

Shutdown looms over University

RAUL HERRERA
Staff Writer

The government shutdown looms on and its effects are not only seen in Washington, D.C.

The current shutdown, which began Oct. 1, has continued on for three weeks and has impacted several individuals. The reason behind such a shutdown is rooted in legislative disagreements over funding the Affordable Care Act and the debt ceiling.

The American Council on Education, a major higher learning association, released a statement on the issue on Oct. 9 signaling its concern over the issue. The statement points to the issue as an exacerbation of the growing pessimism in American politics, which they believe harms students' commitment to civic engagement.

As for the University and the State of Florida, different individuals are affected in different ways.

"However, the impacts of this shutdown will broaden significantly if congress and the president are not able to come to a solution soon," said Kevin Evans, assistant professor in the Department of Politics & International Relations in an email to Student Media.

Evans pointed to the nearing deadline of the debt ceiling and how the lack of a solution will lead to "difficulty" paying the bills of the United States government.

There are also statewide economic effects.

"South Florida has definitely felt the impact of the shutdown. One of our biggest tourist attractions is the Ever-

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FLOAT ON



CARL-FREDERICK FRANCOIS/THE BEACON

President Mark B. Rosenberg (above and center) waves to students as he floats by during the Homecoming Parade.

College of law alumnus gives gift that inspires

ALEXANDRA MOSQUERA NETZKARSCH
Contributing Writer

The University's College of Law received its largest donation of \$400,000 this month from alumnus Abraham Ovadia, an attorney at his own law firm who graduated in 2009, who said it is important to give back to his alma mater.

According to Ovadia, this donation will help law students in the process of finding jobs after graduating, and that he hopes the

donation will inspire students to succeed and give back to their community.

"I'm happy if I can help students that are going the path I went through a couple years ago," Ovadia said.

Dean Alexander Acosta of the University College of Law said part of the donation will be used for the Career Planning and Placement Office, which has been officially renamed as the Abraham S. Ovadia Career Planning and Placement Office.

"The donation will be useful

"I'm happy if I can help students that are going the path I went through a couple years ago."

Abraham Ovadia
Alumnus

for different departments, but the college will always have in mind that the Career Services Office is one of the most important [because] it provides the help and assistance to get students a job after they graduate," Acosta said. "After passing the bar exam, figuring out where to work is the most important factor for

the future."

The 29-year-old is the founder of Florida Personal Injury Protection Law Firm and has been an attorney for his firm since 2010.

He believes that the law school's Career Services can help students start a successful career by helping in the search of jobs after graduating.

"The law Career Services Office is an important factor. One of their objectives is to determine how employable the

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University hosts calypso-infused lecture to honor Williams

CAROLINA PERDOMO
Contributing Writer

This year, the annual memorial lecture of Eric Williams, based on the calypso music style, is expected by its organizers to attract the public along with recognizable guests from the Caribbean to celebrate the 15th anniversary of this event.

Every year, a memorial is given to honor Williams' life and contributions to Caribbean politics and history.

This year's event will take place Oct. 18 at 6:30 p.m. at the School of International and Public Affairs in room 125.

Williams was the leader of the independence movement of the Republic of Trinidad and Tobago, People's National Movement, and served as prime minister from 1956 until his death in 1981. Known as the "Father of the Nation," Williams was known for his hard work and the legacy he left for the Caribbean nation.

In keeping with tradition, the Latin American and Caribbean Center will co-sponsor this year's program.

According to LACC's Associate Director Liesl Picard, the Center greatly appreciates the opportunity to support such a high-quality event.

"LACC and [African and African Diaspora Studies] have worked very closely over the years on a variety of programs designed to increase awareness regarding the Caribbean – and this is among the most successful," said Picard.

"Through the generous support of the [Eric Williams Memorial Collection Research Library, Archives and Museum at the University of the West Indies], AADS is able to host this event at FIU every year, contributing to a more enhanced understanding of the region," Picard said.

The LACC graduate student organization, Maloka FIU, is promoting the event through their networks as well.

"I consider this event very particular and influential over the public because it is actually an academic lecture accompanied by live musical performance," said Jean Muteba Rahier, professor of anthropology and director of AADS.

Shaneequa Castle, a graduate student in the AADS masters program, said she will be attending the event for the first time. One of the initial reasons this event sparked her interest was because of her passion for the Caribbean and its popular culture.

"I've also heard great reviews about past Eric Williams Memorial Lectures so I am excited to experience it for myself," said Castle.

"I heard of this event prior to being admitted

"When you look at the history of the prime ministry of Eric Williams every important event was marked by at least one calypso song."

Jean Muteba Rahier
Professor Anthropology

to FIU, just watching the videos online and seeing how fun it looked. Now I have the opportunity to actually attend the event, learn more and be part of it," said Tonya St. Julien, another graduate student from the AADS master program.

"People should attend this event because there will be a lot of knowledge imparted on the culture, prominent leaders and learning the legacy of Eric Williams," said St. Julien.

Calypso music has characterized the Caribbean culture because it has been the voice of the people by representing different social problems; putting them in lyrics and converting them to songs has become not only a form of expression, but a new style of music.

"When you look at the history of the prime ministry of Eric Williams, every important event was marked by at least one calypso song," said Rahier.

According to Picard, this event directly supports LACC's efforts to attract more people to the Center and serves to increase engagement across communities.

