

## Panthers seek second win in conference

**RHYS WILLIAMS**  
*Staff Writer*

Homecoming will be a matchup of single win teams when the University of Alabama at Birmingham Blazers come to play the Panthers.

“They are a good team,” Head Coach Ron Turner said. “We were able to run the ball against one team, we only proved that we could run against one team. You can’t win in any system, I believe, if you can’t run the ball. We cannot just run the ball though; we have to run our offense.”

That offense had its best

showing of the season with 24 points –the team only scored a total of 23 within the first four weeks of the season— and 341 yards against the Golden Eagles of the University of Southern Mississippi.

The lone win that the team has so far was almost taken away at the last second when the Golden Eagles lined up to attempt a game-winning 44-yard field goal attempt with six seconds left in the fourth quarter. That attempt was blocked by defensive lineman Isame Faciane, who

**SEE FOOTBALL, PAGE 6**



CARL-FREDERICK FRANCOIS/THE BEACON

Quarterback Jake Medlock (above and center) will try and lead the Panthers to their second win of the season when they host the University of Alabama Birmingham on Homecoming.

## Middle, low-income students burdened by debt

**KATHERINE LEPRI**  
*Staff Writer*

Priscilla Torres graduated high school in 2008; she got accepted into the University of Florida, University of Miami and Florida International University. After analyzing the financial packages each school offered and the potential debts she would rack up, she opted to pursue her degree at FIU.

“For UF and UM, I would have had to take out loans for sure,” said Torres, 23. “I wanted to stay close to stay home and money was a big issue.”

Torres is just one of approximately 39,000 students who received some type of financial aid to attend FIU, according to statistics from the Financial Aid Office. Senior Financial Aid Coordinator Fabiola Ortega said 30-35 percent of graduating students will have some type of debt, but Torres, unlike these students, graduated without accruing any sort of financial burden.

“We have a great number of low-income families,” said Ortega. “The average

loan for an FIU student is between \$15,000 to \$20,000. This is an average based on the entire population, not specific to the student.”

Lauren Lopez, 22, completed her undergraduate studies and is now continuing graduate school at the University, revealed that she borrowed approx-

imately \$14,000 to afford undergraduate housing. She comes from a middle class family and did not receive enough financial aid to afford the entire cost of higher

education.

“There’s a safety net in place for young adults from low-income backgrounds,” said Jason House, a scholar from the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation Health and Society Scholars program at the University of Wisconsin-Madison to the Miami Herald.

*“Many middle income families make too much money for their children to qualify for student aid packages. While at the same time, they may not have the financial means to cover the high costs of college.”*

Jason House  
University of Wisconsin-Madison

“Many middle income families make too much money for their children to qualify for student aid packages. While at the same time, they may not have the

financial means to cover the high costs of college,” he said.

Lopez is one of thousands of students who has taken out loans to afford the cost of higher education and has been burdened with debt before entering today’s economy.

“A lot of the time we have students, for example, who even though they have some grants will need to get loans to help pay for the difference in their costs,” said Ortega. “When you talk about costs of attendance, it’s not just tuition and books, you also have to look at transportation [and] any expenses that the student is going to incur while being in school that is required for them to be successful.”

The Honor’s College and Center for Labor Research and Studies Professor Abdolrahim Javadzadeh agreed that while student loans are necessary to pay for college, they also impede professional and personal aspirations.

Asim Black, recreational therapy major, recently had to take out loans to

**SEE DEBT, PAGE 2**

## Catholic priest to lecture Panthers on leadership skills

**MADELINE NODA**  
*Contributing Writer*

Leaders from all over the world, who have disciplines in various areas, have obtained unique and effective leadership approaches that have influenced their businesses and the public.

The upcoming Leadership Lectures series will feature Robert Schreiter, a professor and priest. The event will be held at the College of Law, in Rafael Diaz-Balart Hall 1000, on Nov. 7 at 10 a.m.

The theme of Schreiter’s

lecture will be the leadership skills needed to bring about social reconciliation.

“Reconciliation has two dimensions: coming to terms with a painful, divided past and building a different kind of future,” wrote Schreiter in an email to Student Media. “Through experience in all kinds of different settings, I have come to get a better sense of the skills needed to lead people through this double process of healing the past and building the future.”

Schreiter is currently a Vatican Council II Professor of

theology at the Catholic Theological Union in Chicago. He is also a priest and member of the Missionaries of the Precious Blood. He has published various books on topics such as social reconciliation.

The professor has lectured in over 50 countries in academic and church settings regarding enculturation, intercultural communication, reconciliation, religious life and world mission.

Garth Headley, associate director of Marketing and Corporate Relations in the Center of Leadership, said Schreiter’s

mission aligns with that of the Center.

“Our goal here at the Center is to advance leadership thought and share as much to the public as we can about leadership approaches and research regarding effective and ethical decision-making,” Headley said.

“The center encourages leaders to not only to develop a style that creates gains for your organization, but also to look beyond that and see how it will affect your community positively,” Headley said.

Headley said he wants people

to walk away from the lectures like Schreiter’s with leadership tools to become effective, ethical leaders.

The event is free and open to the public. Students are encouraged to RSVP due to limited space.

“We think of it as our obligation to provide these opportunities to the FIU students and the Miami community at no cost,” Headley said.

