticalBlues, is a commentary that raises awareness about political issues in the US and worldwide. She also covers events at FIU’s Biscayne Bay Campus. For suggestions or comments, please contact Fabienne at fabienne.fleurantin@fiu.edu.

Fabiene Fleurantin

Staff writer

Fabiene Fleurantin

Staff writer

Fabiene Fleurantin

Staff writer

In order to stand as one, we need to have a mutual understanding, something that’s missing from the University community. There are too many questions and not enough answers. The only way to improve relations is to have an open dialogue, with officers given the space to speak to students directly.”

“Black Lives Matter” protesters, “good Samaritans”, and “Black LIVES MATTER” "Black LIVES MATTER" movement growth stronger now that this incident has occurred and me. We’ve been the｢go to｣ person need to do in order to be entitled to his or her own life? We look over our shoulders in fear, trying to walk a straight path without diverging but it does not suffice. Sometimes I think it never stops. If we do not take the necessary steps to bring forth change and spread awareness about what is occurring today, and find new solutions to this prominent issue, more damage will take place. Nothing needs to be done in order to ensure the future of black lives before their future gets taken away from them.

Fabiene Fleurantin

Staff writer for FIU Student Media. Her column, PoliticalBlues, is a commentary that raises awareness about political issues in the US and worldwide. She also covers events at FIU’s Biscayne Bay Campus. For suggestions or comments, please contact Fabienne at fabienne.fleurantin@fiu.edu.

Fabiene Fleurantin

Staff writer

Fabiene Fleurantin

Staff writer

Fabiene Fleurantin

Staff writer

In order to stand as one, we need to have a mutual understanding, something that’s missing from the University community. There are too many questions and not enough answers. The only way to improve relations is to have an open dialogue, with officers given the space to speak to students directly.”

“Black Lives Matter” protesters, “good Samaritans”, and “Black LIVES MATTER” "Black LIVES MATTER" movement growth stronger now that this incident has occurred and me. We’ve been the｢go to｣ person need to do in order to be entitled to his or her own life? We look over our shoulders in fear, trying to walk a straight path without diverging but it does not suffice. Sometimes I think it never stops. If we do not take the necessary steps to bring forth change and spread awareness about what is occurring today, and find new solutions to this prominent issue, more damage will take place. Nothing needs to be done in order to ensure the future of black lives before their future gets taken away from them.

Fabiene Fleurantin

Staff writer for FIU Student Media. Her column, PoliticalBlues, is a commentary that raises awareness about political issues in the US and worldwide. She also covers events at FIU’s Biscayne Bay Campus. For suggestions or comments, please contact Fabienne at fabienne.fleurantin@fiu.edu.
The opinions presented within this page do not represent the views of The FIU Eternal Board. These opinions are separate from the editorials and reflect individual perspectives of contributing writers and/or members of the University community.

SEND US YOUR LETTERS

Have something on your mind? Send your thoughts (400 words maximum) to opinion@fiusm.com. We reserve the right to edit or drop our letters at our discretion. Include 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

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.
POCKET MONSTERS ON CAMPUS

Students and strangers gather to catch them all

The Pokémon Company, in association with Nintendo and Niantic Labs, recently released the application Pokémon Go in the United States. The app features the Japanese-created pocket monsters in a new gaming experience for its fans.

“The objective of this game is to explore your neighborhood and surrounding areas in order to track down virtual creatures and, as the Pokémon, add them to your pokedex. The ultimate goal is to catch ‘em all,’ as the catchphrase of the popular TV show states.

“Pokemon GO is built on Niantic’s Real World Gaming Platform and will use real locations to encourage players to search far and wide in the real world to discover Pokémon, says the Pokémon Company on their site.

“Pokémon GO allows you to find and catch more than a hundred species of Pokémon as you explore your surroundings.”

The popularity of this application has spread to the FIU community in large numbers. Within the past few days, FIU has been the hangout spot for gamers, both FIU students and non-students. People come from all around just for a chance to catch a Pokémon.

Omar Morillo, a senior studying English, says, “I play partly for nostalgia and partly because it's a fun bonding experience. There has been a surprising large amount of community building over this game and seeing people go and walk around at all hours is really cool.”

“I must have made 20 new friends since playing this game,” says Adin Greenstein, a senior studying liberal science. “[We were] crowded around in the uncut grass before GC, just so everyone can catch the Pikachu someone found there. That was when it hit me: we, those of us playing this game, spending countless hours walking out in the sun, have been given a gift we never really thought we would.”