This lecture has been a major event in the intellectual life of South Florida, particularly in the West Indian and English speaking Caribbean communities, according to Rahier.

WORLD NEWS

Egypt: detained US citizen found dead in cell

The Egyptian government said a U.S. citizen it detained in the Sinai Peninsula last month for violating curfew was found dead Sunday in his jail cell, the second foreigner to die in detention in recent weeks. The U.S. Embassy in Cairo confirmed that an American citizen held prisoner in the Suez Canal city of Ismailia died from an apparent suicide and that it was in contact with Egyptian authorities. It had no further comment. In Washington, the State Department identified the American as James Lunn and said U.S. consular officials in Cairo were informed of his arrest on Aug. 28, a day after the Egyptians detained him.

Stampede near Indian temple kills 89 people

A stampede by masses of Hindu worshippers crossing a bridge to a temple in central India left at least 89 people dead Sunday, police said. The chaos broke out as rumors spread that the bridge was collapsing over the Sindh River, D.K. Arya, deputy inspector general of police in the Chambal region of Madhya Pradesh state, told the Press Trust of India. Among the 89 people killed by the crush were 17 children and 31 women, he said. Hours later, relatives were searching for missing loved ones among the bodies that were lying grouped together on the bridge. More than 100 people were being treated in a hospital for injuries including broken bones. Police wielding sticks had charged the crowd in an effort to contain the rush, Arya said. People retaliated by hurling stones at officers, and one officer was badly injured.

For more world news, check out FIUSM.com.

CORRECTIONS

In Volume 25, Issue 25, in the “President Mark B. Rosenberg talks growth” interview, President Rosenberg was misquoted as saying that the SAT score was 1750 when it is actually 1715.

The Beacon will gladly change any errors. Call our MMC office at 305-348-2709 or BBC at 305-919-4722.

Shutdown breeds uncertainty

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glades National Park. All of the industry associated with it has been negatively impacted,” said Evans, citing an NBC 6 South Florida article detailing a protest by fishing guides in response to the closing of the Everglades.

“South Florida’s recovering housing market has been impacted by the stalemate. Home loans have been difficult to obtain because of furloughs at the Federal Housing Administration. One key part of the loan process is verifying a potential homebuyers’ income by running checks on their federal tax records. The shutdown has made this task much more difficult,” said Evans.

A poll conducted by Student Media on FIUSM.com showed that the majority, 79 percent of those who answered, believed that the government shutdown has affected students. Only 11 percent of voters disagreed and about 10 percent answered maybe/undecided.

“

It is too hard to predict what will happen next week, so I won't even try.

Kevin Evans
Assistant Professor
Department of Politics and
International Relations

Students who are related to federal employees who have been furloughed are likely to feel the most immediate effects, while others, as Evans said, would likely feel the effects if the shutdown progresses.

As for solutions, Evans believes that there is uncertainty.

“A clean continuing resolution would likely pass the House, but it would pass by relying mostly on Democratic votes with just a handful of Republicans,” said Evans.

“Speaker [John] Boehner would have to violate the Hastert Rule again in order to bring the bill for a vote.”

A whip count presented by the Washington Post and alluded to by Evans in the email shows that 200 House Democrats support a clean continuing resolution to fund the government, while 22 House Republicans support it. Three members of the Republican Party lean yes, while 207 of the members of the party either have an unknown position or have stated that they will not vote for it.

“There have been some positive signs over the last few days with a plan being formulated by a bipartisan group of Senators led by Susan Collins (R-ME). However, it is unclear whether [Senator] Reid or [President] Obama would accept the concessions that are included,” said Evans. “It is too hard to predict what will happen next week so I won't even try.”

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Alumnus from 2009 gives College of Law its largest donation to date

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students are, which will help them get jobs,” Ovadia said.

Ovadia is a part of the 20 percent of the College of Law’s alumni that Acosta said gives back to the school.

“Those alumni are people who liked their school and not just want to stay in touch, but [want] to help and give back,” Acosta said. “The alumni still care about their school, even after graduating.”

Ovadia said while attending the University, he enjoyed his time thanks to his peers and faculty in the College of Law.

According to Acosta, only part of the donation will be used right now. The rest, he says, will be saved for the future and other departments.

“The donation that was made [will go] a long way,” said Eros Miranda, junior political science major, international relations major and president of Phi Alpha Delta Pre-Law. “And for [Ovadia,] being an [alumnus,] he is...demonstrating that we can all succeed and later give back to our community.”

Miranda said the University’s very ambitious law program is growing fast.

“I have no doubts that we cannot

“

The alumni still care about their school, even after graduating.

Alexander Acosta
Dean
College of Law

just compete, but exceed other schools in the nation,” Miranda said.

He said he is encouraged by Ovadia’s gift to the law college.

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Jammin’ lecture to honor legacy of Trinidad, Tobago’s first prime minister

“This is a very positive event that only FIU has exclusively presented to the community. It brings to them their historical, political and cultural realities of the Caribbean,” said Rahier.

The event will include the performance of Rawle Ribbons, senior lecturer from the University of the West Indies in Trinidad and Tobago, and Lord Relator, a calypso performer.

“To coordinate this effort, we always begin a year in advance for reservations and putting together the ideas of a great performance to please the audience,” Rahier said.

The event is open to students and the public and admission is free; tickets can be found on Eventbrite.

