Hillary Clinton selected Sen. Tim Kaine as her running mate, and chose FIU as the location to make the announcement.

Kaine is a “progressive and likes to get things done,” according to the first female Democratic Party nominee, who introduced him for the first time at the Clinton 2016 rally held at the FIU Arena Saturday, July 23.

“Donald Trump might think that America is in decline but he is wrong,” Clinton said at the rally. “We will offer a very different vision for our country, one that is about the future and building bridges not walls.”

Clinton is running mate, and chose Sen. Tim Kaine as her nominee, who introduced her candidate is a good choice for vice president. He and Clinton make a solid team.” Moats believes that the duo has good chemistry and that Kaine will help pull swing states such as Ohio and Pennsylvania, which are important battleground states in the general election.

Hillary Clinton introduces Tim Kaine as her VP pick at FIU

STEPHANIE ESPAILLAT
News Director
stephanie.espaillat@fiusm.com

BRINGING THE KAINE

Hillary Clinton introduces Tim Kaine as her VP pick at FIU

STEPHANIE ESPAILLAT
News Director
stephanie.espaillat@fiusm.com

Hillary Clinton selected Sen. Tim Kaine as her running mate, and chose FIU as the location to make the announcement.

Kaine is a “progressive and likes to get things done,” according to the first female Democratic Party nominee, who introduced him for the first time at the Clinton 2016 rally held at the FIU Arena Saturday, July 23.

“Donald Trump might think that America is in decline but he is wrong,” Clinton said at the rally. “We will offer a very different vision for our country, one that is about building bridges not walls.”

After Trump’s announcement selecting Mike Pence as his running mate, Clinton responded that her candidate is “everything that Donald Trump and Mike Pence are not,” and affirmed that Kaine shares values similar to her own.

Kaine has received skepticism by progressives for his support in the global trade deals, and his vote in favor of giving President Barack Obama authority on the Trans-Pacific Partnership, according to an article published by The New York Times. He also argued for looser bank regulations that have some voters questioning whether he was the best decision for the ticket.

Although he has received mixed feedback, Kaine has been regarded by Clinton’s campaign as a reliable senior member of the democratic office ever since his election in 2012. He is known as a Catholic civil rights lawyer who went to Honduras on a mission trip during his time at Harvard Law School.

Clinton’s campaign rally on campus acknowledged him for his continual efforts in advocating for racial justice, immigration reform, gun reform, LGBTQ+ rights, and has recognized his high ratings from the Planned Parenthood Action Fund.

“I have been able to see how government works and how, sometimes, it doesn’t, from just about every perspective,” said Kaine. “I’ve always believed that however you serve, what matters is whether you actually deliver results for people. And that has been my goal in every position I have ever held.”

Sara Moats, an FIU instructor in the department of Politics and International Relations said to Student Media: “Overall, I think Tim Kaine is a good choice for vice president. He and Clinton make a solid team.” Moats believes that the duo has good chemistry and that Kaine will help pull swing states such as Ohio and Pennsylvania, which are important battleground states in the general election.

Florida congresswoman Debbie Wasserman Schultz also made an appearance at the Miami event.

“South Florida, we are better than Donald Trump’s dangerous and divisive rhetoric and America is far better than that,” Schultz said.

SEE DNC, PAGE 5

THE BEACON

A Forum for Free Student Expression at Florida International University

Vol. 28 Issue 5

fiusm.com

Wednesday, July 27, 2016

SEE RNC, PAGE 5

BBC’s Adventure X returns

ALEXA ROTH
Contribution Writer
sports@fiusm.com

With the BBC’s Adventure X as the backdrop, the Wellness and Recreation Center at the BBC Campus is holding what they are calling, “Outdoor Adventure X programs.”

From when it started in 2000, Jonathan Torrey, coordinator of Rec services, helped grow the kayak and paddle boarding program.

“We had two kayaks, and they were really only used for lifeguard training,” said Torrey.

Now, with more than eight kayaks and paddleboards, students can enjoy these trips and meet new people. Torrey highlights the advantages of having these activities at the BBC for students and faculty to enjoy.