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## WORLD NEWS

### Taliban shooting survivor speaks in “I am Malala”

A year ago, Malala Yousafzai was a 15-year-old schoolgirl in northwest Pakistan, thinking about calculus and chemistry and Justin Bieber songs. Today she’s the world-famous survivor of a Taliban assassination attempt, an activist for girls’ education and a contender to win the Nobel Peace Prize later this week. It’s easy to forget she is still a teenager and now a long way from home. The memoir “I Am Malala” goes some way toward redressing that balance. Published around the world on Tuesday, the book reveals a girl who likes “Ugly Betty,” but also has an iron determination that comes from experience beyond her 16 years. The book, written with the British journalist Christina Lamb, recounts Malala’s life before and after the moment on Oct. 9, 2012, when a gunman boarded a school bus full of girls in Pakistan’s Swat Valley and shot her in the head.

### Libya prime minister says US raids won’t hurt ties

Relations between Tripoli and Washington will not be hurt by the U.S. raid that seized an al-Qaida suspect from the Libyan capital, Libyan leaders said Tuesday, as they requested Washington allow the family of the detainee to establish contact with him. The comments reflected the predicament of Libya’s weak central government after U.S. special force snatched Nazih Abdul-Hamed al-Ruqai on Saturday. The leadership is wary of criticizing its needed ally, the United States, but it also is trying to counter anger among powerful Islamic extremists at home who accuse the government of allowing or even colluding in the abduction of a Libyan citizen.

### Doctors: Argentine president well after surgery

Doctors removed a blood clot pressuring the right side of Argentine President Cristina Fernandez’s brain on Tuesday, relieving pressure that had been giving her headaches and numbness. Their report said she was doing well, that there were no complications and that she would remain hospitalized for now. The president’s spokesman went further as he briefly addressed a crowd of supporters outside the hospital, saying the operation “has been satisfactory, it has been very good,” and that Fernandez was happily thanking all who helped her. “She’s in very good spirits. She’s greeting everyone. She thanked her medical team, she thanks all of you who are praying for her. She’s in very good spirits, so the next medical report will come at midday tomorrow.

For more world news, check out [FIUSM.com](http://FIUSM.com).

## Students forced to get loans

### DEBT, PAGE 1

pay for his education after the money from his single mother’s investment in Florida Prepaid College Plan ran out.

“I’m doing an internship 40 hours a week,” said Black. “I don’t get enough money, so I needed that loan to hold me over for the semester.”

Black, like many other students, used his \$2,700 loan to cover personal expenses during the semester.

For both Lopez and Black, additional expenses such as room and board, meals and transportation were financially impossible to fulfill without loans, but both students have hope that the loans will be manageable after they graduate.

“I’m hoping that after graduate school

“  
The average loan for an FIU student is between \$15,000 to \$20,000.

Fabiola Ortega  
Senior Financial Aid Coordinator

I can get a better degree and I can have more options for a good job to pay that off,” said Lopez. “Yes, I’m scared, but I’m sure it’ll be okay.”

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## SHE SHOOTS, SHE SCORES



JAHREL FRANCIS/THE BEACON

Vanessa Saurez (left), freshman math major, launches the football toward her target trying her luck for a prize during a pre-homecoming event in the lawns while Rafael Lopez (right), Finance major, toss the ball to give his buddy a chance to win.

## “Stand your ground” law tweaked

### AP STAFF

A Senate committee on Tuesday approved tweaks and clarifications to the “stand your ground” law that came under scrutiny after neighborhood watch volunteer George Zimmerman fatally shot unarmed teenager Trayvon Martin.

The proposed changes would require the Florida Department of Law Enforcement to develop training guidelines for neighborhood watch groups that, among other things, addresses unlawful use of force and conduct that could create or escalate a confrontation.

The bill (SB 130) also makes it clear that law enforcement agencies should fully investigate any use of force even when a self-defense claim is used and adds language that clarifies that anyone who uses force against an attacker can still be responsible if they injure or kill an uninvolved bystander.

The bill would leave in

place the bulk of the law that passed in 2005 that allows people to use deadly force if they are threatened.

The bill combines legislation filed by Simmons and Democratic Sen. Chris Smith of Fort Lauderdale. The Senate Judiciary Committee

approved it 7-2. It has two more committee stops before it can be considered by the full Senate.

The Republican-led legislature would have been unlikely to approve widespread changes to the law. This bill stands a much better

chance of advancing because it only addresses minor changes.

The stand your ground law was criticized after Zimmerman fatally shot 17-year-old Martin in the Orlando suburb of Sanford. Zimmerman,

## THE BEACON

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# Memorization and examinations aren't beneficial to us

**MOISES FUERTES**  
*Staff Writer*

What is our memory good for, if asking Google any question gets us the answer—usually the better one?

At FIU, and as university students in general, we are taught to think analytically. To analyze, discuss, synthesize our analysis and try to reach some type of cohesive conclusion.

We are, by default, put into an environment that encourages communication with the rest of the students via lectures, which usually lead to projects and presentations—part of most, if not all, classes.

We also have exams, some of which are great, poor or simply redundant.

Today, I want to bring those redundant exams into perspective. Namely by asking, why do certain professors create their exams in such a way as to only have them be memorization contests?

It baffles my mind, honestly.

Right before graduating high school I thought to myself, “Finally, there should be some interesting discussions at the university level,” and to be frank, there are. My main problem with some professors is their lack of creativity when making exams, most of which tend to fall under the multiple choice category, or the even worse combination of multiple choice and petty attempts at confusing the student through the use of six to eight different choices.

I’m looking at you, C. D+A, D. A+B, E. A+C, F. None of the above, G.C+B.

I don’t think highly of professors who attempt to confuse me by changing the last name of a historical figure.

Interestingly, I find that memorizing the names and dates of events becomes much easier once I have analyzed said person and discussed his or her accomplishments and why they were relevant at the time. To me, the “why” is the most important factor in any discussion.

