

## Calatayud and Roman-Biffa to run for second term

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For the first time since 2000, the Student Government Council at Modesto A. Maidique Campus President and Vice President are running for re-election.

Last week, SGC-MMC President Alexis Calatayud and Vice President Tiffany Roman-Biffa sat down with Student Media to discuss their platform for the upcoming elections and their intention to run for another term.

“The biggest motivating factor was the idea of continuity between the huge things happening right now at FIU,” Calatayud said.

According to Calatayud, the University is among several in the nation undergoing rapid change. Among these changes is the way that universities receive funding.

At the moment, the University is being funded under performance-based metrics, standards that each of the 12 institutions of higher education in the state university system must meet in order to receive money from the government.

Calatayud admitted that all universities are measured using the same metrics, a practice that fails to take into account the uniqueness of each university in question.

The major metrics for which the University is being evaluated is the graduation rate of students and retention rate, which takes into account the percentage of freshman who return for a second year at the University.

Among the projects that both Calatayud and Roman-Biffa have been working on is the 2015-2020 strategic plan of the University. They have proposed a complete overhaul of the freshman experience course, which they have found plays a major role in influencing the level of engagement between students and their university.

Calatayud feels that many students at the University don’t necessarily have the confidence to continue with their education, and this is due mainly to issues regarding financial aid.

She and Roman-Biffa want to solve this issue.

Both are interested in seeking more channels to provide students with added

financial opportunities, specifically need-based aid.

The main stance they assumed during their administration this year was to get access to Pell Grant scholarships for the summer semester.

They decided to tackle this issue after taking note of the large portion of students who take classes during the summer and don’t have access to scholarships to pay for the courses.

Calatayud added that while other universities have students who traditionally take full course loads during the fall and spring semesters, the University features a non-traditional student population that actively takes classes during the summer semester.

“Our students are our DNA, and they are nontraditional,” Roman-Biffa said.

Calatayud recently went to Washington, D.C. on an advocacy trip to find support from the Senate and other congresspeople on her and Roman-Biffa’s initiative.

In addition to Pell Grants, they are also passionate about the idea of Bright Futures scholarships during the summer semester, considering that

## GAME OF HEARTS



CARL-FREDRICK FRANCOIS/THE BEACON

Derek Barcelo, brother of Pi Kappa Phi and winner of the King of Hearts pageant, wears a costume that represents one of Sigma Kappa’s philanthropies during the costume round on Wednesday, March 18.

these scholarships are only offered for the fall and spring semesters.

Calatayud admitted that she and other student body presidents from the state university system have decided that one of their number one priorities during the current legislative session is the issue of scholarships.

Governor Rick Scott is also on board, according to Calatayud.

She mentioned that the University’s Student Government Association hired a professional lobbyist, Andreina Figueiredo, to represent SGA in Tallahassee in light of these efforts. A graduate of the University, she is paid

\$16,000 for the legislative term using funds from the Activity and Services fee, according to Calatayud.

The predominant demographic missing out on these scholarships are minorities and those of low socioeconomic backgrounds, both of which are found in the University.

“We need to find another way to support bright students who their main problem...is their [financial] need,” Calatayud said.

Taking on the possibility of a second term, Calatayud and Roman-Biffa look forward to solving this issue.

“We feel passionately about financial aid and what can happen in the future

with that in the state of Florida,” Calatayud said.

Another issue on their agenda is study space on campus.

According to the results of the University-wide survey, SGA identified the fact that several students feel the University doesn’t have enough study areas for students.

What these study areas provide is an opportunity for students to stay on campus to complete their work, which may allow them to increase their chances of graduating on time and develop a stronger sense of affinity with the University.

For the full story see [fiusm.com](http://fiusm.com)

## University welcomes new VP of Engagement

**NATALIE ALATRISTE**  
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The University’s Office of Engagement will soon welcome a new vice president.

On Wednesday, March 4, President Mark B. Rosenberg and Provost Kenneth G. Furton sent out a University-wide memorandum informing the University community of the appointment of Saif Ishoof.

Ishoof will begin his term at the University on Sunday, May 3, and serve as a top representative for the School of International and Public Affairs, according to the memorandum.

Amy Ellis, the assistant director for public relations and marketing, said the Office of Engagement was implemented by President Rosenberg to “serve as a catalyst for civic and community engagement, both locally and globally.”

“Engagement provides leadership for the development and coordination of partnerships at the local, state, national and international levels with the goal of aligning FIU’s

instructional, research and creative initiatives with local and global needs and priorities,” said Ellis in an email.

Ishoof’s leadership in the Miami community is committed to developing young people. He is the father of two, Rania and Nabeel.

His wife, Amira, who is double majoring in international relations and political science, is currently a student at the University’s Honors College.