“Students can gain knowledge of the campus and the environment. We see dolphins, manatees, and the marine biology program even uses this as a teaching experience,” Torrey said.

The Recreation Center holds these kayak and paddle boarding trips often throughout the month, and they even offer nighttime trips as well.

Before going out on the bay, there is an instruction and safety demo, to assure all participants feel comfortable and safe with the equipment. Alumna Ireyisis Ramos is a frequent participant on the trips.

“The night trip is really cool, because we get to all gather on the island that they take us to and enjoy s’mores and sit around a warm fire. Whether you are a beginner or not, the lifeguards care a lot about our safety,” Ramos said.

RAMOS also enjoyed the touristic atmosphere on the trips and the collective experience shared by the participants.

Student, Kayleen Baez, said her favorite part is “the environmental aspect of it, we see a lot of cool wildlife out there.”

The Adventure X programs offer an opportunity to meet new people and to exercise outside.

“South Florida, we are better than Donald Trump’s dangerous and divisive rhetoric and America is far better than that,” Schultz said.

SEE DNC, PAGE 5

Trump races Clinton to the White House

PATRICIA KATRI
Contribution Writer
news@fiusm.com

The presidential election of 2016 is about to begin, with both Republican and Democratic selections officially announcing their vice-presidential candidates.

The Republican National Convention, which took place in Cleveland, Ohio between July 18-21, initiated one of the first steps in beginning the long race to the White House this November.

Both Donald Trump and Hillary Clinton were fighting for the hearts and minds of the American electorate. Sarah Moats, an FIU instructor in the department of Politics and International Relations wrote an opinion editorial for FIU News discussing National Conventions and their purpose.

“At first glance, a party convention seems like a large celebration. There are music, balloons, celebrities and moving speeches,” wrote Moats.

“However, the festivities take a backseat to the real purpose of a nominating convention: to formally select the party’s nominee for president and vice president.”

She writes that this is an opportunity for the party to formally announce its candidates, and to “show a unified front and build support for the party’s platform – each of which will be used to launch momentum going into the general election in November.”

The possibility was raised prior to the RNC that Republican delegates might choose a candidate other than Trump. However, the supposed “Dump Trump” voters lacked enough support to derail Trump’s nomination.

“For the Republicans, unification has proved extremely difficult,” wrote Moats. “Republican Party leaders are very uneasy about the notion of Donald Trump as the nominee.”

SEE RNC, PAGE 5
Terror strikes France

As thousands gathered to celebrate Bastille Day on July 15, tragedy struck France again when a terrorist attack killed 84 people—including 10 children and teenagers—and wounded 258 others. More than 50 people remain in critical condition and 25 others are on life support, according to The New York Times. The Islamic State has claimed responsibility for the attack, and stated that the assailant, Mohamed Lahouaiej Bouhlel, was “a soldier in the fight against crusader states,” as mentioned on The New York Times.

This is the third major terrorist attack to hit France in just 19 months. Griffin Dudley, president of Pi Delta Phi and the French Honor Society at FIU, shared her initial reaction when first hearing about this incident.

“I think this time, it was shock, almost a numbness that it can’t be real, especially since it was France’s Independence Day. Our advisor for both Pi Delta Phi, the French Honor Society, and Le Cercle Francais, our French club for general members, is in Paris right now, in the province region,” she said. “And the first thing you do is email her like: ‘What is going on, is everything okay?’ We have former officers who are living in France right now, and that’s the first thing you do, it you contact everyone you know.”

Bouhlel drove a rented 20-ton refrigeration truck down the waterfront of the Promenade des Anglais in Nice, France around 10:45 p.m. going 1.1 miles eastward, according to The New York Times. Reports say that “Mohamed Lahouaiej-Bouhlel drove through the seafront promenade area of the French city on Tuesday and Wednesday in preparation,” as stated on BBC.com.

