MOVIN’ ON UP

Dean of College of Law nominated for secretary of labor

ABIGAIL OLSON AND MARTINA BRETOUS
Panther Press Staff

President Donald Trump nominated the University’s
current dean of the College of Law for labor secretary.

“We just spoke, and he’s going to be, I think he’ll be a
tremendous secretary of labor,” said Trump announcing
the nomination earlier today.

University President Mark B. Rosenberg says the honor gives the
college the visibility it deserves.

“When you get any of your faculty
members or deans appointed to senior
positions at the national level, it’s
great recognition for the University.
It’s a confirmation of the purpose-driven
mission that we have and in this
case, it’s outstanding recognition for
our College of Law,” Rosenberg
said to PantherNOW.

Since 2009, Acosta has overseen large growth in
FIU’s law program and has contributed to the program’s
increase in rank, according to Rosenberg.

“We always were doing well in bar passage,
but three years in a row as number one, confirms the quality
of the College of Law and he has helped to consolidate the
respect in the community and so that employers want to
hire our college graduates,” said Rosenberg.

Rosenberg also talked about how they are
actively working on a strategic enrollment plan
in order ensure that students are able to graduate
on time.

“We are here because we care and we believe
and understand the importance of higher
education,” Rosenberg said.

Rosenberg began by announcing for the first
time on BBC a new financial aid initiative called
Golden Promise.

“The initiative will start with the early fall
2017 class. Rosenberg said that the Golden
Promise is going to guarantee enough funds
to cover 100 percent of tuition and fees for
freshmen who are Florida residents and have an
expected family contribution of zero.

“This will provide a grant that covers 30
credit hours per year for all four years; therefore,
there is no reason, financially, for a student to
say that he or she can’t afford FIU,” Rosenberg
said.

Rosenberg also talked about how they are actively
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order ensure that students are able to graduate
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“We are going to do everything in our
power to get students graduate in four years,”
Rosenberg said. “It’s not required to graduate in
four years because we understand how difficult
it can be for some students, but we will do our
best to have courses available for everyone so if
they can, they finish on time.”

TOWN HALL, PAGE 2

New turnstiles at GL a good start’

ABIGAIL OLSON
Panther Press Staff

In order to facilitate discussion between
President Mark B. Rosenberg, students, faculty
and staff, the University hosted a town hall
meeting at the Biscayne Bay Campus Monday,
Feb. 13.

The town hall was facilitated by SGC-BBC,
who opened the floor for discussion.

“This event is kind of an open forum where
students can communicate directly with the
president, ask him questions and get to know
him,” said Rachel Ramspard, the director of
public relations for SGC-BBC.

“We really take into consideration all the feedback that the
students bring up because it help us improve the
Biscayne Bay Campus.”

Eric Ameson, assistant vice president of
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TOWN HALL, PAGE 2
NATION & WORLD BRIEFS

Venezuela tightens hold on media, caused unease both in the U.S. and China, and put circumstances akin to a spy novel adds to concern

The mysterious death of Kim Jong Un’s half brother removed a potential avenue for China to press the North Korean leader to rein in his nuclear ambitions.

Kim Jong Nam, 45, lived out of North Korea for many years and had close links to China. He started families in both Beijing and Macau, and for many years and had close links to China. He had close links to China. He got to travel for the first time to Cuba and saw the evolution of the hospitality 

To be honest, I always thought of FIU not having turnstiles as being high-risk. You never really know who comes and leaves the library when it’s a free-for-all with no system implemented on how to keep track of everyone that is进去 the library.

Town Hall addresses concerns about dining and transportation

"I am at school all day and there are no other options for me besides Mone, Subway and Starbucks. Since I am vegan, for me that translates into subs, veggies, vegan soups, beans and beans, and oatmeal," Spalding said. "I don’t have options. I was wondering if the University could maybe order small batches from restaurants and do something, because I am spending all my money on Uber Eats."