“I have a bird’s eye view into the reality of what it’s like for students at FIU because I see it through the journey that my wife goes through, as well as her friends,” Ishoof said.

Ishoof moved to Miami as a youth from Guayana.

Despite being born in the South American country, Ishoof has origins in India, with his religious beliefs being set in Islam. The youngest of four, he was raised in Miami and attended Gulliver Preparatory School.

“I’ve had the opportunity to cross roads with a lot of different cultures because I’m a Miami kid [who has] grown up with a lot of Cuban-American influence, but technically, my family is Indian, culturally from the Caribbean, with a

Muslim faith affiliation,” Ishoof said.

He said he always felt deeply connected to Cuban-Americans because of a similar exile experience.

During the time when Ishoof immigrated to Miami, Guayana’s government was exhibiting socialist leanings, a situation which closely ties to reasons that many Cubans have immigrated to the United States from their island nation.

His eldest sister, the first to go to college in his family, attended the University and gave him the opportunity to see the University from a young age.

“As a kid... I remember going to campus with her. We would walk around and she would buy me pizza,” Ishoof said. “I saw that version of FIU almost 30 years ago.”

For college, Ishoof went to study at the School of Foreign Service at Georgetown University, which happens to also be where former President Bill Clinton attended. It was at Georgetown that Ishoof realized his passion to help people.

When he graduated from Georgetown University, he knew he wanted to come back to South Florida.

“Miami is where my heart was... My driving interest was really to be back home in the 3-0-5,” he said.

For about a year, he worked for his dad’s small family business. After that, Ishoof attended the University of Miami’s Law School.

Ishoof’s accomplishments range from a startup entrepreneur to chief executive officer of FCT Technologies Corp., which specializes in international projects that deal with the environment, according to the memorandum.

He is currently the executive director for City Year Miami, which, according to its website, is an organization that strives to reduce the dropout rate by providing mentors to underprivileged communities.

Ishoof has worked with young people his whole life. He said he loves connecting with people and wants students to recognize him as a resource for anything.

“My passion is young people...I want to play a key role for students to the world at large,” Ishoof said. “People ask me what the three letters of FIU mean to me, and I tell them: FIU stands for the ‘Future Is Us.’”

# NATION & WORLD BRIEFS

## Islamic State group claims responsibility for Tunisia attack that killed 20 tourists

The Islamic State group on Thursday claimed responsibility for an attack in Tunisia that killed 20 tourists at a well-known museum in the country's capital.

In an audio statement released on social media, the Islamic State named the two gunmen it said had carried out the Wednesday attack, called them "knights of the caliphate," and threatened more violence in Tunisia. "You will not

enjoy security nor peace as far as the Islamic State has men like these," the statement said.

But Tunisian authorities said they had yet to tie any of the attack's perpetrators to the Islamic State, and another group's claim of responsibility was posted by Oqba Ibn Nafaa, a group affiliated with al-Qaida in the Islamic Maghreb, al-Qaida's branch that operates in Mali and southern Algeria.

## Netanyahu reverses on Palestinian statehood; White House fumes

Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu, fresh from a victory in Israel's elections, tried Thursday to walk back a campaign statement that no Palestinian state would be established on his watch, saying he still endorsed a two-state solution to the conflict.

But the White House responded with tough comments that indicated the Obama administration

doubts Netanyahu's sincerity. In unusually harsh language delivered after Netanyahu's statements were aired, press secretary Josh Earnest multiple times chastised the Israeli prime minister, who he said had "backed away from commitments." He also questioned whether the United States and Israel still share democratic values.

## How World War II figures in a new fight over Greek debt

Last week in the Greek village of Nafpolio, Germans Ludwig Zaccaro and Nina Lange handed 875 euro, about \$940 at the current rate, to the local mayor. The money, which the mayor said would be given to a local charity, was what the couple figured was their share of Germany's World War II debt to Greece.

They'd always loved Greece, they said in an interview shown on Greek television, and felt bad about their country's role in the current economic difficulties.

"Our politicians pretend the Greeks owe debt to Germany, but the reality is that it is the other way around," Lange said.

Their point of view differs widely from the general German attitude about Greece — 80 percent, polls show, don't want Germany to give any more aid to Greece and 50 percent want Greece gone from the eurozone — but it strikes at an argument that the new Greek government is pressing: Germany owes Greece money, not the other way around.

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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.



## Good habits over mindless hazards

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Everyone says it is good to recycle. We always have heard the three R's of helping the environment: Reduce, Reuse and Recycle thanks to conservation programs and television shows like "Captain Planet."

But when you take a look into what goes on after sorting plastics from paper, glass from metals, you may get an uglier picture about what goes on in the factories that make recycled products that we can buy for fewer than five dollars at a local store.