He exchanged gunfire with three police officers during his rampage before he was killed, as stated on The Guardian. In the truck, police found that the cargo held contained a bicycle and eight empty pallets, or stacking platforms. In the cab, police found an automatic 7.65-millimeter pistol, two fake assault rifles, a nonfunctioning grenade, a cellphone and unspecified documents, according to The New York Times. CNN mentioned that Bouhlel’s father said “his son showed signs of mental health issues—having multiple nervous breakdowns and exhibiting volatile behavior.” Although authorities have yet to find any evidence that link Bouhlel to the militant group, French Interior Minister Bernard Cazeneuve said Lahouaiej-Bouhlel seemed to have been “radicalized very quickly,” as stated on BBC.com.

Just hours before the attack occurred, President Francois Hollande announced that the state of emergency would be lifted. Deputy mayor of Nice, Rudy Salles, said that “there was a kind of sentiment of lightness,” as mentioned on Time.com.

Those sentiments quickly faded when the attacked occurred, and President Hollande declared that he would extend France’s state of emergency until January 2017. He also called on “patriotic French” to volunteer in the civilian military reserve, according to Time.com.

Maria Antonieta Garcia, an advisor for Pi Delta Phi, and Le Cercle Francais at FIU, expressed her sentiments on why France continues to be a target for terrorism, and how this violence could be stopped.

“ISIS instructed its followers to hit the US and specifically France for what these countries represent in the world: freedom. The government has to be more aggressive in dealing with this threat and each person has to be vigilant,” Garcia said. “I think people will feel safe when they see more security measures being taken. Right now, the state of alert has been extended until January 2017, this means more police forces on the streets, more security initiatives and a larger budget allocated for security.”

According to reuters.com: “Two more people, a man and a woman close to Bouhlel, were arrested in Nice early on Sunday and another person in the afternoon. Four others arrested previously were still being held, but Bouhlel’s estranged wife was released without charge after being held since Friday.”

It is unknown why he initiated this attack because Bouhlel was seemingly unknown to French counterterrorism agencies, and there were no links found to terrorist groups or evidence of radicalization. However, police are still investigating to see whether he acted alone or had an accomplice.
Creating things with your hands is a time-old tradition that will never cease to exist. Arts and crafts are a wonderful distraction from our daily routines, and whether it’s jewelry making, painting, crocheting, or sculpting, it gives a sense of satisfaction and accomplishment.

Making art has given adults a vehicle for escaping, producing a stress-reducing effect while also encouraging creative thinking.

Adults have long used crafts to unwind, and recently, more people are beginning to realize the health benefits of arts & crafts, rather than just seeing it as a favorite childhood pastime. One of the hottest topics hitting bestseller lists are coloring books for adults. These coloring books have been marketed toward stressed-out adults who want to benefit from the quiet zen that a coloring session can offer. Coloring books can be found taking over shelves in all sorts of stores, offering a mindful and relaxing escape from daily stress.

Although the first commercially successful adult coloring books were published in 2012 and 2013, researchers and art therapists have been promoting the calming benefits for over a decade. Researchers from Johns Hopkins University to the editors of Yoga Journal suggest coloring as an alternative to meditation.

The American Art Therapy Association stated to Time Magazine that the process of making and creating artwork is used to “explore feelings, reconcile emotional conflicts, foster self-awareness, manage behavior and additions, develop social skills, reality orientation, reduce anxiety and increase self-esteem.”

While coloring books may be beneficial and reduce stress, a study published in the Journal of Neuropsychology suggests that older adults who do creative activities like arts and crafts could delay the development of memory problems in old age. The study followed men and women for several years, reporting their levels of engagement in the arts, including woodworking, ceramics, and sewing. The study also examined older adults’ mental life—hanging out with friends, getting involved in reading clubs and Bible studies—as well as their computer use.

The researchers found that those who exercised their artistic muscle were 73 percent less likely to develop mild cognitive impairment, or memory problems and dementia. People who took part in a lot of crafts were 45 percent less likely to develop mild cognitive impairment than people who did not, and computer users were 53 percent less likely to develop it, compared to those who didn’t use the computer.

In addition, social adults were 55 percent less likely to have memory problems later in their lives.

Marytime Kraemer, a staff writer for FIU Student Media, Her column, Panther Outlook, focuses on maintaining one’s health during college. For suggestions or comments, please contact Marytime at marytime.kramer@com.