Sunday, July 10, an estimated 200 individuals walked together through the Green Library in hopes of finding a “Pikachu,” during the night. The video posted by Twitter user @synthetix has gone viral with over 3,000 retweets overnight.

“I just love how suddenly everyone found this one and they’re all over it. This game is literally everywhere,” Morillo said.

“Especially on campus. There are a lot of moments where I’ll see people playing and we’ll all just cooly smile to each other because we know. I play basically every day.”

Ana Briz, an art history senior, expresses concern albeit enjoying the game.

“It gets people outside and around the city, in a way that nothing else ever has, at least for me.” He says, “I have a rather sedentary lifestyle, but in the past four days I’ve walked five kilometers. I would otherwise not have walked. It also encourages social interaction.”

Other than the benefits to the consumers, Nintendo’s stocks have benefited enormously from the game’s release. In an article for The Verge, James Vincent headlines “Pokémon GO’s success adds $7.5 billion to Nintendo’s market value.”

The Pokémon Company believes the app has been at a high point since its release and will only continue growing with new features to be released in the near future. The fans are the ones who will continue fueling the so-called “Pokémon Fever”.

“In the realest sense of the term, we’re all actually partaking of the magical quest that some part of our brains refused to stop believing in. For anyone who plays the game, brown covered in sweat and smile almost painfully large, this realization brings almost incomparable joy.” Greenstein says.

“We’re hens on a quest, walking towards the horizon for greater finds, playfully battling to become stronger, and making new friends and new experiences along the way.”

Visit fiusm.com for the full story
There was once a four year old girl whose mother was up one night watching the 1984 film Amadeus. This was the first time this little girl heard opera and was conscious of its beauty, and so there was nothing else to do than walk out, lie about a faux nightmare that kept her up, and beg to be closer to the soundwaves. This little girl was me, and since that day I have longed to visit Vienna, famously named the City of Music, see a live opera.

How fortunate that I should visit during a national holiday when Antonio Vivaldi’s Don Carlo would be showing the day after learning the cheapest way to get tickets. It was a beautiful performance, inspiring chills, tears, and many “bravos” from the audience.

Should you wish to attend an opera on a low budget and don’t mind standing for an extended period of time, there are “standing tickets” for $5.77 available for purchase at the box office of the Vienna State Opera House (Wiener Staatsoper) starting two hours before the performance. Before those two hours, though, you’re allowed to bring a newspaper, a shoe, anything, to hold your place in line.

However, if your person is not queued by the time the box office opens, your efforts will do nothing to reserve your place anywhere. Once inside with a standing spot claimed, a sweater or a ribbon will serve as your reservation and though everyone is respectful of the system, the workers will ensure that your place is not taken.

A city isn’t very efficient if it is difficult to navigate, but even for someone with no sense of direction and without the aid of GIS, Vienna is not a terribly difficult city to understand. Vienna’s metro system is relatively cheap and simple to comprehend; for students and children, there is a five day pass available for $17.31 that can take you from the airport to the city.

The metro works on an honor system; no one routinely checks tickets, but when there are occasional ticket checks, it’s a fine into the hundreds to not have one.

If biking is preferred, do not fear the danger that accompanies a bike ride in the US. Red and green coloured bike lanes exist in Vienna, unlike in the States where bikers must make the difficult decision between running over pedestrians or getting killed themselves by oncoming traffic, stuck in a limbo between lanes in the world of transportation.

I stayed at the Wombat’s Hostel in Naschmarkt, which was just as any standard hotel, and even better than some. They rent out bicycles, umbrellas, and many more supplies, in addition to offering walking tours and day trips to sight-see. For an additional fee, breakfast is buffet style with little selection, but all of the choices are very healthy, light, and tasty. There is a bar on the main floor, laundry facilities with free soap downstairs, and comfortable rooms in the floors above, with windows that open to a beautiful view.

Food is the best part of visiting a new place; in Vienna, beef and potatoes are generally your most common meals. Gross Keller, a traditional Viennese restaurant, has the best boiled beef I have ever tried. Schnitzel and apfelstrudel are necessary dishes, and while the schnitzel is good nearly anywhere, the apfelstrudel is the best at the Café Museum.

Culture shock wasn’t a big problem here, because apart from the food and architecture (and bike lanes), nearly everything else is similar. Familiar department stores like H&M and Zara are on every block. American music is played nearly everywhere and there are few people who don’t speak English. Less English is spoken in museums.