Let me make something clear: I have nothing against memorization. The stipulation I have with examinations which emphasize memorization

“I don’t think highly of professors who attempt to confuse me by changing the last name of a historical figure.”

is the fact that those examinations ask for little, if any, analytical process. There is no synthesis, or explanation of my internal analysis, there exists only one answer.

This turns students into memorization machines. Something, which I might add, computers will always surpass us in.

Many students opt to memorize the exam notes through rote memorization, a memorization tech-

nique based on repetition, as oppose to taking in the message and actually analyzing it. This process is extremely stressful.

But above that, it’s just useless. Most of that memorized information will evaporate once the exam is finished. By the time the semester ends, the students will more than likely remember very little of it. Students who cram for exams can attest to that.

According to Judy Willis’s “Bad for the Brain: Goodbye to Unsustainable Education Models,” “boredom, frustration, negativity, apathy, self-doubt and the behavioral manifestations of these brain stressors have increased in the past decade.

As facts increase, as over-packed curriculum expands, and as demands for rote memorization for high stakes testing intensify, the brains of our students have reacted to the increased stress.”

I propose a simple solution to this form of test-making. Divide your exams into two portions. Half can be

multiple-choice, the second half must be short answer or essay format. This way, students can properly analyze any given subject brought up in the course. It will encourage discussion in lectures and will help sink the message in.

While I realize that multiple choice exams are quick and easy to grade, the downside of it is that, as a student who likes to analyze, I see no learning experience from an exam that is completely centralized on multiple choice. Make us actually use our brains. I’m not paying tuition so professors can teach me how to memorize information effectively.

The last thing I want is to think that some of the courses I took were a waste of time. Professors need to help us make connections with the courses and the information they give us.

At the end of the day, the “who,” doesn’t really matter; what matters is “why..”

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# Sexual orientation and its place in college applications

**ASHLEY VIERA**  
*Contributing Writer*

It has become increasingly accepted and a normal part of modern day society for an individual to be open with their sexual orientation.

With that said, there was an article recently released by the New York Times called “The Gay Question: Check One” that talks about several universities that are beginning to ask their applicants about sexual orientation.

Some say this is inappropriate, while others view it as a positive step in the right direction in acceptance of homosexuals.

What seems to be evident and clear from this is that it is exemplifying the beginning stages of a new comfortability

level with regards to sexual orientation in schools.

Some of the universities asking the sexual orientation question are those such as University of Iowa, MIT, Boston University and Elmhurst, which has been doing it since 2011.

According to a New York Times article, out of 21,500 first-year applicants at the University of Iowa, 488 responded to being gay while two through three percent responded to the question in Elmhurst.

What this shows is how rare it still is for young people to declare themselves as homosexuals.

Another university, MIT, went as far as to allow students the option of utter privacy from “nosey parents” by omitting sexual orientation from the PDF version of the application.

For many, it is probably an arduous, awkward situation to

make their sexual orientation publicly known, especially at such a young age. Particularly, college freshmen.

As high school teenagers, most kids are still trying to discover themselves and who they are as adults, which can be quite confusing as well as absolutely petrifying.

An extra, intensified layer of all of these mixed emotions is added when sexual orientation is in question.

In my perspective, this proactive action of asking about sexual orientation by universities is a commendable, as well as a courageously bold step in the right direction towards equality and acceptance. It can be perceived as inviting and encouraging for young adults to be open about their identity.

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# Participatory media: advancements in communication

**MOISES FUERTES**  
*Staff Writer*

Do you “share” content on Facebook, Twitter and Tumblr? Do you find yourself commenting on articles via social media sites and striking discussions on these sites as well?

Welcome to Web 2.0, coined by Darcy Dinucci in 1999 and popularized by Tim O’Reilly in 2004. In other words, the Internet as we know it today.

In the midst of this shift in website infrastructure, we come to recent times where social media—namely, participatory media—is not only the status quo, but also necessary.

A necessity which, in my opinion, is human at its core, while futuristically emphasizing what the Net is meant to be: a free forum for all.

Communication is, and will continue to be, king.

It is no secret that humanity is a social species. The popularity of social media websites might seem redundant or exaggerated to some, but in reality, makes sense.

The Net has allowed anyone with

tory media and given rise to organizations like Creative Commons, an organization that makes it simple to share creativity and knowledge through their free licenses, which work alongside copyright to protect

“In terms of the discussion itself, and the posts from other people, it is important to hear those authentic and honest thoughts from other individuals.”

Brandon Wright  
Junior  
Broadcast Journalism

an Internet connection to communicate easily, create effectively and distribute said creations freely. That combination has exploded participa-

the content legally.

Participatory media is a big part of the Net. In a nutshell, participatory media has allowed consumers

to become producers.

Essentially, we are all able to create content now, whether it be video, blogs, or websites. The fact the general public can create content is what is of importance here. We all create content by posting on Facebook, for example, which usually leads to discussions via comments. This empowers us to share our ideas and communicate online.

Junior Brandon Wright, a broadcast journalism major, believes that participatory media encourages discussion online on social media sites.

“In terms of the discussion itself and the posts from other people, it is important to hear those authentic and honest thoughts from other individuals,” said Wright.

Those individual thoughts may not seem that important, but through closer inspection, I’ve found it is this

exact method that allows for groups to get together and work on projects, productions, records and more, thanks to the Net.

The more knowledge becomes accessible on the Net, the better society will become. Those “How To” videos on YouTube, which are abundant, teach people how to do something. Through YouTube alone, we can already see the impact this free culture is having on the rest of society.

Kids born today have unlimited knowledge a search and click away, a testament to our generation and those to come.

We communicate and we learn. In this way, participatory media and the Net are changing the way the world functions and learns.