Being creative can improve health

According to the Florida Department of Health (FDOH), 1 in 3 Florida adults aged 18-44 are experiencing mental health challenges. One of the things we can do to help ourselves through these difficult times is to engage in creative activities. Creating art is a wonderful distraction for many.

LINDA RIOS

Every year, incoming college students are warned about depression, job pressure, and burnout. However, we all know that these problems exist and are never going to go away. As students, we need to realize that depression is a mental state in which the individual feels down. Their activities can be affected in several ways, from a lack of motivation to a lack of desire to do things. Depression can make it difficult to get out of bed for several days at a time

Several studies have proven that if a person moves to a new state when going to college, or even moving away from home and feeling overwhelmed at the university’s dormitories, the individual is more prone to depression. Healthline.com shares how the lack of sleep combined with a lack of diet and poor eating habits are the perfect recipe for depression.

Speaking from personal experience, suffering from depression sometimes is unbearable. I had to pass away just before I began my first semester at the university, and, as a result, I wasn’t myself when my college career began. From going to class and being physically present but not mentally there to not being able to control emotions and breaking down unexpectedly, I can confirm that depression is not something that can be avoided and having to wake up the next day feeling nonexistent.

According to Healthline.com, 1 in 7 people have struggled with depression at some point in their lives.

CAPS can help students with depression

CAPS (Center for Assessment, Placement, and Support) is a part of the University’s Counseling and Development Center. It supports students in all stages of the college experience. The Center is committed to providing students with a comprehensive and integrated approach to mental health services.

The Center offers individual, group, and online therapy, as well as a variety of outreach programs and events. Students can access CAPS services through their college counseling center or by calling the CAPS hotline.

CAPS also offers a variety of outreach programs and events, including workshops, seminars, and support groups. These programs are designed to help students develop coping strategies and improve their mental health.

For more information or to schedule an appointment, students can visit the CAPS website or call the hotline at 305-899-3080.

Linda Rios is a contributing writer for FIU Student Media. Her column, Rivers of Truth, is a commentary on pop culture, art, and society. For suggestions or comments, please contact Linda at opinion@fiusm.com.

DISCLAIMER

The opinions presented within this page do not represent the views of the FIU Student Media Board. These views are separate from those of the editor-in-chief, management, and the editor of each of the four sections. The Beacon welcomes any letters regarding or in response to its editorial policies. Send them to opinion@fiusm.com.

EDITORIAL POLICY

Editorials are the unedited voice of the editorial board, which is composed of the editor in chief, management, and the editors of each of the four sections. The Beacon welcomes any letters regarding or in response to its editorial policies. Send them to opinion@fiusm.com.
On July 17, Books and Books in Coral Gables hosted sci-fi/fantasy author Romina Russell, of the famed YA Zodiac Series. Although Russell is currently a Los Angeles-based author, she has strong roots here in Miami.

Born in Buenos Aires, Argentina, she moved to Miami as a kindergartner and attended school in northeast Miami-Dade.

At the event, Russell talked about her life coming to Miami as a younger fluent in Spanish, but with no ability to speak or understand English. She spoke about her love of listening to the rhythm and rhyme of Shel Silverstein poetry while learning English from her teacher in elementary school.

As a teen, Russell wrote for her high school newspaper at Dr. Michael M. Krop Senior High School, becoming its editor-in-chief. She attended Harvard, majoring in English, and interned during the summers at the Miami Herald.

She initiated and authored a weekly Sunday column, called “College, She Wrote” describing her life at the university setting, and the column became nationally syndicated. Upon graduation, she moved to Los Angeles, and wrote movie trailers for five and a half years.

Romina Russell came to Books & Books to promote her new sci-fi/fantasy adventure. She extensively researched astronomy with her interest in astrology. “We contain so many worlds within us already,” Russell stated. She extensively researched each zodiac sign and used that knowledge as the foundation for her series.

“Zodiac” is a 16-year-old student from “House Cancer.” The series takes place in what is called the “Zodiac Galaxy,” a universe which consists of 13 systems, 12 of which are named after each of the real-life astrological houses, with each possessing different personality traits, physical qualities, and spiritual beliefs. The 13th House, Ophiuchus, is based on a mystical legend. Zodiac sets the groundwork for her sci-fi/fantasy adventure.