I'm not saying recycling is bad. I say it is a great habit to get into and have a notion of doing something good on your behalf. But it is the factories and

processing plants that use fossil fuels to make recycled plastic bottles filled with drinking water or recycled glass bottles filled with organic teas and juices.

We may have this mindless consciousness of not knowing what truly goes on in the landfills that makes us understand that what we think is right, may seem wrong and profitable to those to play on our cognitive dissonance.

However, when people throw away food, there is a positive side to recycling. Scraps of chucked food are often fed to pigs on small subsidy farms where they lap it up like it is the best thing on the planet.

Even if you want to do your part for the environment, the least you can do is think of the unused foods from your annual disposal of garbage going towards fattening pigs for bacon season.

In fact, recycling reduces the amount of waste that makes its way to the oceans where sea turtles choke on plastic bags of Lays and Doritos because it looks like some tasty morsel of jellyfish.

So the next time you see someone littering their empty cans and bags into the ocean, knock them out silly for wanting to keep Crush the sea turtle living past 150-years-old.

Recycling also helps reduce the amount of waste that piles up in landfills that originally are meant for disposable materials like food, paper and other organic matters.

Old tires or non-reusable tires like scraps of rubber from blow outs, are being recycled, given new treads and then shipped off to tire manufacturers to be logoed with brands like Goodyear or Michelin.

It's the problems of littering and dissonance that we need to focus on when it comes to our part in recycling.

So whenever you see someone pass a trash can and throw their crumpled potato chip bags, styrofoam boxes dripping with leftover mystery sauce and the occasional flying trash on the highway.

No one bothers to think that maybe we are going to kill top predators and cute little creatures because what we throw from our windows shouldn't concern us with contributing important nutrients back into the environment.

Each time you see people throw away garbage and treat anything recyclable like normal trash, just think back to those fifth-grade biodegradable experiments and think about what you can try to do to give back to Mother Nature.

## Vloggers: the celebrities of the Internet

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The popularity of social media can be credited either to society being so bored that anything will entertain them or, perhaps, that there really is some visceral connection created through computer screens.

Facebook, Twitter, Instagram, Snapchat, the list goes on. There are so many social platforms created to communicate with others. The face value of these services is beneficial; keeping in touch with friends and family has never been easier.

However, there are those who make a living on these sites. This occurs particularly on video sites such as Vine, Snapchat and YouTube. These people are known as "vloggers" or

video bloggers.

Focusing on YouTube, there is a large array of content. The "beauty gurus" who provide in depth makeup tutorials, product reviews and fashion advice; the "sketch comedians" who perform rehearsed skits and the "gamer" channels that have series dedicated to play-through of different video games. There are crossovers, or sub-genres, within each of these categories.

The conundrum of these entertainers is the success of their vlog channels.

Many vloggers have a main channel focusing on their specific skill set with millions of viewers subscribed to them.

It is comparable to a television series, where the audience can reasonably expect a video according to a devised schedule the vlogger has set. Popular channels

get views in the hundred thousands.

On their second channel, however, vloggers upload videos of their everyday lives. The videos usually range from 10 to 30 minutes and the upload schedule can be daily, weekly, monthly or sporadically. These videos could literally be anything.

The vloggers take their audience with them everywhere! There are videos of special events, scenes from their work, vacations or even shopping trips. While this concept seems silly on paper, the vlogging videos generate as many views for the vloggers as their main channel videos do.

Perhaps it is the glamour of editing that makes the mundane seem appealing. Close-ups, musical montages, fast-forward and jump cuts allow for a smooth

transition from scene to scene. However, there are some vlogs that feature very few of these special effects.

So, what is it? What makes the ordinary life of another person so interesting? The answer might be two fold.

Like reality TV these vlogs are numbingly entertaining. Watching another person's boring life might be the pick-me-up needed after a hard day. The viewer can unplug from their life and veg.

Unlike reality TV however, the element that draws viewers to these videos is the connection they feel to the vloggers. It's one thing to watch reality stars hash out their drama over a five star meal, it is another to watch an everyday person do things we would do.

These videos are so open and engaging the viewer feels like the vlogger's friend, a

part of their life. Throughout the video the vlogger is constantly addressing the audience and positioning the camera to where they would be standing and what they would be seeing if they were there.

The audience can even have an impact on the vlogger's life. In a video, popular YouTuber, Alfie Deyes, said, "If somebody in my comments was like 'Alfie, your new hair cut was rubbish please don't cut it like that again' I would probably think maybe I won't cut it like that again, maybe it doesn't suit me?"

Even the vloggers themselves seem mind blown by the success of their second channels. Recently, the popular YouTuber, Zoella, began vlogging again after taking a hiatus from the practice.

In her latest video she

asks her audience why they enjoy vlogs so much?

The majority of the responses had to do with how relatable the vloggers are in their vlogs as opposed to how they act in their skits or tutorials.