It was strange to be in a foreign country on a different continent and still feel so close to the U.S. The only aspect of Vienna that came as a shock was the lack of use of credit or debit cards. I applied for my first one before this trip to avoid the worry of cash, but large amounts of cash around, only to find out that many places accept only cash.

Generally, the people here are lovely and were quick to help us when they saw lost tourists crowed over a map. Vienna is a city rich with history, music, architecture, interesting food, and great sights to see.

Aubry’s 64 days abroad: Vienna Edition

Supercon ‘creates community’

Comic conventions always create a sense of community; the unique and close atmosphere of geek culture is something that few things in this world can match. July kicked off with not only Independence Day weekend excitement, but also the Florida Supercon, where people came dressed in their respective fan communities — from Game of Thrones to Star Wars.

Walking in felt almost normal, despite the fact that there was a guy in a incredibly elaborate “Do It Yourself” getup of what could only be assumed as a retro Transformer robot. Somewhere else in the entrance hall was someone dressed head to toe in a Nick Wilde furry costume from “Zootopia,” which may be the most ghastly thing to exist since bolo ties. And yet with all of this, it still felt inviting and positively fun.

It’s not unusual to see celebrity guests in attendance at panels, meet fans and sign pictures and merchandise. Cons, short for conventions, even usually feature them.

This year’s Supercon guest list was extensive: three leads from this year’s “Deadpool”: Morena Baccarin, also on FOX’s “Gotham,” Brianna Hildebrand as the Negasonic Teenage Warhead, and Stefan Kapicic as Colossus. Other guests included a co-star and lead on “Gotham” Ben McKenzie, William Shatner, and famous voice actresses Tara Strong and Paige O’Hara.

Another voice actor who was available for fan meetings was Jim Cummings, whose work in voicing animated characters is renowned. His most famous work has been in Walt Disney Animation for beloved characters such as Winnie the Pooh and Tigger, and in Supercon, it’s not any more weird than being clad in black and carrying around a crossguard lightsaber.

ConCom goes love these characters and the actors who brought them to life. Though people may not have been familiar with Cummings and his work, they still came because of the legacy he has and that’s something that is valued and love at these conventions.

After speaking with the man behind Winnie the Pooh, it really is interesting to see people that. That is what made Supercon a great experience.

Lifestyle Points

COMIC CONVENTIONS

Stevie Croft, Contributing Writer

Unity is defined as the state of being united or joined as a whole. The Rally 100 Kick Off to Homecoming event, taking place Wednesday, July 13 at the FIU Housing Quad from 6 p.m. to 8 p.m., was created as a way to bring FIU students together to start the official countdown to Homecoming. According to the organizers, this year’s Rally 100 is going to be quite different from previous years.

“If used to be 100 days long and would take place in the pit,” explained Sammy Hadi, assistant director of operations for the Homecoming council. However, this year Hadi wanted to shake things up.

Unlike past Rally 100 events, this year’s event, free for all FIU students, will bring together all clubs and organizations on campus.

“When I got the position of assistant director, I wanted to have an open door policy with all of the other organizations,” said Hadi. He began thinking of ways to bring all of these different organizations together and thus, this year’s Rally 100 was born.

People will be able to participate in games, giveaways, take pictures with the alumni and special contests.

“Rally 100 is going to be quite different from previous years,” said Hadi. He began thinking of ways to bring all of these different organizations together and thus, this year’s Rally 100 was born.

The rally 100 event will kick off at the Splash 50. The Splash 50 is a pool party in the Housing Quad, on August 26, from 2 p.m. to 6 p.m., to mark the 50 days before the Homecoming game. There will be appearances by a guest DJ as well as giveaways and special contests every hour.

“Homecoming is the fabric of FIU,” said Hadi. “Once a year, we come together and share our pride for our university. You can come from any major or background and this brings us together.”
Melendez ‘takes great honor’ in leading team

ALEJANDRO SOLANA
Staff Writer
alejandro.solana@fiusm.com

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 as 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 379-219 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 to 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 noticed 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.

“Do 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.

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 work on 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 [the instructor’s] personality,”

William Sturrup
Tennis classes

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 Bardavill 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 shows through his successful tennis program here at FIU.

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

ALEX ROTH
Contributing Writer
sports@fiusm.com

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, has been teaching tennis for almost 15 years, with 10 years working full time.

As a student, it’s great that it’s offered to us for free, and what I enjoy the most is [the instructor’s] personality.