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## TACO TIME



OSCAR LIN/THE BEACON

Karen Granja (left), senior in psychology, and Karla Miranda (right), junior in biology, wait to snag some mini tacos at the Midday Madness event prepping for homecoming.

# Cardenio's actors discuss their efforts

**DANIEL URIA**  
*Staff Writer*

FIU theatre's season opener *Cardenio* came to a close last Sunday after a two-week run.

The play itself is zany and ridiculous and the cast's real life experience came with a few twists and turns as well.

Amber Benson and William Cadena were forced to step out of their comfort zones in order to portray the play's unexpected lovers Camila and Will.

Benson discovered her love for acting by portraying an old woman in videos she made with her best friend in middle school.

She then went on to play almost exclusively older or physically challenged women until landing the role of Camila.

"I haven't played a regular female role since eighth grade," she explained. "So, to sort of be in shoes similar to my own was very different and sometimes scary."

Ultimately, Benson believes this experience helped her to grow as an actor.

"It's definitely made me realize that I don't have to work so hard," she said. "I can just trust what's happening between me and someone else because that's really all that matters in the first place."

Cadena was faced with the challenge of playing a character that expressed himself in a far different manner than he is used to.

"He speaks really indirectly," Cadena said of his character, Will. "And I'm not that type of person. I speak very differently. So for me to find those kind of levels and find the behavior of this character was hard."

He explains that author's language and use of paren-

thetical phrases was the biggest obstacle. While Cadena's natural inclination is to be direct and to the point, his character required an entire monologue to simply say "I love you."

"That was the biggest challenge... finding the rhythm

“That was the biggest challenge... finding the rhythm and the speed and the truth of what he's saying and to make it real and not so 'fancy.'”

William Cadena  
FIU student

and the speed and the truth of what he's saying and to make it real and not so 'farcy,'" said Cadena.

Jannelys Santos found that her role as Doris, Camila's sister, and the perhaps overly blunt voice of reason helped her fully grasp the importance of breath on stage.

"Breath really was essential for me in my final scene before I am banished from the wedding party," said Santos.

"I had to allow my breath to sink in order to truly

be affected by the circumstances and what people were throwing at me," Santos said.

"Without breath, it would have been so easy to crack, especially with an entire audience laughing their heads off as you're trying to sob onstage," Santos explained. "I realized that the more I allowed my breath to sink in, the less I had to fight the urge to laugh and the less I had to fight to bring tears—the crying came naturally because the feelings were natural."

Benson and Cadena both found that their most memorable moments from this run came on nights when things went wrong.

Cadena recalls having to make the best out of an embarrassing situation when a miscue led to a recording meant for later in the show being played at an intense scene.

"I just wanted to make a joke out of it so that everyone can forget it and we can move," he said. "Because if I ignore it I'm not being honest to what happened on stage, and you have to be honest to those mistakes."

Benson explains that one night she was so nauseous due to antibiotics she was taking, that she nearly broke down during a pivotal moment in the play.

"In the process of that scene I felt so sick and I was so scared that I was going to throw up, I started crying," she said. And I let myself cry and I said 'Just use it for what's happening now.' And it was the most incredible time I had ever done that scene."

Through all of this, the cast was not only able to grow as actors, but also deliver brilliant performances for their fellow students night in and night out.

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# Music review: Obits' "Bed and Bugs" is "been there, done that" surf-punk

**NATALIE MONTANER**  
*Contributing Writer*

Two years after the release of their sophomore album, Brooklyn-based Obits is back with its third LP, "Bed and Bugs." Not a big stretch from lead singer Rick Froberg's previous project, "Hot Snakes," Obits brings a blend of indie rock, garage punk, and surf rock – topped off with a slight nod to 80s punk.

Kicking off the album is the energetic "Taste the Diff," which is loaded with a strong guitar presence and gritty, almost grunge-like, vocals that easily promote the "surfin' California beach" vibes.

Heard in the purely instrumental "Besetchet," the dueling guitars of Froberg and Sohrab Habibion come together and provide listeners a rockabilly, surf twang – with each musician playing a different chord progression that blends together to form one of this LP's more interesting compositions.

“  
Not a big stretch from lead singer Rick Froberg's previous project....”

“Malpractice” opens up with a harmonious bass-drum pairing, allowing light to shine onto the two instruments that are otherwise not as prominently and steadily heard

through the loud vocals and guitars. Ending as quickly as it started, listeners are thrown back into bluesy, garage punk.

A common trend throughout the album are those frenzied and screeching vocals of Froberg paired with occasionally melodic yet manic, in-your-face, guitars.

However, bringing in the biggest change of pace is the penultimate "Machines." Stepping away from the frantic vocal and guitar pairing, this track is filled with an eerie chant and guitar riff, proving a simple yet captivating four-minute recording that almost sounds like it was written by a completely different band.

Albeit not offensive to the ears and loaded with commendable guitar playing, their album doesn't strike as an original and intriguing production. Hit the indie venues of California in search of some local acts and you're sure to stumble upon something similar.

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# "Prisoners" brings parents' worst fear to life

**FRANCISCO RIVERO**  
*Sports Director*

Imagine being the mother or father of a beautiful little girl, everyone playing their part in being just another sweet innocent family.

Now imagine having that world shattered when you get the news that your daughter has been kidnaped.

Actor Hugh Jackman, along with fellow co-actor Jake Gyllenhaal, brings this nightmarish scenario to life in the suspense thriller "Prisoners."

In an interview with Rolling Stone magazine, Jackman talks about just how intense and borderline disturbing his character became during this film in an attempt to get his daughter back.

"What I loved about the script was the moral ambiguity," Jackman said after the screening. "The film kind of delves into and plays with the whole idea of whether [my character] is heroic or not. I remember watching the film with my wife and she spent the first hour holding my hand, but squeezing it to the point I had indentations. But there was a certain point in the movie where my wife actually took her hand away from mine. I think that she was getting uncomfortable."