The panel responded by saying they are currently working on improving the dining options at BBC and wanted to show her all the options that the University has to offer and that she may not know of.

Kristina Spalding, junior majoring in public relations, expressed her concerns for the food options on campus.

"Unfortunately mass shootings like the Virginia Tech shooting occur on campus grounds frequently and it’s something we have to live with. There was actually an incident a couple of years ago where a university had turnstiles installed and as it turned out, the turnstiles was able to prevent an attack. So we need it in but they couldn’t get that was a good thing," Garcia said.

Currently, there are no turnstiles at the Glen Hub Library at BBC, but that does not mean there are no future plans to install turnstiles there.

"The setup of the Glen Hub library is very different. In the Glen Hub library there is a little path in the middle both in the left and right of the library where subs, veggies, vegan soups, beans and beans, and oatmeal, "Spalding said. "I don’t have options. I was wondering if the University could maybe order small batches from restaurants and do something, because I am spending all my money on Uber Eats."

The panel responded by saying they are currently working on improving the dining options at BBC and wanted to show her all the options that the University has to offer and that she may not know of.

"I feel amazing about the fact that they heard my situation and that they are currently working on options that I can find on campus, Spalding said. "I hope they take into consideration what I said and we can move forward.

For Rosenberg, the town hall offers a way to allow the University to know what is on the minds of students and to improve. Though he always wants more students around, Rosenberg said he was satisfied with the quality of questions and the solutions that are being worked on.

"The most important message that we have is that we care and that we are going to make as much as we can to make this campus and the University in general be the best for our students," Rosenberg said.
The electric car first saw the light of day in the 1880’s and became popular in the late 19th and early 20th century. Fast forward to 2017 and it seems as if it’s a completely new phenomenon.

In Europe, the market for electric cars is significantly well-established compared to here in the U.S. Even though Americans can pride themselves with an in-house innovator – Tesla – the obsession with cars that completely disregard the environment remains.

If you stroll around the FLU parking lots you might spot the occasional Tesla or e-Golf, but for the most part “eco-friendly” doesn’t seem to be a requirement for students when they purchase a new car.

Now don’t get me wrong, I’m not a strong advocate of electric cars. All I would label myself as somewhat of a cynic. The reason is not because I hate the environment, but there is an abundance of “alternative facts” surrounding the electric car. It’s also too flawed to be a viable option for mass transport any time soon.

My biggest issue with the electric car isn’t the concept itself. Instead, it’s with the people associated with it – the ones who seem to think that batteries grow on trees; that’s not the case.

The electric car has thrown technology zealots into the diverse world of automobiles. One month, I moved here from Sweden, which is the third most eco-friendly country in the world per the Environmental Performance Index and gas is about four times as expensive compared to Miami.

What I have quickly realized is that urban sprawl requires everyone to have a car, and in typical American fashion, they’re the size of regional airports. The environment isn’t second nature to Americans like it is to northern Europeans.

The reason for the electric car not having become as trendy in the U.S. is because it doesn’t fit the profile of most Americans. That must change.

FLU is part of a demographic which many manufacturers are interested in; that average age of car buyers but out of the 50 or so students I asked, not a single one was interested in electric cars as a concept. Granted, many mentioned Tesla. Since FLU has 54,000 students this is by no means a representative figure, but a recurring factor was how little everyone knew about electric cars.

Comments such as “they’re all ugly” and “they’re too slow” often led me to believe that the manufacturers are extremely bad at marketing and should head straight for the Ryder building.

The thought that all electric cars are ugly is subjective; however, the fact that most electric cars are quick is objective. The Tesla Model S P100D does 0 to 62 miles per hour in 2.4 seconds for instance.

Although, what a lot of students knew was that electric cars aren’t as environmentally friendly as they might be portrayed.