During the event, Russell read a section from her second novel, and then spent the rest of her presentation answering questions from the audience about her characters, her background, and how she got into writing the genre of science fiction.

Her inspiration for the series was her curiosity and obsession with the infiniteness of outer space. She said, “I would turn off the lights, lie down on my bed, and just try to fathom infinity … how can something be ever-expanding … what’s in the place that it is expanding to before it expands? … what is in the place that it is expanding to before it expands? … what is it?” From her teen years in middle school, these questions kept her up at night.

Growing up, Russell also watched a lot of sci-fi like “Star Wars,” “Star Trek,” “Battlestar Galactica” and “Firefly.” She said, “I love how in sci-fi, they provide some kind of answer… some kind of foundation.”

Ultimately, she decided to explore the questions regarding our existence and the boundlessness of space through her imagination and writing. For her Zodiac series, Russell combined her love for astronomy with her interest in astrology.

“We contain so many worlds within us already,” Russell stated. “And it is vital to write about something that you are passionate about.”

During the event, Russell announced that the third novel in the Zodiac series, Black Moon, has been written and will be released on Dec. 6, 2016.

After her presentation, Russell personalized and signed copies of her novel for fans and took pictures with them. She also had exclusive free promotional items available for fans, including a map of the Zodiac galaxy, and cards, each detailing one of the Zodiac houses.

Russell had some words of advice for FIU students who want to become authors: “In writing, the most important thing is to trust yourself and open yourself up to advice from other people … it’s so crucial to share your work with people who you trust who will be constructive.”

Visit fiusm.com for the full column.

Books & Books is a column focusing on book events happening in South Florida. To offer comments and suggestions to Collin, email him at collin.simpson@fiusm.com.
Clinton is official Republican candidate

Moats stresses in her piece that it is imperative that Trump find common ground with the rest of the Republican leadership, in order to avoid appearing “weak and indecisive to voters.”

Much attention was drawn to the Convention’s speakers, including members of the Trump family, Melania, Donald Jr., and Ivanka Trump. Melania Trump drew widespread criticism for delivering a seemingly word-for-word repetition of first lady Michelle Obama’s speech at the Democratic Convention eight years ago, including such phrases as “your word is your bond,” “your dreams and your willingness to work for them,” and the “passion and intelligence” of her parents—in the same sequence used by Mrs. Obama in 2008.

Trump Jr. drew both praise and criticism from Republicans, Democrats, and non-binary voters from his speech.

In his keynote speech, Trump renewed his pledge to “make America great again,” and claimed that he identified himself as the “law and order candidate.”

“Our Convention occurs at a moment of crisis for our nation. The attacks on our police, and the terrorism in our cities, threaten our very way of life,” Trump said. “I have a message for all of you: the crime and violence that today afflicts our nation will soon—and I mean very soon—come to an end.”

Trump established a ‘put America first stance,” making American greatness, rather than global cooperation, a priority for his presidency, should he win the election.

“As long as we are led by politicians who will not put America first, then we can be assured that other nations will not treat America with respect—the respect that we deserve,” Trump said. The Convention was also marked by the selection of the Republican vice-presidential candidate. Indiana governor Mike Pence. Moats responded to the strategic importance in picking the vice-presidential candidate.

“The vice president selection is very important. Theoretically, the running mate should further unify the party by pulling support from a different segment of the party,” wrote Moats. “For example, Trump’s running mate is expected to be very politically experienced and also appeal to the party’s conservative ideology. This would further ease tensions with party leadership.”

At the Convention, Pence identified himself as a Christian, conservative, and Republican. Faith, as he stated at the convention, has been important in his life from an early age.

“When I was young, I watched my mom and dad build everything that matters—a family, a business, and a good name,” he said at the Convention. “I was raised to believe in hard work, faith, and family.”

In mentioning the importance of family, Pence sees parallels between his devotion to his own and his running mate’s children successes: “As we say back at home, you can’t fake good kids,” he said.