Even fellow actor Gyllenhaal acknowledged just how much the importance of obsession and intensity becomes in this film and how those emotions are pushed by director Denis Villeneuve.

"Denis is obsessed in the themes in his movies. He picks a number of things that intellectually and emotionally stimulate him and he will follow that through, through an entire movie," said Gyllenhaal in his interview with Rolling Stone Magazine.

However, for all of its plot twists



GAGE SKIDMORE/CREATIVE COMMONS

Hugh Jackman plays Keller Dover in the 2013 thriller "Prisoners."

and amazing acting, what makes "Prisoners" such an impactful film is its ability to make you feel for Jackman's character. Jackman says himself that he had to stop filming at times because the role was so intense emotionally that he had to take breaks at different times.

"I think that's where the movie exists," Jackman said.

"And what we concentrated on was making that primal urge for all the characters real, so that even that if you didn't agree, or if you were uncomfortable, you understood where all the characters were going."

There were even times that during filming even Jackman had no idea where his emotions were going to take him.

"There's that scene where I smash the hammer very close to his head, and he doesn't even flinch," Jackman said in an interview with the daily beast.

"By the way, none of that was rehearsed or planned. Even I didn't know that was going to happen."

Jackman continues his interview with The Daily Beast by saying that his character just brings the emotions everyone would feel if they were going through the same

situation.

"Violence begets violence, and violence is destructive, and uncomfortable and horrible, and he unravels. As one character says later, it's like bringing out the demon in someone. To be honest, the most interesting portrait of the whole torture thing is Viola Davis' character. She thinks about it and in the end she says, 'We're not going to stop him, but we don't know anything about it, and we're not going to have anything to do with it,'" Jackman said.

"And isn't that what a lot of the world, and a lot of people in

this country, did after 9/11? People knew that things were going on, it was written about, but because people were terrified and frightened, they were just like, 'Let people do whatever they want to do at Guantánamo Bay.' It's fascinating what happens when people are pushed to a frightening place. They'll let things happen that they normally wouldn't."

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## Coley tabbed Preseason Player of the Year



CARL-FREDERICK FRANCOIS/ THE BEACON

Senior Jerica Coley adds the 2013-2014 Conference USA Women's Basketball Preseason Player of the Year to her already long list of on the court achievements.

## Panthers hope to remain undefeated in Conference USA play

FOOTBALL, PAGE 1

was named a national honorable mention for defensive linemen from the College Football Performance Awards for his play against the Golden Eagles.

"I was really excited about it," Faciane said. "I looked at [defensive lineman] Mike Wakefield and we were supposed to blow up the guard together and I said to him 'I will block this kick' and when I felt it touch at least four of my fingers, I knew it was going to fall short and it did."

Another player who broke out against the Golden Eagles was running back Silas Spearman III who ran for a net gain of 136 yards on 29 rushes and a career-high two touchdowns.

"We saw him on tape coming in and we were really excited," Turner said. "I like him a lot personally; we saw the same things on tape that we saw on Saturday. Burst, quickness and vision of the field and he is a good hard runner."

The Blazers come in off of a loss to the Owls of Florida Atlantic University 37-23 and recently replaced their defensive coordinator.

In a press conference Monday to the UAB Athletics Department, Head Coach Garrick McGee, spoke on the issue.

"Effective immediately, Jimmy Williams, our assistant head coach, is going to take over responsibility of defensive coordinator.

I have a lot of faith in Jimmy. We worked together at University of Toledo. We won a [Mid-American Conference] West championship together on the same staff. If I'm not available, Jimmy is the one to address the team. He understands the principles, the values and the emphasis on fundamentals and that is important to me," McGee said.

McGee also noted that cornerback Jimmy Jean, one of the best players on their team, could possibly play some offensive snaps on Saturday.

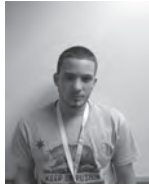
"He is arguably the fastest guy on the team. When you have someone with that much ability and speed, and since J.J. Nelson is not available, you try to find another person who can fill that void and create chunk yardage for you. That was our thinking with Jimmy, so I think there could be a role for Jimmy to sneak out on the field and go after big plays for us because he is just so talented."

The Panthers must also gameplan against the likes of quarterback Austin Brown and defensive end Diaheem Watkins, who has 3.5 sacks on the season.

Game time for Saturday will be 7:30 pm due to the homecoming festivities before-hand.

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### COLUMNIST



RUBEN PALACIOS

It's usually not a good thing when you hear the phrase "your reputation precedes you."

But in senior Jerica Coley's case, it's a very good thing.

On Monday, Coley was named the 2013-14 Conference USA Women's Basketball Preseason Player of the Year, as voted on by the league's head coaches.

This is a situation where Coley's reputation as an All-American, Conference Players of the Year followed her from the Sun Belt Conference all the way to C-USA. Despite the rise in level of competition and the fact that she will be a relatively unknown player to these C-USA coaches, Coley has already found a way into their minds.

How did she do that?

Well, this is where that pristine reputation of hers comes into effect. Coley is a reigning two-time All-American and Conference Player of the Year. She is also fresh off what might of been the best statistical season in FIU women's basketball history. She led the nation in scoring at a rate of 26.3 points per game en route to breaking the FIU single-season points record with 840 total points.

Need I say more? Probably not, but I will anyway.

In 2012-13, Coley notched 23, 20-plus point games, including 12, 30-plus point outings, scoring a career-high 39 points on two occasions. She currently owns a career scoring average of 21.8 points per game, tied for first all-time at FIU, and a feat she will probably surpass this upcoming season. Coley is also the only player in program history to register 2,000 points, 600 rebounds, 300 assists, and 200 steals in a career.