The most environmentally sustainable automotive manufacturer for the past decade according to the Dow Jones Sustainability Index. The several downsides to the electric car as of now include range anxiety, high cost and to some extent, a lack of knowledge. The range anxiety stems from electric cars having relatively short ranges compared to their internal combustion engine equivalents and moreover, it takes time to charge an electric car.

This has an impact on the essence of motoring — freedom. The high cost relates to numerous economic phenomena, but it’s a matter of the electric car finally making its debut; not everyone being willing to jump on the innovation bandwagon.

I certainly think that the reformation of mass transport is something a society must consider when it has reached a certain level of development. For example, Germany wants to ban all diesel and gasoline-powered automobiles by 2030 while the entire idea of an electric car baffles the African continent in its entirety.

To come to the point, the electric car as a notion is slowly but surely gaining traction. With Tesla leading the charge, major car manufacturers have decided to really invest in alternative propulsion methods. As time progresses and the fledging generation has more purchasing power combined with technological improvement, it’s merely a matter of time before changing our ways becomes a necessary evil. Even though the U.S. is an economic powerhouse, the country cannot stagnate the development of electric cars.

Europe leads by example. Your move, America.

Marcus Berggren

Letters to the Editor are not written by Panther Press Staff. They are submitted by readers of Panther Press. These views are separate from editorials and reflect individual perspectives of contributing writers and/or members of the University community.
BBC will host Writers on the Bay once again Feb. 23, 2017 at 8 p.m. The event will feature author Lauren Grodstein who directs the master fine arts program at Rutgers University-Camden. Grodstein will read from her published books, and has a new book coming out March 2017.

The event is free to all students and it is a chance to hear and ask questions to a published author. Third year, Creative writing graduate student Jamie Eubanks has attended Writers on the Bay before.

“I have been to a couple each semester. It is usually a nice event, there are snacks and mingling. It’s nice because you can just hang out and get to know people. Eventually you get to sit down and there is a writer, usually a novelist or poet, they talk about what they do and then they read from their work,” said Eubanks. Grodstein is the author of the New York Times’ bestselling book, “A Friend of the Family” and the Washington Post’s book of the year “The Explanation for Everything.”

Grodstein is a friend of fictional professor Lynne Barrett here at FIU. During the spring and fall semester Writers on the Bay holds a reading series each month and the faculty members rotate and invite an author to the reading series, creative writing program assistant Marina Pruna explained.

“One of the things I think Writers on the Bay does is bring good authors to the FIU community and more broadly to Miami. It is also of MFA ways of involving the current MFA students in the world of publishing, reading and its way for them to learn more to the craft of writing,” said Pruna.

This event will be held in the Wolfe Center on the first floor, the recommend time to arrive is around 7:45. p.m. so, students have a chance to get something to eat or drink.

“Students get to rub shoulders with really important authors that they may or may not have worked with before and a lot of them make relationships with the authors that may extend forward. It does a little more than just bring in authors,” said Pruna.


Relay for Life a ‘community event’

JULIANE SUNSHINE
Staff Writer

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PATRICIA KATRI
Staff Writer

Each year, members of the FIU community gather for Relay for Life, a two-day event that features activities, friendly competition, food, music. A worldwide endeavor and the main fundraiser of the American Cancer Society, Relay for Life began in 1985 and is run by volunteers in more than 5200 counties.

At the University, Relay at Life, to be held Friday, Feb. 24-25 at the Ryder Business Loop, features teams of members of the FIU community who fundraise by selling or making something such as airbrush tattoos or providing a service or activity.

“Teams are created by students at the University or community members,” Yunova Delgadillo, one of the team’s co-directors for Relay for Life this year, said. “Currently, we have teams created by established clubs/organizations on campus, groups of students that are just friends, staff members under a particular office, schools surrounding the university and community members that are interested in helping the cause.”

Relay for Life’s organizers communicate with team Captains, who are selected by each team, through Team Ambassadors, students on the FIU Relay Committee. According to Delgadillo, team captains attend meetings or are kept up-to-date virtually of preparation activities by team captains.