A STUDENT

A student of the BBC Wellness and Recreation Center’s tennis class takes a shot at returning a serve during class.

TV deal can put FIU on the map

SAMIR BADER
Conference USA released its preliminary schedule stating that six out of 12 FIU football games will be televised on CBS Sports, American Sports Network, ESPNU and beIN Sports.

“This isn’t just benefiting FIU, but it also brings publicity for the entire conference, especially in this day and age where every huge sporting event is on a flat-screen television. I think it’s going to be great for FIU because now they are getting more media coverage and more exposure because not too many people know about the team.” FIU student Diana Obregon said when asked about the new television deal.

Indeed, the deal will provide more exposure to the Panthers and possibly help evolve the FIU history and tradition.

Not only will this deal stir things up for FIU Football, but it could provide more exposure for other teams in the future like the basketball and baseball teams, who are in the C-USA media in general.

The first six of the games will be the season home opener against the Indiana University Hoosiers on Thursday, Sept. 1. The rest of the games being televised are listed below:

Thursday, Sept. 1; Indiana at FIU (ESPNU); 7:30 p.m. ET
Friday, Sept. 9; Maryland at FIU (CBS Sports Network); 7:30 p.m. ET
Saturday, Sept. 24; UCF at FIU (beIN SPORTS); 7:00 p.m. ET
Saturday, Oct. 1; Florida Atlantic at FIU (beIN SPORTS); 7:00 p.m. ET
Saturday, Nov. 5; FIU at WKU (beIN SPORTS); 7:30 p.m. ET
Saturday, Nov. 19; Marshall at FIU (American Sports Network); 7:00 p.m. ET

Bader Buzz

BADER BUZZ

FIU football

FIU on the map
**German transfer learns to adjust after tough transition to U.S.**

REINALDO LERENEA Staff Writer reinaldo.lerenana@fiusm.com

Initially, the adjustment to life in the United States was difficult for Marvin Hezel, defensive player for the FIU men’s soccer team, who grew up in a small town with a different climate.

Born in Waldshut-Tiengen, Germany, Hezel grew up in a family oriented, relaxed community with a small population. He was introduced to soccer at a young age by his parents and often played with friends in his free time. When he was offered a scholarship to play overseas in Miami, he jumped at the opportunity.

“It took about a year or so to get used to the Miami weather,” said Hezel. “It was a big change from Germany. I often practiced in the heat that first year to try and get used to it as fast as possible. Coming from a town that only had 25,000 people to one that has almost half a million is a big change. It felt crowded compared to Waldshut, where you have met or seen just about everyone that lived there.”

He didn’t take long for the soccer player to make a name for himself here in the states.

In 2015, Hezel was named the Conference USA “Defensive Player of the Week” for the week of Sept. 8. He started all 20 games of the Panther season and accumulated a total of six points throughout the season. The points include two goals and two assists from the FIU defender. At the end of the season, Hezel was named to the 2015 All-Southeast Region first team, the All-C-USA first team, the C-USA Championship All-Tournament team and the C-USA All-Academic team.

“Even my mom was shocked when he learned about Ruele and her background,” agrees with Garcia and was an avid Olympics fan who says he can’t wait to support Ruele and Horner.

“I always watch the Olympics every four years, but there is no doubt I will be tuning in to see athletes from my university,” said Garcia. “I think it is awesome to see athletes from my university represent their home nations. I will be rootimg hard for Ruele and Horner.”

Despite his international success, Horner plans to stay in South Florida for the next few years. In 2015, the FIU executive director of Sports and Entertainment announced that Horner agreed to a contract extension with FIU which runs through the 2018-19 season.

Christian Garcia, a senior accounting and finance major, is an avid Olympics fan who says he can’t wait to support Ruele and Horner.

“I always watch the Olympics every four years, but there is no doubt I will be tuning in to see athletes from my university,” said Garcia. “I think it is awesome to see athletes from my university represent their home nations. I will be rootimg hard for Ruele and Horner.”

Senior Adam Machin, majoring in political science, agrees with Garcia and was shocked when he learned about Ruele representing Botswana.

“I was fascinated to learn about Ruele and her background. I think it is amazing that FIU will be represented by someone from Botswana in an Olympic Game,” Machin said. “It truly does speak to the diversity of our University.”