-news@fiusm.com

15TH ANNUAL ERIC E. WILLIAMS MEMORIAL LECTURE

Date: Oct. 18
Time: 6:30 p.m. - 10:30 p.m.
Place: SIPA 125
Price: Free

For tickets go to Eventbrite
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The Beacon is published on Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays during the Fall and Spring semesters and once a week during Summer B. One copy per person. Additional copies are 25 cents. The Beacon is not responsible for the content of ads. Ad content is the sole responsibility of the company or vendor. The Beacon is an editorially independent newspaper partially funded by student and services fees that are appropriated by Student Government.

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Manners in a foreign language

GISELLE BERMAN
Staff Writer

I am an immigrant. I am also trilingual. However, if you come up to me assuming I speak Spanish, I'll pretend I don't understand and I won't help you – I find it rude.

Hear me out. According to an article from the Huffington Post, 60 percent of Miami-Dade County is Hispanic nowadays.

That's great because it makes it easier to keep that culture and language alive in another country – but they're still in another country. In the 1950s, more than 80 percent of Miami-Dade was made up of “non-Hispanic whites.” Even here, at the University, we've seen the reality of these statistics.

I find no energy to have sympathy for those who are rude. You don't have to know English in order to speak to me. I'd gladly work with an, “¿Hablas español?” from a kind face. I constantly get a, “Voce e brasileira?” at work. This is actually exciting because I get to practice my other two languages.

In that case, I'll try my hardest to accommodate you.

However, I moved to Florida from Brazil at five years of age and was thrown into kindergarten in order to learn English. My parents were in their forties and learned English.

How do you expect to be an active member of society if you can't communicate with said society?

I should probably affirm that I've never had Portuguese speakers come up to me and speak Portuguese without a thought unless they are my returning customers at the restaurant. Nor have I had a problem with any other languages.

On the other hand, I've had so many people blurt some Spanish tongue-rolls at me as if we're in South America, both in and out of work, that I couldn't count

I am. But you want the people around you from other cultures to accept you, right? That would involve having manners and that means asking before assuming what language they speak.

Whether you want to order a meal or ask for directions, you're asking something of me and you should do so respectfully. I don't have to help you. I'm taking a moment out of my time to do so.

“Whether you want to order a meal or ask for directions, you're asking something of me and you should do so respectfully.”

if I wanted to. It's not that I'm attacking a certain group; this is just my personal experience and interpretation.

I'm pretty sure that if I spoke in a foreign language to strangers, all I'd get is strange looks and maybe a few rude remarks.

For example, if I were traveling to, let's say, Italy, I'd apologize for my lack of knowledge in Italian before speaking to natives as opposed to assuming they all speak Portuguese in Italy.

Of course you can retain your customs at home and teach them to your community. Be proud of where you come from; I know

Trust me, you can have manners in a foreign language. Otherwise, I will stare at you and listen until you're done speaking and then get someone else to take your order.

I don't think that's a rude reaction either. If you're not going to respect me through some basic manners, I'm not going to take it upon myself to serve you. I shouldn't be expected to understand you if you're speaking a foreign language at me.

All I ask is for that consideration and I'll have some for you.

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LETTER TO THE EDITOR

RE: HEALTHIER OPTIONS AT FRESH FOODS

Yesterday I stopped by The Fresh Food Company for the first time, hoping to have some breakfast. I had read the Healthy for Life information online (on the Panther Dining site) and so I expected that healthy food options would be available. I was quite disappointed.

All I wanted was cereal, but none of the four cereal options was labelled (no name of the cereal and certainly no nutritional information).

Every cereal is sweetened, even the Cheerios (it's Honey Nut Cheerios). Honey Nut Cheerios has nine grams of sugar per three-fourths cup, and I would imagine that many folks put more than this amount in their bowl. Regular Cheerios has just one gram of sugar per serving. Shredded wheat has zero grams. No unsweetened yogurt is available either.

Is it any wonder why many freshmen gain 15 pounds in a year?!

Why are there not more truly healthy eating options available on campus for students who want and/or need low-fat, low/no-sugar cuisine? Students

who live on campus and must purchase a meal plan are at particular risk if they do not have easy access to healthy food. The risk? Diabetes, obesity and all their associated health issues.

I call on Panther Dining/The Fresh Food Company to:

- provide clear labeling of cereals and other foods that are “self serve.”
- offer at least one unsweetened cereal as well as unsweetened yogurt
- consider other ways in which to offer low-fat, low-sugar or no-sugar options
- provide easy to read and understand information so students can make informed decisions when deciding what to eat

I would also love to see The Beacon embark on an investigation of healthy food options on campus. Thanks.

Corinna Moebius
FIU Grad Student

THE BEACON | Editorial

Progress report: Academics has more hard-hitting results than athletics

The average person who knows nothing about FIU has been receiving mixed signals over the past year when it comes to the world of Academics versus Athletics.

For example, FIU was the third highest Florida university ranked by most successful graduates according to the Huffington Post. This comes as even more of an achievement because, according to the Sun Sentinel, the FIU student surge has made it the seventh largest university in the country.

After already being the largest university in South Florida, FIU is now one of the largest in the nation after adding a whopping 12 thousand students in the past four years.

On top of the fact that FIU is one of the largest schools in the country and also having a high graduation rate, FIU was recently featured nationally on the “NBC's Today Show” and “CBS This Morning” for its completion of a NASA training mission, “Sea Test II” (the first since FIU took over Aquarius operations earlier this year).