“Once the teams are created the team ambassadors and team captains work together to make sure that everything that is needed to create a successful event is passed on,” Delgadillo said. “These teams show up on the day of Relay for Life, fundraising throughout the night.”

Relay for Life has grown at FIU throughout the years. Last year, almost
Film Initiative Underground

Film club brings variety to spring semester

CAROLINE LOZANO
Contributing Writer

An exciting, popcorn-filled semester awaits students at FIU’s Film Initiative: Underground. Their overall mission is to bring film into the lives of students on campus. And they certainly have an interesting variety of films planned out for audiences to watch. Each month’s screenings pertain to a particular theme previously established by last semester’s s-board members.

“For example, this month is civil rights. Next month, we have filmmaker focus and in April, we’re doing the theme of loneliness,” club President Robert Solomon said.

February will feature showings of “Do the Right Thing,” “Malcolm X” and “12 Years A Slave.”

Every week, audiences can also participate in choosing the films that will be shown.

“There are various ways that they will make their choice,” said Solomon.

Audience vote selections for February are “In Heat of the Night,” “Boyz n the Hood” and “Guess Who’s Coming to Dinner.”

After a typical screening, discussions can range from technical aspects like cinematography to the film’s relation to the theme. Crew members of Film Initiative try to select films they feel are unique or instructive.

“Films are chosen mostly because they fit the theme but also because the organization feels that you can take something from or that the audience can learn something from it and they stand out in some sort of way,” said Solomon.

March’s filmmaker focus will enchant admirers of Akira Kurosawa as his critically acclaimed films “Ikiru,” “Throne of Blood” and “Seven Samurai” will be screened and discussed throughout the month.

The main goal of the Film Initiative: Underground for this semester is to enrich the screening experience for audience members.

“We have a popcorn machine that is on the way so there’ll be free popcorn at the Film Initiative: Underground for people that stay to watch the movie or even if they want to show up and say “hi” or maybe if they asked for free popcorn nicely,” Solomon said.

All students are welcome to join in on the experience as everyone’s ideas and discussions topics based on the films are encouraged. Whatever you’d like to point out about a film, whether it’s a running theme or a beautiful shot, there’s no stopping you.

“We’re here for them [students],” Solomon said. “Whatever they’re interested in, we don’t mind talking about it.”

For anyone interested, film screenings take place on Tuesdays at 8 p.m. in the Green Library 100B.

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Up to date with #Music Monday

**FRESH BAKE**

**CHRISTOPHER RODRIGUEZ**

The second week of February had much to offer including a playful take on Valentine’s Day blues, a veteran band nearly falling asleep at the wheel and an Atlanta rapper looking for his place in the burgeoning trap scene.

Here are the noteworthy releases that should be added to your playlists.

1. Thundercat- “Friend Zone”

Thundercat may have always seemed the traditionalist in a typically wonky scene of L.A. beatmakers, adding his bass guitar wizardry on the sidelines of songs by the likes of Flying Lotus and Kendrick Lamar. But on the latest single from his upcoming album “Drunk,” he seems determined to escape us entirely as the repeated “high” slowly fades away.

2. Little Dragon- “High”

On her first release since 2014, singer Yukimi Nagano gets the band back together for more of the R&B-inspired electro-soul we’ve come to expect from a Little Dragon release.

The song drifts down softly with ambient bass and a faraway electronic whirr that sounds like a satellite signal. Nagano offers up her fantasy as if whispering in a lover’s ear. “Over the North Star...” Her vocals often blurred as she floats over the world as it comes in around her. “Don’t wanna be anywhere else.” Her voice comes through in layers, a reflection of the two characters she inhabits. Just as the production begins to surrender to interruptions of white noise, she switches perspectives.

“I wanna be the kids making out under the moon who got only love in mind” reflecting a deep-seated human desire that rises above the song’s occasionally head-scratching concept.