I'm going to go out on a limb and propose that these C-USA coaches have done a slight bit of research on Coley in their attempts to prepare for the star guard this year. And I'll take my hat off to the coaches who voted for her, because it take a lot of guts to vote for someone based solely off tapes and hearsay.

But, those tapes and that hearsay are pretty accurate if you ask me. Simply because at this point in her career there's so much tape and pretty much everyone, including myself, is talking about Coley.

At this point in her decorated career she has scored 2,135 career points, a total which ranks second on the FIU all-time scoring charts. Last year alone she was responsible for 42.9 percent of the Panthers' offense, and has scored 35.1 percent of FIU's total points for her

career. And to top it all off, in May, Coley was named SBC Female Athlete of the Year, becoming just the second FIU student-athlete to earn the league's top honor.

Coley's presence in this new C-USA is so apparent already, that the FIU squad was voted to finish fifth out 15 teams. Now, this team, in my opinion is still underrated, but from the perspective of other C-USA coaches I have to believe that the five spot has largely, if not entirely, to do with the presence of Coley on the team.

Like I said earlier, it's usually not a good thing when your hear "your reputation precedes you." But Coley's reputation has preceded her since she broke out as a fierce competitor and scoring machine her freshman season, and over three years later the awards and accolades haven't stopped and neither has her success on and off the court.

Jerica Coley earned Preseason Player of the Year honors based of her reputation, but can you blame her? She has one hell of a track record and a knack for staying true to her reputation, which is, of course, a horrible sign for every C-USA opponent she squares off against this season.

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## HOMECOMING KING CANDIDATE



RHYS WILLIAMS/ THE BEACON

Graduate linebacker Markeith Russell (Left), attempts to get votes to help his chances at becoming the 2013 Homecoming King for this year's court.

### C-USA PUNT RETURN AVG. LEADERS

PLAYER	TEAM	YARDS	AVERAGE
Chancellor, B.	NT	177	19.7
<b>Miller, S.</b>	<b>FIU</b>	<b>105</b>	<b>13.1</b>
Smith, D.	Mar	168	12.0
Watts, T.	TLS	115	10.5
Lohnes, R.	FAU	122	7.6
Callahan, B	RICE	45	5.6
Griswold, K.	MT	41	5.1

### C-USA RUSHING LEADERS

PLAYER	TEAM	YARDS	AVERAGE
Jones, A.	UTEP	467	93.4
Dixon, K.	LT	554	92.3
Reaves, D.	UAB	459	91.8
Watts, T.	TLS	423	84.6
Parker, J.	MT	499	83.2
Cooper, V.	ECU	372	74.4
Wallace, J.	FAU	418	69.7

\*All records up to date as of Oct. 9, 2013.

\*All records up to date as of Oct. 9, 2013.

# “Beach Bum” leads FIU through C-USA play

**OSCAR BALDIZON**  
*Staff Writer*

As the volleyball team grinds through their inaugural campaign in Conference USA, one thing has remained a constant: the leadership and top tier play of senior outside setter Jessica Mendoza.

On multiple occasions this season she has led the team in digs, and she’s been the Panthers’ floor captain all year long.

Mendoza’s story begins at Winter Park High (Fla.), where she was a four-year letterwinner and helped contribute to a state championship as a sophomore with the Wildcats.

Volleyball, surprisingly enough, was not her first love, basketball was actually her favorite sport followed by soccer; whereas volleyball was more of a social thing to see friends at the time.

Head Coach Stephanie Gibson would change all that as soon as she entered high school.

During Mendoza’s time as a Wildcat, Gibson built up the Libero’s confidence to a point where she was able to realize she could play in college one day and Mendoza recognizes her as “the most influential person,” in her volleyball life.

Mendoza’s role as the Libero on the team is crucial.

The Libero is chosen by the team before a match or tournament and that person must remain the Libero for the entirety



CARL-FREDERICK FRANCOIS/ THE BEACON

Senior Jessica Mendoza has been a key component to FIU’s volleyball success, by leading the team in digs. The Panthers enter today’s matchup against UAB with a record of 7-9 and a conference record of 1-3.

of the match.

As the only player on the court who can legally talk to the referee, Mendoza is quick to exercise her power as floor captain and isn’t afraid to debate a close call.

Her responsibilities don’t end there because as a Libero, dressed in contrasting colors as the rest of the team, everyone in the arena is expecting excellent defensive play.

She cannot block or attack the ball when it is entirely above net height and when the ball is not in

play either.

She can also replace any back-row player without prior notice to the officials and it doesn’t affect the substitution limit per set.

This gives Head Coach Rita Buck Crockett the flexibility to plug her in whenever she needs extra defensive help.

Mendoza then bounced around a few different colleges including Valencia, Broward and St. Leo’s University; an experience that she says “really helped me figure out which kind of coach I wanted

to play for, and teammates I blended in well with.”

After a year of playing outdoor volleyball for the Panthers, the senior is helping guide the team through the unknown waters of Conference USA play this year.

“That’s what makes this team so unique, were all basically sisters. There is no drama and everyone is very honest and upfront; if this team were any different I wouldn’t want to play but they’re great,” Mendoza said.

Constantly keeping the team’s spirits up, even during stretches

of bad play, it is obvious to anyone who watches Mendoza is the most vocal player on the team.

She isn’t afraid to get into an opposing player’s head and her confidence grows as the game goes on.

Her positive impact on the team and matches can be directly correlated to her attitude and personality.