The response from Hillary Clinton’s campaign had been quick, as indicated by the #BetterThanThis hashtag created on Twitter. Even though the Democratic Party remains mired in controversy amid Hillary Clinton’s and DNC email scandals, the presumptive Democratic nominee has announced his running mate: Virginia Sen. Tim Kaine, a fluent Spanish speaker and liberal who is committed to public service.

Bernie Sanders made a statement on Schultz’s resignation saying that he had made the right decision for the democratic party to step down. He also commented on Clinton’s vice president selection, stating that he does not share the same political views as Kaine and would have rather seen someone like Elizabeth Warmn as the running mate, a more ideologically progressive candidate.

Moats believes that Sanders understands that he must offer his support for Clinton’s running mate for the greater good of the party even though he would have preferred a candidate with a more progressive record.

“There are always a few bumps, however Sanders realizes his supporters must now channel that support to Hillary Clinton,” said Moats.

Following the announcement, Trump took to Twitter and said that having Kaine as Clinton’s running mate “is very disrespectful to Sanders and his supporters”, and has heavily denounced the DNC.

Even though the rally was Kaine’s formal introduction to American voters, comparisons to the Republican ticket were made by the Clinton, and she also spoke about the initiatives that she will take on as president of the United States.

“This is one of the most consequential elections in our lifetime; when someone says I alone can fix it, that should set off alarm bells in not just Democrats’ minds, but Republicans, independents, [and] people of all ages and backgrounds,” said Clinton. “That is not a democracy.”

At the rally, Clinton stated that she will provide the middle class with better wages, provide tax relief for working families, and further create jobs in the U.S. Other positions on her platform consist of making college debt-free, tackling issues revolving around climate change, and reforming the criminal justice system.

Even though the DNC and Clinton’s campaign are currently under fire for questionable actions during the primaries, some of Clinton’s final messages at the rally maintained that her campaign is different from Trump and Pence and that she will continue her goal in becoming the next president of the United States. “Donald Trump and other speakers repeatedly attacked Hillary Clinton. I do not think the Democrats will return the political rhetoric to the same extent,” said Moats. “I expect the party as a whole will portray a more positive outlook for our nation’s future and will focus more on the Democratic Party platform.”
‘Star Trek Beyond’ a ‘fantastic movie, definitely deserves a watch’

The summer has brought us blockbuster events to give 2016 a run for most memorable year in film. Among box office hits like “Captain America: Civil War,” “Finding Dory” and the new “Ghostbusters,” is the third installment of the brand-new “Star Trek Beyond” movie franchise — number 13 in a long line of total Star Trek films. Audiences can expect this film to boldly go where this franchise hasn’t gone before. Spoilers for past Star Trek films ahead.

“Star Trek Beyond” expands on the continuity of the past two films, wherein there is an alternate timeline of events separate from the original franchise established by series creator, Gene Roddenberry. In its current five-year mission to explore strange new worlds, the U.S.S. Enterprise is in its third year and Captain James T. Kirk, along with others, is beginning to become restless in the routine. Facing a possible promotion to admiral, Kirk begins to think about his future and who he wants to be. Meanwhile, Spock, second-in-command, begins to feel the full weight of being one of the last remaining Vulcans in the universe when a close friend passes.

Despite the crew’s inner turmoils, threats to peace in the universe never ceases. An officer enters a planet belonging to the United Federation of Planets reporting that her ship was attacked by something in a nebula located in a part of uncharted space. The only ship capable of surviving the trek — no pun intended — is the Enterprise.

The crew sets out with the officer in order to examine the uncharted nebula and assess what took down the ship. What they find is a swarm of alien ships that swiftly and brutally destroy the Enterprise, sending its crew down into the nearby planet and at the mercy of its tyrannical warlord Krall, played by Idris Elba.

The latest installment proves once again that Star Trek is not only a cinematically brilliant franchise, but also makes efforts to be socially conscious. The movie deals with undertones of the struggles faced by veterans after times of war, though this doesn’t become immediately clear until the second half of the movie. A new character, Jaylah, also exposes the crew to the oppression her people face under Krall, played by John Boyega.

From what it seemed, the film took more liberty with practical effects than relying on visual effects like its predecessors have, a subtle yet noticeable difference. It gave the movie a more grounded reality, and it was refreshing to see less reliance on computer-generated effects.