**Swimming and Diving**

**Horner to coach Botswana in Rio this summer**

ALEJANDRO SOLANA Staff Writer alejandro.solana@fiusm.com

Randy Horner, FIU’s swimming and diving coach, will be coaching the Botswana Olympic swimming team in the upcoming 2016 Summer Olympic Games in Rio de Janeiro.

“It’s an honor to be selected to coach Naomi and David at the Olympics,” Horner told FIU Sports.

Horner, who was named the “2016 Conference USA Coach of the Year,” guided the Panthers to their second straight C-USA championship this season, defeating second-place Rice by 318 points, the largest margin of victory in C-USA championship history.

Since taking over the program in the 2010-2011 season, the Missouri State grad has found success in recruiting athletes from around the world. Horner has recruited swimmers from over 12 different countries including Iceland, South Africa and Slovakia.

Horner will be coaching sophomore backstroke and freestyle swimmer, Naomi Ruele in Rio, who he recruited back in 2014 while she was still living in her native city of Gabonone, Botswana.

“I spoke to Nacho and Randy and got along with them really well, said Ruele. “There was a coach/athlete chemistry and I decided to come here.”

Ruele was the coach/athlete chemistry and I decided to come here.”

Horner will be coaching Ruele this August as she competes in the 50-meter free, as well as David Van Der Colff, a freshman from Nova Southeastern, who will be competing in the 100-meter backstroke.

This summer in Rio will be the first time Horner coaches an Olympic swimming team, but Ruele and Van Der Colff are not the first Olympic swimmers to be coached by Horner. Olympians Raichin Anotonov (Bulgaria) and Jackie Wellman (Zambia) were coached by Horner in 2004 during his time as an assistant swimming coach at Missouri State.

He then established a swimming program in New Orleans prior to moving to South Florida and then repeating his success as a coach at FIU with two-consecutive Conference USA championships. Now, Botswana has trusted Horner to lead their swimmers in the Olympic Games.

Despite his international success, Horner plans to stay in South Florida for the next few years. In 2015, the FIU executive director of Sports and Entertainment announced that Horner agreed to a contract extension with FIU which runs through the 2018-19 season.

Christian Garcia, a senior accounting and finance major, is an avid Olympics fan who says he can’t wait to support Ruele and Horner.

“I always watch the Olympics every four years, but there is no doubt I will be tuning in to see Naomi represent FIU,” said Garcia. “I think it is awesome to see athletes from my university represent their home nations. I will be rootimg hard for Ruele and Horner.”

Senior Adam Machin, majoring in political science, agrees with Garcia and was shocked when he learned about Ruele representing Botswana.

“I was fascinated to learn about Ruele and her background. I think it is amazing that FIU will be represented by someone from Botswana in an Olympic Game,” Machin said. “It truly does speak to the diversity of our University.”

**Football**

**Three Panthers on All-C-USA Team**

PETER HOLLAND Staff Writer peter.holland@fiusm.com

Conference USA has released its preseason All-Conference USA Team on July 20, and three FIU players were selected this year: seniors, Jonn Smith and Michael Montero, and junior, Anthony Wint. These returning starters are expected to be the leaders this season as they are preparing for training camp beginning in August, knowing that the Panthers are going in as a young team.

“They are always looking up to me,” Smith said. “They know they can come to me for any advice.”

Last season, Smith started eight games before going down with a knee injury that kept him out in the last four games. Despite his injury, he lead the team in touchdown passes and finished his junior career with 36 passes for 397 yards and four touchdowns.

The Ocala, Florida, native was currently on the watch list this year as well, and is ranked No. 8 best tight end in the country.

Wint started every game at middle linebacker, leading the Panthers with 84 tackles, which ranked him No. 16 in the C-USA for total tackles. Adding the tackles for loss tackle, he also recorded 0.5 sacks, one pass breakup, two-tackles for fumble recoveries, which gave him a single-season career best. The two fumble recoveries ranked him No. 24 in the country.

Montero started all 12 games as the starting center for the Panthers and received Second-Team All-C-USA honors. The 6-3, 345-pound center anchored the young offensive line by contributing 4,173 total yards, which was fifth-most in school history, including 2,251 passing yards, the second-most in school history.

Montero was recently selected to the Preseason Rimington Award watch list for best center and the Danny Wuerffel Award watch list for community service. The Panthers will report to training camp on Aug. 1 and the team’s first game is on Sept. 1 against Indiana University at 7:30 p.m.
Jonnu Smith confident in football team this season

PETER HOLLAND  
Staff Writer  
peter.holland@fiusm.com

After a knee injury left him unable to continue the season, Jonnu Smith, a tight end on the FIU football team, feels 100 percent healthy and is looking forward to getting back on the field for this upcoming season. Smith believes this could be a big year for the Panthers.