4. Father. “Hands”

“Hands” opens up what may very well be a busy year for Atlanta rapper Father. A figure from the more surrealistic leanings of the trap genre that bred contemporaries ILoveMakonnen and Key!, Father opens with a disarmingly simple repetitive approach.

“Hands on sight, on sight” he lazily raps, nonchalantly calling out haters over the sparse electro inspired beat. He breaks into a spitfire delivery in the second and third verses, throwing out confident and deceivingly witty one-liners that merit a chuckle (“I’m the star! This is your favorite show/TV on the radio.”).

The second single from their upcoming album Damage And Joy (their first in 19 years), the Scottish dream pop forefathers are still brooding, but ever more self-conscious. Within the swirl of hazy guitars, lead singer Jim Reid sounds as detached as ever when he says with a sigh “Guess I’m always sad.”

5. Jesus and Mary Chain- “Always Sad”

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**BEHIND THE ROAR**

Fabienne Fleuriant hosts the Claw & Growl on The Roar Student Radio.

What show are you hosting?

I’m hosting the Claw & Growl show right now. There’s four of us: Melissa, Liz, Abby and me. Mostly, we talk about politics and what’s going on within FIU, issues that are affecting students on campus so it’s really a cool thing.

Day and Time?

Mondays and Fridays from 10 a.m. to 11 a.m.

How long have you been a host?

I have been doing it for a semester so far and this is my second semester. I like it a lot. I was very nervous because I’ve been a writer [at PantherNOW] for almost a year and a half now … I’m a journalism major and I want to take care of myself and Delgado talked about the difference between sexual assault and rape, I learned a lot from her … I also want to talk about porn and expectations.

Favorite conversation with a guest on the show?

Actually, last week, the conversation was about sex and we have two guests on, Alyssa Delgado from CAPS and Sophia Pablo Aguirre from the Healthy Living Program. We talked about sexual health and the right way to take care of yourself and Delgado talked about the difference between sexual assault and rape, I learned a lot from her … I also want to talk about porn and expectations. It was really fun and it was a great conversation.

What would you say is overrated and underrated?

Overrated: iPhone, I’m a Samsung girl. Underrated: Millennials.

“Behind The Roar” is a series where we get to know the DJs and hosts at the radio station, The Roar.
University tennis team recruits highly-ranked athlete for fall

ALEX DEL VALLE
Contributing Writer

Signing Day for high school seniors to decide where they will play tennis at the collegiate level is April 15.

The Tennis Recruiting Network released a winter rankings list of the top women’s college recruiting classes through Jan. 4, based on point totals.

In the latest rankings released on Monday, Feb. 6, FIU’s women’s tennis team was ranked No. 25 in the nation by TRN. FIU is the only team in the top 25 with only one recruit; every other school had at least two.

The Panthers added Ioana Minca to the team, an international athlete who is currently ranked No. 25 in the world. The Pitesti, Romania native is also the highest ranked junior player in her country.

Minca has competed in Junior Grand Slam tournaments, including the Australian Open, Wimbledon, U.S. Open and French Open.

For Head Coach Katarina Petrovic, this is the highest ranked player she has ever signed.

“She is the top junior player in her home country of Romania and has had an accomplished career,” she said. “I am really excited to have Ioana join our program.”

Along with her individual successes, winning over 100 singles matches and about 50 doubles contests, Minca represented her country in the European Junior Championships.

Already with a 4-1 record this season, this added news is a great sign of things to come for the Panthers’ tennis program.

“We are continuing to build something special here,” Petrovic said, “and her addition will make our team stronger.”

FIU Student Media’s rebranded website is still bringing up-to-date news coverage, regular sports updates, what’s new in student life, music and talk shows, photo galleries and more.