The Aquarius project has helped FIU compensate for the lack of success the athletic department has done for the University.

Let us begin with the firing of former Head Football Coach Mario Cristobal on Dec. 5, 2012. Cristobal became the second head coach for FIU back in 2007 and was even able to take the Panthers to two consecutive bowl appearances and a bowl win in 2010.

After their most successful season ever in 2011 at 8-4, the Panthers regressed back to 3-9. Finally in 2012, Cristobal was fired. On Jan. 3, 2013, Ron Turner was hired as the new head football coach.

The next couple of months, however, would prove to be anything but easy for Turner. On July 13, 2013, former FIU running back Kedrick Rhodes made national news when he was kicked off the team after being arrested and charged with possessing and discharging a firearm on school grounds, improper exhibition of a firearm, discharging a firearm in public and discharging a firearm under the influence of alcohol.

Just a few days after the Rhodes incident, on July 20, the FIU football program found itself in hot water once again as Miami-Dade Police responded to an anonymous caller about the Panther Football team allegedly showering without their bathing suits in front of families and children on a field trip.

Turner released a statement that same day apologizing for the incident, a statement that was then shown on ESPN and was made fun of by the anchors.

Within just two months, the FIU football program found itself as the laughing stock of the University and its athletics program. We started to point the blame to Executive Director of Sports and Entertainment Pete Garcia.

The blame being shifted to Garcia doesn't only come from the football program but the men's basketball program as well. On April 3, 2013, former Men's Basketball Head Coach Richard Pitino left FIU to accept a head coaching job at the University of Minnesota.

Now, Pitino leaving didn't exactly bring negative attention, but what followed did.

New Head Coach Anthony Evans walked into a situation where the men's basketball team will now be facing a postseason ban for poor academic performance after being placed on probation four years earlier.

Once the 2011-2012 Academic Progress Rate scores became official, the Panthers received a ban for next year's postseason and a reduction in practice time. The Panthers scored a dreadful 750, way below the NCAA average, which would later drop the four-year rate down to 858 from 909.

When it comes to the issues of athletics vs academics, it's easy to see how academics has blown athletics out of the water. As FIU tries to continue its march to become a well respected university, there's no doubt that academics is doing its part.

However, athletics hasn't exactly put us on the map for success—the fact that this university is starting to become known for its pathetic athletic program rather than all of the hard work and success of academics is disturbing.

SEND US YOUR LETTERS

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“Informant” ‘blurs’ view between ‘real and fake’

COLUMNIST



JUAN BARQUIN

Brandon Darby’s story starts off rather innocently in the documentary “Informant,” with a mistrust of the government that led him to becoming a sort of white savior for much of post-Katrina New Orleans. “I’m trying to foment radical social change. That’s what we’re trying to do,” he says, working to stop racists with guns, rebuilding houses and becoming a symbol of the sheer power of radical activism.

Almost instantly, after traveling to Venezuela and seeing the state of turmoil there, Darby’s opinions on his activist ways make a full 180 turn. It is here that his life takes him to the FBI, where he becomes an informant for them and his story really begins.

“Informant” gets its point across pretty early on—the moment that Brandon Darby says, “As much as it seems crazy that a revolutionary would work with the FBI at some point, under the particular circumstances, I don’t think it’s that crazy.” From that point on, the documentary tries its hardest to both prove and disprove that.

Jamie Meltzer’s film is presented through a series of interviews, some archival footage, and some very messily woven together reenactments. It’s clear Meltzer has Errol Morris’ work in the back of his mind, but his reenactments

are subpar compared to a master like Morris. With Darby himself poorly starring in these sequences as a younger version of himself, the lines between real and fake are often blurred in a way that they shouldn’t be.

What “Informant” gets just right is the juxtaposition

“ [The film] loses itself in all the conspiracy, manipulation and outright lying it presents.

of Darby’s interview footage with that of his detractors, including ex-friend and co-founder of the Common Ground Collective, Scott Crow. Crow’s recollection of him and reactions to some of Darby’s misguided ideas make for some of the film’s liveliest moments. Some of the comments that are

tossed about aren’t exactly flattering, with a couple clearly calling him an “ego-maniac who was pretty full of himself.”

That being said, Meltzer doesn’t seem to have much control over his own project or his subject. Considering Darby has been involved in multiple documentaries about his past, a great portion of “Informant” seems just plain unnecessary. The film’s editing is jittery at times, longing to be a reflection of Darby’s paranoia and frustration, but it makes for an unpleasant audience experience.

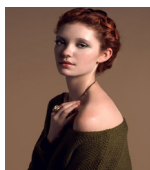
It’s hard to get behind a character like Brandon Darby, a man whose actions and narcissism border on sociopathic, which makes it hard to get behind a documentary about him. “There’s a lot of people justifying things in this story,” one interviewee says with no qualms, and that’s a perfect assessment of Meltzer’s film and the way it presents Darby.

“Informant” never chooses between praise or contempt for its subject, presenting a fairly unbiased perspective, something to be admired in a documentary. Alas, it instead loses itself in all the conspiracy, manipulation and outright lying it presents, leaving one to realize they will never really care about or understand Darby by the time the credits roll.