Excellent acting was done by Zoe Saldana and John Cho, who played Uhura and Sulu respectively. However, the most notable dynamic was between Zachary Quinto, playing Spock, and Karl Urban as Doctor McCoy. The roles were played very well; seeing Spock and McCoy have a majority of interactions was interesting and great to see.

The film was also a respectable sign off to Leonard Nimoy, who originally played Spock in the original series and had large roles in the past two Star Trek films but died before production began. The film featured a tribute to Nimoy and Anton Yelchin, who also died earlier this year.

Overall, “Star Trek Beyond” was a fantastic movie and definitely deserves a watch on the big screen. It’s already been released, and ready to beam audiences up into a universe that expands as it moves further into the final frontier.

Lifestyle Points is a weekly column covering films and pop culture as it relates to the FIU community. To contact Joseph Cardenas for suggestions and comments, email him at joseph.cardenas@fiusm.com.
Playing soccer in Miami ‘a big change from Germany’ for defensive leader

REINALDO LLERENA
Staff Writer
reinaldo.llerena@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 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.”

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

In 2015, Hezel was named the Conference USA “Defensive Player of the Week” for the week of Sept. 8. He started 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 C-USA Championship All-Tournament team and the C-USA All-Academic team.

“When I first arrived in the U.S., I spoke a very limited English,” said Hezel. “I was very excited when I was awarded a scholarship to play at FIU, but more excited about a foreign opportunity to play overseas while getting an education.”

Hezel said he would listen to how the people around him spoke English and would research any unfamiliar words at night. He made it his goal to look up at least one word per day during his freshman year to help him learn English. Hezel said his English is almost as good as his German, although he has trouble with the occasional word.

Now entering his senior year, Hezel is focusing on his final season on the team and completing his undergraduate degree in marketing. He is currently interning with FIU’s Sports Marketing department and working out twice a day to get ready for the fall season.

“I love the communication aspect of marketing,” Hezel said. “Learning how to promote a product to a certain consumer is the part I like the most. There’s some psychology at play in marketing that I am fascinated by. It’s an interesting field.”

Swimming and Diving

Horner to coach Botswana team 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, Brazil.

“I am honored to be selected to coach Naomi and David at the Olympics,” Horner told FIUSports.com. 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 Miami, Florida, native 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 he was still living in her native city of Gabonone, Botswana.

“I spoke to Naoho and Randy and got along with them really well,” said Ruele. “There was a 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 Collie, a freshman from Nova Southeasters, 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 Collie are not the first Olympic swimmers to be coached by Horner. Olympians Rainh 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 our home nations. I will be rooting 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.”

The Summer Olympics in Rio de Janeiro will begin Aug. 5.

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 two seniors, Joanna Smith and Michael Montero, and junior, Anthony Witt. These returning starters are expected to be the leaders of the Panthers 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 as the starting quarterback with 1,135 passing yards and four touchdowns.

The Ocala, Florida, native was added to the NCA A record books for catching at least one catch in 32 consecutive games. His best game, last season, was in week eight against Old Dominion University, when he tied a career-high 10 catches and a career-best 183 yards, which was fourth-most in the University’s history.

Smith was named to the John Mackey Watch List for best tight ends and received All-C-USA honorable mention. He is currently on the watch list this year as well, and is ranked No. 8 best tight end in the country.

Witt started every game at middle linebacker, leading the Panthers with 88 tackles, 41 solo, which ranked him No.36 in the C-USA for total tackles. Adding the 5.5 tackles for loss tackle, Witt currently on the watch list this year for best linemen and the Danny Rimington Award watch list. Horner to coach Botswana team in Rio this summer

Alessandro Solana
Staff Writer
alessandro.solana@fiusm.com

Horner to coach Botswana team in Rio this summer

Alessandro Solana
Staff Writer
alessandro.solana@fiusm.com

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 two seniors, Joanna Smith and Michael Montero, and junior, Anthony Witt. These returning starters are expected to be the leaders of the Panthers 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 as the starting quarterback with 1,135 passing yards and four touchdowns.