“My mom was a psychologist so she raised me to speak my mind and didn’t really punish me for vocally disagreeing with something when I was younger. My aunts would always argue with her, but she felt it was more important to raise someone who knew how to express how they felt,” Mendoza said.

The self described beach bum enjoys more dangerous forms of exercise as well.

Recently introduced to spear fishing, attending college in south Florida couldn’t be a more ideal locale to hit the many reefs off of the coast and take on a daring way to hunt.

When Mendoza isn’t on the court she also enjoys ceramics and is currently taking a class at FIU.

Hoping to open a yoga studio one day, she would like to be a personal fitness trainer with an emphasis on yoga for its physical and meditational benefits when she graduates.

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# Underdog men’s rugby overcoming great challenges

**VERONIKA QUISPE**  
*Staff Writer*

The men’s rugby team has proved to be the true underdogs here at FIU. The Panthers start their fall season 1-2 and ranked third out of the seven Florida Cup teams, as well as having to face tough challenges that test their passion for the game on a daily basis.

Rugby is a fast action packed game that lasts 80 minutes. The team is divided into two sections A and B who play a game each match. Each section plays a full game, back to back. The team primarily focuses on 15 man and 7 man rugby. The players on the field consist of back and forward players. The main goal of the game is to score points by either placing the ball on the turf over the try zone, kicking for points, or penalties.

“I came out on the field and I fell in love with it,” senior captain Kyle Gilbert said. Gilbert began starting when he was a sophomore and had no prior knowledge of the sport.

There are two seasons in rugby; the fall is considered off-season and the panthers use this time to play against all the Florida teams, such as their top rivals the University of Central Florida Golden Knights and the University of Florida Gators.

The Panthers are starting off the season with a vast majority of new players who still are getting the hang of the game.

“Our team is doing pretty well. We had a rough schedule to start off with. We played University of South Florida, they’re one of the top teams in the state. But the Gators was our toughest challenge,” says Gilbert.

“We got a lot of potential with these new guys, we have some

big guys and we have some athletic guys and even though they may not know rugby they have the heart and the passion so that in one or two years they can go to the Select Side, which is a higher division of play in Florida,” junior Agustin Laphitzondo said.

Junior George Evora is the leading scorer this season and he has been invited to try out in several conferences.

Although rugby is not a popular sport in the United States, the players are sure that this sport is for everyone.

“I’ve always liked contact sports and I wanted to join football but, they told me to gain around 100 pounds and maybe they’ll look at me. In rugby you don’t need that. I always say that at heart I’m 250 pounds of pure muscle, and I always go in to every game head first and ready to play,” Laphitzondo said.

Despite the fact that rugby is portrayed as a very aggressive and contact sport, the respect held between teams is like no other. After each game both teams, despite the rivalry, must attend an event called a social. Where the home team hosts a social event in either a party or a restaurant. The A&G Burger Joint near the Modesto A. Maidique campus hosts the socials for the Panthers when they play home, by shutting down the restaurant for both teams.

“The great thing about rugby is that you built so much respect during the game,” junior Luis Echeverry said.

“We eat the best burgers in town, we mix and we put the game video on and acknowledge each other’s plays. We do man of the match, and we sing songs together so it’s become a tradition,” junior Jose Laphitzondo said. “We’re in a battle for 80 minutes but after that we’re all friends.”

One of the team’s greatest challenges is the funding for the

program.

“We only receive around \$1,200 dollars to fund our program, which were grateful for, but that only covers registrations for our games,” says Gilbert.

The team has to pay for transportation, hotels, food and the socials.

“We sometimes have to work around school schedules to be on the games on time. There have been times that one of us had to leave class right away and we had to drive all the way to our game and we got there 15 minutes before the game started,” says A. Laphitzondo, “It’s hard but we always get it done.”

Even though the team is financially weak, they fundraise by working FIU games and are now starting to work some of the Miami Dolphins’ games.

“Just how you push inside the field we have to push outside the field and to do the funding and the practicing,” says J. Laphitzondo.

The panthers do not only play against other schools, but many players get invited to different conferences such as Combine and the South Independent Rugby Conference (SIRC). Last year, five of the players got invited to the Combine, which led three of those players to play for the All-Florida team.

With their long practices on Tuesdays and Thursdays they approach each game confident that they’ll do their best. The panthers take the field on their homecoming game against the University of Miami on Nov. 9th.

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## School of Hospitality debuts new restaurant

**ARIELLE BLENCOWE**  
*Contributing Writer*

Enter into a room with dark oak wood, crystal chandeliers that shimmer blue and green, plasma screen TVs showing the hustle and bustle of student chefs in the kitchen and the light sizzling of meat accompanied by clinks of wine glasses. Calls for lemon peel and cilantro are heard behind the frosted glass, while crickets chirp outside, and smiling guests murmur around square tables.

Dimmed lights and rose-shaped candles burn in glass cases. The Biscayne Bay's clear water sparkled under a crescent moon as palm fronds swayed in the wind outside.

Looking through the wide windows on the second floor, one can see and hear it all at the Chaplin School of Hospitality and Tourism Management's brand new Restaurant Management Laboratory—a fully functioning restaurant and kitchen.

"It was nothing but a rectangle," said Mohammad Qureshi, associate dean of FIU Hospitality and Management, about the previous structure. Originally a library, the Chaplin building did not have a 120-seat dining room with built-in cameras, a wine room and a beer-brewing lab. It only held about 60 people.

Southern Wine and Spirits' Wine and Food Festival, however, began raising money to build the new lab. A four-year-

long project, the Restaurant Management Lab was built to give students in the Advanced Food Service Management classes a place to have hands-on experience in an environment ideal for their future careers.