In his senior year, after finishing one game short of bowl eligibility, the Ocala native is sure that he will leave FIU on a high note now that he is one of the team leaders for this season.

“Just being around the guys and motivating them, I got to put more emphasis on how important it is to improve every day,” Smith said.

On Oct. 24 during the last football season, Smith broke school records, along with his own, for career catches and receiving yardage in a game against Old Dominion University, finishing the game with 10 catches for 183 yards and two touchdowns.

A week later, his 2015 season was cut short after sustaining a knee injury a day before the team faced Florida Atlantic University. He was unable to play for the remainder of the season and the Panthers suffered, losing three out of the final four games. The two-time captain finished the season with four touchdowns, recording 36 catches for 397 yards and starting in eight games.

“I learned that for the most part that when times got tough, we kind of fell apart as a team during some of the losses,” Smith said. “We have to stay together more during the course of adversity because it’s going to strike.”

After months of rehab and recovery, Smith believes that his left knee is stronger than ever and is confident that he can stay healthy throughout the 2016 season.

Smith said: “Just like I told everybody, my knee is better than it was once I was off the field. I feel faster, stronger and more powerful off that left knee. It feels like I’ve never been injured. I’m just appreciative of the trainer and strength staff for getting me past the point I was before.”

For a second year in a row, Smith has been named to the John Mackey Award Preseason Watch List; this recognition is given annually to the most outstanding collegiate tight end in the nation. He was also voted First Team 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 Jonne 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 University at the FIU Football Stadium at 7:30 p.m.
Blocked shot ends basketball game in a tie

SETH LOUIS
Contributing Writer
sporns@fiusm.com

"This Is It", one of the intramural basketball teams, started the game against the “Alpha Motor Neurons” with one player down. The team had to play most of the first half four on five. They started the game in a 2-2 defensive scheme: two men up and two men down low. They took a 9-7 lead in the game and kept control for much of the first half, never relinquishing their lead.

"We were not prepared for that," said Jordan Davis of Alpha Motor Neurons. "It actually hindered us more than it helped, there was no familiarity facing a 2-2 zone and everyone was confused."

With 11 minutes left to play in the half, This Is It now had five players on the court. Defense was switched to a man-on-man scheme and the players were now able to move the ball better on offense. The team took a two-point lead at the half with a score of 37-35.

In the second half, both teams competed hard, trading basket for basket. Holding on to a four-point lead with two minutes remaining, This Is It made a late-game substitution, taking out one of their primary ball handlers. Instead of running out the clock, This Is It made a few plays and unsuccessful shots that allowed Alpha Motor Neurons to come back and tie the game with just under 20 seconds left to play.

This Is It had one more chance to win the game with a last-second shot with 10 seconds remaining. The shot bounced off the rim with Alpha Motor Neurons rebounding and quickly calling a timeout.

After the timeout, Alpha Motor Neurons designed a play to get one of its players free for a full-court pass. Caleb Swanner's opponent hauled in the pass. Swanner managed to block the layup attempt without fouling his man. Two seconds now remained for Alpha Motor Neurons.

"So far, I know what they can and cannot do in some of the drills," Silvestri said. "They're very coachable, great listeners, and very attentive."

Silvestri plans to learn about the team on the court, but he believes that growing a relationship off the court is also a big part of the offseason for him.

"I think it's important to really get to know the girls and have that connection for you to really take them to the next level," Silvestri said. "It's also important to have that relationship outside of this and spend time with them not only on the court so then when they do come into work, they know that your relationship with them is genuine."

The Panthers ended their offseason in the second round of the Conference USA Championships against Marshall University. The game was the last for senior Taylor Shade, who scored eight points and finished her season 19th overall on the all-time FIU scoring list with 1,009 points.

"She was a really good player," Silvestri said. "Those are big shoes to fill, but I think we have some kids with similar skill sets. We do have a pretty young team as far as our guards, but I think they do have potential to get to that level."

One of the assets Coach Malcom admires about Silvestri are his recruiting skills, and the ability to add great talent to his team.

"If I can get a 'Taylor Shade' or two 'Taylor Shades' in the process, then that'll be great," Silvestri said. "FIU is a great campus and beautiful vicinity, and once I get these recruits to come on campus, it's going to be so easy to sell."