The Ocala, Florida, native was added to the NCA A record books for catching at least one catch in 32 consecutive games. His best game, last season, was in week eight against Old Dominion University, when he tied a career-high 10 catches and a career-best 183 yards, which was fourth-most in the University’s history.

Smith was named to the John Mackey Watch List for best tight ends and received All-C-USA honorable mention. He is currently on the watch list this year as well, and is ranked No. 8 best tight end in the country.

Witt started every game at middle linebacker, leading the Panthers with 88 tackles, 41 solo, which ranked him No.36 in the C-USA for total tackles. Adding the 5.5 tackles for loss tackle, Witt currently on the watch list this year for best linemen and the Danny Rimington Award watch list. Horner to coach Botswana team in Rio this summer

Alessandro Solana
Staff Writer
alessandro.solana@fiusm.com

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 two seniors, Joanna Smith and Michael Montero, and junior, Anthony Witt. These returning starters are expected to be the leaders of the Panthers 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 as the starting quarterback with 1,135 passing yards and four touchdowns.

The Ocala, Florida, native was added to the NCA A record books for catching at least one catch in 32 consecutive games. His best game, last season, was in week eight against Old Dominion University, when he tied a career-high 10 catches and a career-best 183 yards, which was fourth-most in the University’s history.

Smith was named to the John Mackey Watch List for best tight ends and received All-C-USA honorable mention. He is currently on the watch list this year as well, and is ranked No. 8 best tight end in the country.

Witt started every game at middle linebacker, leading the Panthers with 88 tackles, 41 solo, which ranked him No.36 in the C-USA for total tackles. Adding the 5.5 tackles for loss tackle, Witt currently on the watch list this year for best linemen and the Danny Rimington Award watch list.
**WELCOME HOME**

New assistant head coach focused on recruiting students to FIU’s ‘beautiful vicinity’

---

**JASMINE CASIMIR**
Contributing Writer

Joe Silvestri, new assistant head coach for women’s basketball, has high hopes for the success of the women’s basketball team for the upcoming season. Although Silvestri has only been a part of the coaching staff for a month, he believes that there is something special about the team that will develop throughout the offseason.

The New York native moved to Spring Hill, Florida 15 years ago. Silvestri attended Palm Beach Atlantic University where he played basketball. After suffering a few knee injuries, he hung up his basketball shoes for good. He later finished his degree at the University of Central Florida.

“I would have loved to play all four years, but it didn’t work out that way,” Silvestri said. “I regret not being able to finish, but at the same time, I look at it and say that my path brought me to this.”

Before joining FIU, Silvestri was an assistant head coach at UCF for two years and served as the director of Program Development before that. Earlier this year, he received an honor as one of the women’s basketball Coaches Association’s “Thirty Under 30.” The class recognizes 30 up-and-coming women’s basketball coaches, ages 30 and under in the sport.

Silvestri is one of six male coaches to make the cut.

When Head Coach Tiara Malcolm began her search for an assistant head coach, Silvestri was at the top of her list. Silvestri received a call from Malcolm in May saying that she wanted to set up an on-campus interview.

“It only took her a week to make a decision before contacting Silvestri again, letting him know that she wanted him on her team. Malcolm appreciated Silvestri’s ability to work hard and the positive energy that he brings to all of his games.

“It was a really great honor that she called me and went through the process with me,” Silvestri said.

Since being hired, Silvestri has been working with the team in small groups for the offseason, and says that he is happy with the progress they are making.

“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 on the court so that when they do play it better.”

The Panthers entered 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 1,069 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 Malcolm admires about Silvestri is his recruiting skills, and the ability to add great talent to his team.

“If I can get a ‘Taylor Shade’ or two ‘Taylor Shadés’ in the process, 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.”

---

**INTRAMURAL SPORTS**

**Blocked shot ends basketball game in a tie**

**SETH LOUIS**
Contributing Writer

“Can’t You See” 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 top 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.

The team attempted to inbound the ball and almost got a five-second violation. The inbounder found a teammate in the lane toward the rim. The player tried to go up high, but again Swanner blocked the shot.

Time expired with a score of 57-57.