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Fashion column: a lolita princess at FIU

COLUMNIST



ASHLEY GARNER

Miami is not the type of city that you would expect to find someone walking around in full Japanese Lolita attire, so when I met freshman art major Thais Torquez,

I immediately became intrigued. I had seen her on three separate occasions always dressed with careful consideration head-to-toe making sure her socks matched her jewelry and backpack and that the color of her shoes were the same color as her dress and hair bows. To say the least, I was impressed and ecstatic when she agreed to let me interview her with a smiley face text.

How would you describe your style?

TT: I’m really inspired by magical things like fairies and Greek mythology and I try to look as “alternative” as possible. I’m also really into the Japanese Lolita culture.

Did you have a moment that you realized you wanted to start dressing more alternatively?

TT: My entire life, I’ve struggled with a lack of self-confidence and around senior year of high school I realized I was tired of dressing in a way that people would like me. I was always into Japanese fashion and when I came out of a deep depression I decided to start dressing the way I wanted and it made me feel so beautiful.

The first time I wore my Lolita dress was to my sister’s friend’s birthday party and I felt so beautiful and happy and I didn’t care about the comments that some people would make.

How would you describe your relationship with clothing?

TT: When I’m in jeans and a t-shirt I don’t feel like I’m myself, but when I’m in something more elaborate I feel free.

Who are your favorite artists?

TT: Hieronymus Bosch’s painting The

Garden of Earthly Delights. There’s so much detail and weirdness to it that I like to incorporate into my style. When I saw the one without the figures in it at The Frost it almost made me cry because it was still such an incredible and weird and amazing painting.

What sorts of things influence your style?

TT: The Lolita movie (both versions), Blade Runner and Clockwork Orange. I love old music like Pink Floyd, Genesis and Kate Bush. Whenever I’m feeling sad, romantic or anything, really, I always listen to her. I’m also really inspired by video games like Final Fantasy and Fallout. And of course anything Japanese fashion related like Fruits.

Where do you like to go shopping?

TT: Usually online or thrift shops. I love to go to all the local thrift stores on Saturday mornings like Goodwill or the Salvation Army. I’ve always been fascinated by the past and I think that’s why I’m so into thrift stores; because they already have a history to them.

If you had to describe your style in one word what would it be?

TT: Eccentric.

What do you think the difference is between fashion and style?

TT: I think style is what you’re not pressured to look like. To express the self. Fashion is whatever is popular in the masses.

If it were the last day on Earth what would you wear?

Full out Lolita because it makes me feel like a princess and if it’s the last day on Earth, I’m gonna be a princess.

What are you going to be for Halloween?

TT: Probably Lolita but I really don’t know.

-ashley.garner@fiusm.com



Lolita fashion, according to Wikipedia, is a trend, influenced by Victorian era fashion, that was started to counteract the growing amount of skin that is shown through traditional female fashion. Originally, the silhouette was aiming for a cupcake by use of the skirt and petticoats.

ASHLEY GARNER/THE BEACON

Thais Torquez, above, has been seen frequently walking around campus in full “Japanese Lolita” attire. Torquez says that her style has been influenced by both Lolita movies and that she feels as though she is not herself in jeans and a t-shirt.



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Panthers go dark in homecoming game

FIU took a step back after its win against Southern Mississippi

COLUMNIST



PATRICK CHALVIRE

The Panthers returned to campus for their homecoming game in this 2013 season, but that's all she wrote, as they fell to the Blazers of the University of Alabama at Birmingham.

A much closer game than earlier games in the season, the Panthers once again hurt themselves and allowed the Blazers to march 70 yards in their last drive to end the game on a field goal.

Someone at FIU Stadium must've forgotten to pay the electricity bill, as the scoreboards went dark during the Blazers game-winning drive. As the game went on, the Panthers defense didn't.

Mental lapses and personal foul calls on the defense handed the win to the Blazers to even both teams Conference USA record at 1-1.

The bright side of the night was the offense. Quarterback Jake Medlock was back under center and ended the night with a season-high 302 yards in the air and two touchdowns. Medlock

went into Saturdays game with two scores all season.

Going into Saturdays matchup was the question of how would true freshman Silas Spearman III come back after his game versus the University of Southern Mississippi, and he didn't disappoint in the first possession of the game, but that's where it ended.

The Panthers were only able to muster 94 yards on the ground, compared to the Blazers 217, courtesy of running backs Jordan Howard and Darrin Reaves, who combined for 202 yards rushing.

Looks like someone also forgot to tell the tailgaters that a game was being played. According to FIU, 15,696 "fans" attended the game.

Not sure where that person was sitting but from my vantage point during the game, that seems to be a stretch.

Clearly more people attended the tailgate festivities just feet outside the gates of the stadium.

Even a week after the Panthers got their first win of the season and in C-USA wasn't enough to get the seats filled and bring excitement to the stadium, on a night that is supposed to be spent showing support and school spirit.



JASEN DELGADO / THE BEACON

The FIU football team now falls to a record of (1-5) after losing a heartbreaker to UAB this past Saturday. The Panthers now look to regroup as they enter their second bye week.

Thankfully for the supporters of this team, it looks as if this group is finally getting a hold of the playbook, as opposed to the beating they took early on in the season.

If Medlock can keep off the injury list, he could have more big time games.

Not to say he will have another 300-yard game but equaling his total touchdown mark of the

season in one game is a way to start.

Another breakout Panther was receiver Rockey Vann. Vann finished with 88 yards on two receptions.

He was unable to reach the end zone but the biggest play came on a Hail Mary pass from Medlock to Vann that ended at the one-yard line.