Baseball coach approaches season with a ‘new philosophy’

HEATHER O’DELL
Staff Writer

Head Coach Mervyl Melendez is now the fourth head coach in baseball history, and bringing 17 years of coaching experience to FIU, he is looking forward to a successful season.

“It’s all about changing the philosophy of the team,” said Melendez. “It always takes time for a team to adjust to a new coach, but I feel like we have connected very well and the practices have been running great.”

Along with connecting with the players, Melendez emphasized the importance of energy.

“Energy is vital when it comes to any sport,” said Melendez. “I’m not talking about physical energy; I mean passion on the field. When a team plays with passion, nothing can stop them.”

Not only have players noticed a difference in how the practices are run, but also in their performance as individual players.

“I play with a different mindset now,” said Irving Thomas, the shortstop for FIU’s baseball team. “It’s all about teamwork this season.”

Melendez is looking forward to see how the seniors play this season. Being their last year playing at FIU, he hopes to see how well they have excelled.

“Seeing seniors play is always a joy to me,” Melendez said. “They are the most experienced players on the field; Everyone looks up to them. They really do have the authority to set the mood for the team. I’m expecting big things from them.”

With a fresh face on the field and a new motivation within the team, the Panthers expect a successful season.

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Mervyl Melendez
Head Coach
FIU Baseball
Athletes are constantly balancing practices and classes to work toward making their future a brighter one. And even with a busy schedule, some athletes still make time to enjoy the campus life experience.

For junior infielder Eddie Silva, he is able to experience the FIU campus culture by supporting other FIU athletes. The sports management major said he recently attended FIU’s softball season-opener on Feb. 10, where he watched the Panthers shutout the Georgetown University Hoyas 4-0.

“It’s always a good way for athletes like us to experience the campus life here at FIU,” said Silva. “We go out to the games to show support to our fellow Panthers and also getting to be with the fans and help cheer on the University is always a good time.”

Back in September 2016, Head Coach Mervyl Melendez and the rest of the baseball team welcomed back former players and held the FIU Baseball Alumni Weekend. Alumni players were given a tour of the newly renovated ballpark and facilities. Following the tour, alumni players participated in batting exercises and a home run derby.

After the festivities, current and former Panthers were invited to tailgate at the ballpark prior to the FIU and FAU rivalry game in the Don Shula Bowl XV. Following the tailgate, alumni and the team made their way to the Baseball Stadium to cheer on their fellow Panthers.

“Baseball alumni games and other types of events of this sort are great for student-athletes,” said sophomore and business administration major Jeremy Aguire. “It gives players a chance to enjoy their time on campus. They’re constantly putting in time on field or in the classroom, so they deserve events like this where they can enjoy themselves and one another.”

The Panthers are looking to junior infielder Eddie Silva to help the team kickoff the season on the right foot. Silva maintained a strong sophomore campaign and was able to come up big for the Panthers when he went 8 for 13 while compiling three RBIs in a three-game series against Marshall in 2016.

The sports management major finished the season with a .293 batting average, 65 hits, 29 RBIs and a team-leading 18 doubles. Silva said his personal goals for the beginning of the season is to break his record. “Of course I would like to hit the ball over .300,” he said. “I’d like to hit the ball a little farther this season compared to last, and also just help the team win as many games a possible.”

The former Archbishop McCarthy Maverick played in two state championships his sophomore and junior year in high school. His team beat both Monsignor Edward Pace High School, 4-3, in 2012 and A. Crawford Mosley High School, 5-2, in 2013. During his senior year, the Pembroke Pines native was batting .506, hit five home runs, and tallied up 31 RBIs. Silva was able to claim the Hitter of the Year award and also was named the winner of the Gold Glove in 2014.

Although Silva said he was heavily lured by Arizona State University and Virginia Tech, he chose to play ball for FIU instead.

“Florida International was the best option,” said Silva. “The University is close to home, and to have my family and friends be able to come to all of my games is always great.”

Player Eddie Silva says he is looking forward to this baseball season.