Some of the restaurant's unique features are the iPads set up in the front of the kitchen where orders are processed, through an app called Lavu. Pasta and wok stations, and a state-of-the-art, computerized combination oven that can roast, steam and cook any food based on setting. The oven also saves each chef's individual settings.

"Building the restaurant was an investment to provide students with experience in the back of the house and the front of the house," Qureshi said.

Students manage everything in the "house," chef-speak for restaurant, not just the food; they organize the table settings, drinks, desserts, service and cleaning.

"It's not just about cooking anymore," said Crystal Lopez, senior and student of one of the first Advanced Food Service Management classes to use the new equipment. "It's about event management and the culinary aspect of running a restaurant."

With 35 students per class, the students are grouped into five management teams who put together four sections of dining

services over the course of a semester. This includes 25 lunches and dinners put on by students themselves.

"[The students] put so much work into this class, it's good to step back and watch," said Mark D'Alessandro, a visiting professor of Advanced Food Service Management. For the student chefs at FIU, the "International" comes in the food they cook and serve. "In this class, we cover the globe in the food that we cover," D'Alessandro said.

On Oct. 8 at 6 p.m., guests were let into the Restaurant Management Lab for a Moroccan feast at "Bombay Spice." The students of Professor Judith Williams' class came up with the name of the restaurant, which varies according to class.

"It's good practice for the industry," says Williams, who assures the \$7.5 million restaurant will help students become "rock stars" in the field of culinary arts.

The dinner consisted of aloo samosas with cilantro sauce and mango chutney, along with fresh naan for the appetizer, seabass chala masala or mughlai lamb curry for the main course, and cardamon rose delight for dessert; Williams picked the menu items, but the students prepared the food and the menu design.

For student chefs Christina Alvez and Sarai Toston, the experience has helped them become better chefs

## SOME HEALTHY COLOR



JOSEFINE GYLLENPORRE/THE BEACON

The 5k Color Run, organized by students, brought several people of all ages to enjoy a beautiful run by the bay while getting coated in colors.

and better team members.

"There's a consistent flow of communication," said Alvez. "It's very tough, but Chef Williams is great."

"It's a very fast-paced environment, so you have to learn to react quickly to changes," Toston said.

For guests Annette and Bill Payne, the dinner was

excellent, the attention to detail was impeccable and the presentation was superb.

"I wasn't thinking it was like a 5-star restaurant—just a cafeteria setting," said Bill Payne. "But as soon as you walk inside, it's amazing. Any expectations I had were shot."

The lunches and dinners

presented at the Restaurant Management Lab are open to the public with an entry fee of \$20.00 per person, \$18.00 each for parties of three or more. The meal includes an appetizer, choice of entrée, desert, coffee and wine. Lunch starts at noon and dinner starts at 6 p.m.

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## Shutdown means no new beer from craft brewers

**CARRIE ANTLINGER**  
**TODD RICHMOND**  
*Associated Press*

The federal government shutdown could leave America's craft brewers with a serious hangover.

Stores will still offer plenty of suds. But the shutdown has closed an obscure agency that quietly approves new breweries, recipes and labels, which could create huge delays throughout the rapidly growing craft industry, whose customers expect a constant supply of inventive and seasonal beers.

Mike Brenner is trying to open a craft brewery in Milwaukee by December. His application to include a tasting room is now on hold, as are his plans to file paperwork for four labels over the next few weeks. He expects to lose about \$8,000 for every month his opening is delayed.

"My dream, this is six years in the making, is to open this brewery," Brenner said. "I've been working so hard, and I find all these great investors. And now I can't get started because people are fighting over this or that in

Washington. ... This is something people don't mess around with. Even in a bad economy, people drink beer."

The Alcohol and Tobacco Tax and Trade Bureau, or TTB, is a little-known arm of the Treasury Department. The agency will continue to process taxes from existing permit holders, but applications for anything new are in limbo.

"One could think of this shutdown as basically stopping business indefinitely for anyone who didn't have certain paperwork in place back in mid-August," said Paul Gatza, director of the Brewers Association, which represents more than 1,900 U.S. breweries.

A woman who answered the phone Oct. 2 at TTB's headquarters in Washington abruptly hung up after explaining that the government was shut down. Assistant Administrator Cheri Mitchell did not respond to telephone or email messages.

The shutdown began Oct. 1 after a group of House Republican lawmakers blocked a budget deal in a last-ditch effort to stop funding for President Barack Obama's health

care law.

The closing isn't expected to have much effect on industry giants such as Miller-Coors or Anheuser-Busch. They can continue to produce existing products as usual. But

applications before the shutdown. Now they're bracing for even longer waits. And tempers are flaring.

Tony Magee, owner of Lagunitas Brewing Co. in Petaluma, Calif., posted messages on his Twitter account this week ripping the shutdown.

"(Expletive) Feds are gonna shut down the already incompetent .Gov while hundreds of small breweries, including us, have labels pending. Nice." That was followed with "Wanna regulate? Perform or get out of the way."

Lagunitas Chief Operating Officer Todd Stevenson called the TTB shutdown a "headache." He said the company was planning to submit an application to

package its autumn seasonal Hairy Eyeball in 22-ounce bottles instead of 12-ounce bottles but can't move forward.

"It's just aggravating," Stevenson said. "It is frustrating that the government can't do its job. Doing what they're doing now is unprecedented."

the shutdown poses a huge problem for craft brewers, who build their businesses by producing quirky, offbeat flavors and introducing new seasonal beers, sometimes as often as every quarter.

Craft brewers around the country say TTB was taking as long as 75 days to approve

“ It is frustrating that the government can't do its job. Doing what they're doing now is unprecedented. ”  
Todd Stevenson  
Chief Operating Officer  
Lagunitas