Don't expect this squad to

put many points up on the board but, if guys are able to connect on the fly, it will clearly open up the running game which has already shown they are capable to compete.

As the season unfolds, we will all see if this team truly is on the rise or if that lone win was just a lucky shot in the dark.

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Russo speaks on state of Panthers basketball

Head Coach Cindy Russo discusses Coley, Davydova at Panthers first Conference-USA Media Day

STEVEN ROWELL
Staff Writer

For the first time ever, Head Coach Cindy Russo got her chance to partake in Conference USA's media day.

Last Tuesday, Oct. 8, Russo got a chance to share her thoughts surrounding the upcoming season.

Russo is entering her 35th season at FIU ranked 9th in wins among active coaches in the NCAA with 689.

"It's a compliment to be amongst the top-10," Russo said. "That's what it is though, when you have been in the business long enough you are going to win some games."

While Russo is FIU's leader for wins as head coach for women's basketball, and has appeared in six NCAA Tournaments, she has not taken the Panthers to the NCAA Tournament since 2002.

After a first round exit from the Women's National Invitational Tournament, Russo wants to build on that and perhaps reach the NCAA Tournament as the Panthers return three starters.

"I would have like to have all five of them back, but the good news is it brings experience and the players have played plenty of times together," Russo said.

Two of those started are the two leading scorers from last season including senior point guard Jerica Coley with 26.3 points per game, and senior center Marita Davydova with 9.8 points per game.

Through 3 seasons, along with being the nation's leading scorer last season, Coley has amassed numerous awards and recognitions. The reigning Sun Belt Conference player of the year has recently been put on the Wade watch list and also was named Preseason C-USA player of the year. Beyond the numbers Coley has put up, Russo has been impressed with the focus that Coley shows and also her demeanor off the court.

"She [Coley] is just an amazing person, she is a better off

the court type of person than she is on the court," Russo said. "She is very focused in what she wants to do in the classroom, outside the classroom. She has the highest concentration that I have ever seen or ever coached, she is very likable. She is extremely confident, I've just never coached any player like that, and I've had some good players that went through my system."

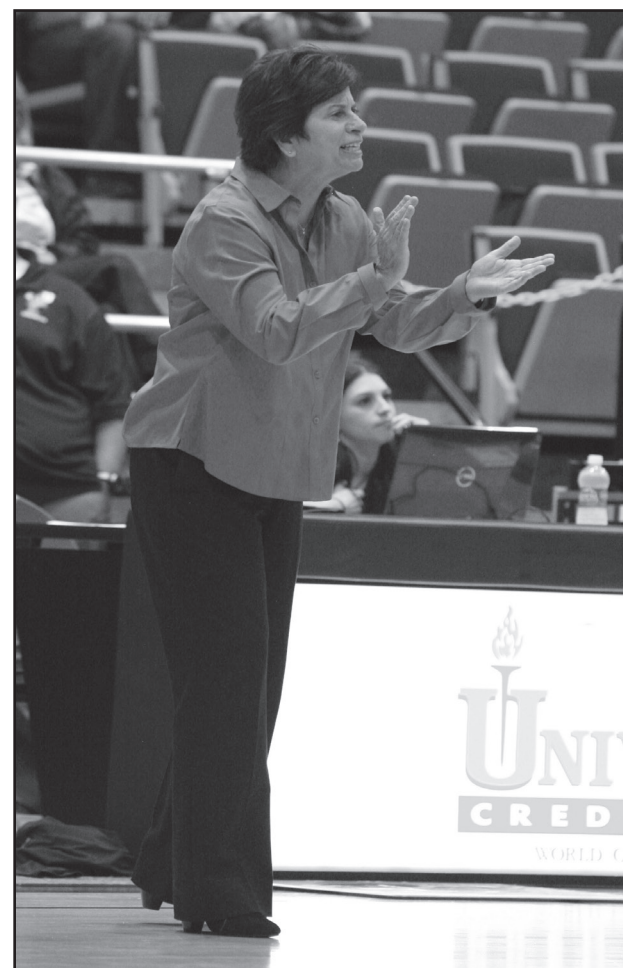
On media day, Russo also had a chance to speak about Davydova as the Russian native enters her final season with FIU. Davydova led the Panthers in rebounding last season with 8.8 rebounds per game and was an all-S-BC selection last season. Russo enjoys that the senior brings a positive spirit to the court even during rough times and cites that there is still improvement Davydova can make this season.

"She is just a brute, and loves to play basketball," Russo said. "She is a real funny kid, even during some of the most difficult times on the court she is out there smiling, and I am I like 'what is she smiling about?'. Stress doesn't bother her, and she is quite a competitor, her game has improved but she still needs to finish better."

One area of concern that Russo was asked about on media day was the three-point shooting as the Panthers shot 24% from beyond the arc last season.

"Maybe we shouldn't shoot them if we were that bad, but I would like us to be better three-point shooters," Russo said. "One of our three-point shooters went down early in the season, so I think we will be a little bit better, but we need to do a better job for sure because that is a real important part of the game."

While Russo is the longest tenured coach in C-USA, she is one of three coaches entering their first season in the conference. Russo isn't completely sure of what to expect and is not sure of what adjustments need to be made when playing in C-USA.



BEACON FILE PHOTO

Head Coach Cindy Russo, entering her 35th season, looks to take the FIU women's basketball team to the NCAA tournament.

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Strength of schedule brings hope for season

COLUMNIST



GIANCARLO NAVAS

After capturing a thrilling and improbable win against a better team in the University of Alabama at Birmingham, the Panthers have won three of their last four and with an easier schedule in the next few weeks the season might be salvaged.

Outside of UAB (9-4-1), FIU is in the lightest part of their schedule. The Panthers have an upcoming home stand against East Carolina (4-7-2) and Rice (5-5-2), and then go on a road trip to Florida Atlantic (2-8-3) and a visit to Middle Tennessee (5-4-3) before they close out the season at home against Marshall (6-4-2).

Combined, the remaining FIU opponents have a record of (22-28-12) which is a .440 winning percentage. For the sake of simplicity we are only calculating a win and loss total. FIU holds a (5-8-0) record which can be translated to a

.385 winning percentage. To put this into context, with two more wins the Panthers would have a .466 winning percentage. FIU is roughly 1.5 games behind their remaining opponents record.

What this means is that these are very winnable games for the Panthers. In the opening portion of the schedule the Panthers played powerhouse teams like University of Florida (10-3-1), Florida Gulf Coast (9-3-1), and the University of Dayton (8-4-1). The combined record of all of FIU's opponents prior to the Old Dominion game was (67-39-10) which has a .632 winning percentage.

The reason the ODU game was chosen to be the separator was because it's the middle game of the season. It's pretty absurd how different the first half of the Panthers schedule is compared to the second. The teams in the first half of the schedule have won 63% of their games, while the teams in the second half have won 43% of their games.

FIU got beat up early in

the season by some of the better teams in the nation. Including FGCU, who are undefeated in their conference and No.12 ranked UF. Adding on to the brutal first half schedule, star softmore forward Chelsea Leiva has been out all season with an injury.

Last season Leiva was a focal point for the offense, as she was third in goals scored in the Sun Belt Conference with. With the absence of someone who controlled your offense there is an adjustment period that needs to take place.

There is no worse time for an adjustment than through the most difficult part of your schedule. It was unlucky to say the least, but as the season has progressed the Panthers are finding an identity.

Even though their average (5-8-0) record can be looked at from the perspective of a difficult schedule and injury, the fact remains that they are (5-8-0). They are average, but with potential.

As of late the Panthers have been improved. So far in conference play



BEACON FILE PHOTO

After getting off to a rough start, the FIU women's soccer team is starting to regain their stride.

the Panthers are (3-2-0), which is good to rank the team first place in the eastern division of Conference-USA after shocking first place UAB. They managed to get first place despite that brutal start.

It is the most improbable victory for the Panthers this season, and they have not shown us anything

which would suggest that they could have pulled it off. But they did.

So here we stand and the Panthers have a cake ride to end the season. Realistically they should only drop Middle Tennessee on the road and a better Marshall team at home. That might be enough to keep first place in the eastern divi-

sion. Just might.

There are too many maybes and might. Average teams usually need the mights, and then again that's why they are average teams.

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World doping agency probing Jamaica

JOHN LEICESTER

AP Writer

The world's anti-doping authority is launching an "extraordinary" audit of Jamaica's drug-testing agency following allegations that its policing of the island's sprinting superstars led by Usain Bolt all but collapsed in the months before they dazzled at the London Games, The Associated Press has learned.

WADA's probe follows data the former executive director of the Jamaica Anti-Doping Commission revealed to the Caribbean's oldest newspaper indicating a near complete breakdown in JADCO's out-of-competition testing from January 2012 to the July opening of the Olympics.

In an interview with The Associated Press, JADCO chairman Herbert Elliott dismissed Renee Anne Shirley's figures as lies and described her as "a bit demented" and "a Judas."

But the World Anti-Doping Agency tells a different story: WADA confirmed to the AP that there was, as Shirley asserted, "a significant gap of no testing" by JADCO as athletes trained in the months ahead of the Games — and that it is concerned enough to investigate.

International Olympic Committee medical chiefs, WADA and Britain's anti-doping agency, which also worked on London's massive drug-testing program, revealed to the AP that they were kept in the dark about the Jamaican testing lapses that Shirley exposed in her August letter to The Gleaner.

"There was a period of — and forgive me if I don't have the number of months right — but maybe five to six months during the beginning part of 2012 where there was no effective

operation," WADA Director General David Howman said in an interview. "No testing. There might have been one or two, but there was no testing. So we were worried about it, obviously."

Jamaican stars didn't go completely untested into the Games.

Track and field's governing body, the IAAF, says it extensively tested elite Jamaicans and that Bolt was tested more than 12 times last year.

History's fastest human has never failed a drug test. In London, Jamaica won 8 of 12 individual sprint medals.


Bolt became the first man to win both the 100 and 200 meters at consecutive games and anchored Jamaica's relay victory in world-record time.

It isn't possible to judge with any certainty whether the gaps in Jamaica's testing might have opened a door to cheating, particularly because other agencies involved refuse to give a complete picture of exactly how many tests they conducted on the Jamaicans in 2012.

The Shirley revelations, however, have been alarming enough to prompt action: While WADA has audited Jamaica's testing regime in the past, Howman said its new trip is in direct response to the problems Shirley exposed and the positive doping tests this year of five athletes who competed for Jamaica in London.

"It's an extraordinary visit," Howman said. Jamaica is "a high priority ... they're on our radar."


WADA is unhappy that Jamaica hasn't agreed to a swift inspection. Elliott said JADCO couldn't accommodate the auditors at the date WADA wanted and now isn't expecting the visit before the end of the year.



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Monster found by University professor

KIERON WILLIAMS
Staff Writer

The deep ocean is one of the last true mysteries about the Earth and an endless frontier for discovery. One of these discoveries, *Cerataspis monstrosa*, is an extremely rare armored larval crustacean whose habitat changes as it grows. Because of this, its adult identity had been a mystery for 180 years.

That is until Heather Bracken-Grissom, an assistant professor in the Marine Sciences Program at Biscayne Bay Campus, collected a specimen with her colleague and solved the mystery. Her work studies decapod phylogenetics, which uses molecular data to study evolutionary relationships between species of decapods – an order of crustacean related to shrimp, crabs and lobsters.

On Oct. 25, Bracken-Grissom will reveal the details of her discovery in a lecture that is part of the Ocean Life Series, “Deep Sea Mysteries: Monster Larva;” the event will be held in the Murray E. Nelson Government and Cultural Center in Key Largo at 6 p.m.

Bracken-Grissom has been a part of several discussions involving decapod

phylogeny and systematics, including the International Decapod Phylogenetics Meeting held in the National University of Singapore in May 2010.

“Larval-adult linkages not only aid in our understanding of biodiversity,” said Bracken-Grissom. “They provide insights into the life history, distribution, and ecology of an organism.”

C. monstrosa is usually very difficult to find.

“Deep sea organisms are difficult to study due to the complications that come with collection of the specimens,” said Bracken-Grissom. “Deep sea research requires unique, expensive and specialized equipment that can be used to sample the deep sea.”

Most specimens have been collected from the stomachs of its predators, including yellowfin and blackfin tuna as well as dolphins. When collecting a living specimen of a mysterious larva such as *C. monstrosa*, typically the next step is to raise it in the lab. However, due to the unknown habitat of this species, its needs for growth could never be met.

However, during a typical mid-water oceanic collection in the northern Gulf of

Mexico – reaching depths of more than 400 meters – Bracken-Grissom and her colleagues unexpectedly came upon a single specimen of *C. monstrosa* suitable for genetic analyses.

After thoroughly sampling entire families of crustaceans and decapods, they discovered a near perfect genetic match between *C. monstrosa* and *Plesiopeanaeus armatus*, the deep-sea penaeoid shrimp, according to Dr. Bracken-Grissom’s email to Student Media.

Larval-adult linkages such as this build a greater understanding in fields of ecology, systematics, and taxonomy – in the case of *C. monstrosa* both deep-sea and plankton biology. Bracken-Grissom hopes that sharing her findings in detail with the University will deepen students’ love of tropical marine life and motivate them to help conservation efforts in the long-term.

“Getting the public excited about research, biodiversity, and the marine ‘unknowns’ is important to me,” said Bracken-Grissom. “Once people appreciate the amazing discoveries that can be found in our oceans, that’s when they will realize how important it is to conserve these resources.”

COME ON OUT



FRANCESCA ANCHELIA/THE BEACON

In honor of National Coming Out Day, students of the Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgendered, Questioning/Queer and Allied Initiatives spread awareness about LGBTQ individuals and how to become an ally.

Bracken-Grissom has written and contributed to other scientific articles on deep-sea biological sciences that including the reconstruction of the decapod’s evolution and the implications of the scientific names of other crustaceans.

“I feel as though this work highlights the biodiversity and interesting discoveries that can be found in the world’s oceans,” said Bracken-Grissom.

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Gov. Scott not giving up state funds

AP STAFF

The federal government shutdown that has already led to furloughed employees, closed national parks and commissaries could soon start to ripple through Florida’s schools and state government.

The administration of Gov. Rick Scott on Thursday ordered all agencies to refrain from using any state money to cover expenses that are supposed to be picked up by the federal government.

The state has a \$74 billion budget, but more than 35 percent of the money comes from federal funds.

Scott, a Republican elected with strong backing of tea party conservatives, put the blame on President Barack Obama and not on Republicans in Congress for the ongoing budget stalemate.

“We expect our leaders to resolve their differences and get this fixed,” Scott said in a statement. “The buck stops with the president. He needs to get a budget deal done. This is about responsible governing. The president needs to call everyone to the table to get a deal done. That’s what we do in Florida.”

Adam Hollingsworth, Scott’s chief of staff, said in a memo to state agencies that when the federal shutdown began Florida kept normal operations because it appeared the stalemate would

be short-lived.

“Given that resolution has not yet been reached and uncertainty exists as to when or if a continuing resolution will be passed by the federal government, it is important we ensure that state funds are not committed as a temporary backfill,” states Hollingsworth’s memo.

Hollingsworth tells agencies that they should not transfer money from other programs to support unavailable federal funds. But he also asked that agencies give advance notice before they discontinue any federal programs.

Florida also on Thursday said it would not use state money to reopen shuttered federal national parks such as the Everglades National Park.

The Obama administration said it would allow states to cover the costs of operating federal parks and several states said they would go ahead and do that. But Frank Collins, a spokesman for Scott, said it was the obligation of the federal government to pay for the parks and that “Florida taxpayers will not foot the bill to cover Washington’s failure to negotiate and compromise.”

The Scott administration’s decision to not “backfill” federal programs with state money won’t have an immediate impact on state-run programs that rely on federal funding.

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