Zoella, herself said, "I feel like I am there with them. I can appreciate that it's 10/15 minutes of someone's day and things can get massively blown out of proportion, tiny teeny tiny things because that's all they have got to work on and I really enjoy watching people live."

Watching another person struggle through similar problems makes us feel as though we are not alone.

Seeing someone else break down and overcome that problem make us feel hopeful. Hearing words of encouragement is a comfort that helps us to try again.

This is what vlogs can do.



SAMUEL PRITCHARD/THE BEACON

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## HATS OFF TO THE KING OF HEARTS



**LEFT:** Ivanna Leon, FIU graduate student and alumna of Sigma Kappa, hosts the King Hearts pageant. **CENTER:** Derek Barcelo, brother of Pi Kappa Phi, is crowned winner of the 2015 King of Hearts pageant on Wednesday, March 18. **RIGHT:** Evan Gregorius, brother of Sigma Chi, shows his costume during the costume round.



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## 109 TOWER



# Major DC cliffhangers



CHRIS SANTIAGO

Why? Why did I have to watch that returning episode of “The Flash?” My brain, my heart, my soul, all left up in the air and at the best and the worst cliffhanger in television history.

I’ll just start from my thoughts at the very beginning of the episode: I’m a huge fan of the show “Spartacus,” so seeing Liam McIntyre as the Weather Wizard was fantastic enough on its own. Spectacular performance by McIntyre, as always.

Along with all that transpired in today’s episode, I’ve learned a few things: First off, Dr. Wells, or as we know him now to be Eobard Thawne, is truly pure evil. I thought that maybe we would see him as an anti-hero. I was wrong. He goes as far as killing our beloved Cisco in cold blood after he reveals his true identity.

That broke my heart. Seeing Cisco helpless and alone in front of the big bad guy and then shown impaled by Eobard made me cringe! It was too much to watch. And Barry finally gets his kiss from Iris at the worst time: when her father along with all of Central City is about to be swallowed by an incoming tsunami.

But you have to admit: that costume change in front of Iris was great. And then, the biggest plot twist of all: Barry hit enough speed to time travel. He was the Flash he saw during his earlier run in the beginning of the episode.

He time traveled, so that must mean that everything is back to normal, right? Since when did it become okay for Ra’s Al Ghul to wear Arrow’s hood? Because I wasn’t okay

with that!

Now I can already see how this is going to lay out: Ra’s Al Ghul will commit crimes in the Arrow’s suit and that will, in turn, have Captain Lance believe further that the Arrow is no good in Starling City and will lead a rebellion against our hero. This will lead to the eventual clash between Oliver and Ra’s Al Ghul so that Ollie may get his honor back and his reputation as a hero vigilante once again.

What I’m saying is that this episode led to a lot of predictable outcomes. Nyssa Al Ghul will probably betray her father and help Oliver fight him in the end since she now realizes how little her father ever cared about her and Sara’s love.

Felicity made it painfully obvious to all of us, again, that she and Oliver will never be a thing and that is all on him since he decided to turn her down. And in that very next scene, we see Oliver’s face as he watches Felicity pick up the phone when Ray Palmer (A.T.O.M.) calls her.

Overall, this episode was predictable and had less action than an “Arrow” episode usually possesses. However, the one quality that saved this episode for me was that the Lazarus Pit exists in the Arrow universe!

For those of you who may not know, the Lazarus Pit is a small pool of water that has magical healing abilities. In the comics, Ra’s Al Ghul uses it continuously to live for hundreds of years and maintain his youth.

It becomes addicting to the user and he slowly loses his mind. But in the Arrow universe, I guess they’re going to keep it simple and make it a magical fountain that can heal your wounds. I hope we get to explore that throughout the rest of the series! It would be awesome!

# Classic hip-hop revived by local artist

VINCENT RIVES  
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Throughout American culture, different eras of time have had a specific genre that defined that era’s history.

“I would particularly get drawn to the way music defined generations and decades, the way you can remember that something happened in history, and it had a soundtrack to it,” says local hip-hop DJ EFN.

Though born in Los Angeles, EFN has always been proud to represent Miami, specifically the Kendall area.

The Miami Sunset Senior High alumnus has made his origins clear, from his career’s early mixtapes series, to his recent compilation album “Another Time.”

Like the album’s title insists, DJ EFN chose to craft an album that had the same vibe as the 90s rugged and raw hip-hop scene. Artists like N.W.A. and Public Enemy had

aggressive-political content in their music and were still developing the genre’s popularity despite radio

current artists Killer Mike and Your Old Droog as well as local talent Denzel Curry and Gunplay.

Being an early pioneer

“I would particularly get drawn to the way music defined generations and decades, the way you can remember that something happened in history, and it had a soundtrack to it

EFN  
DJ  
Hip-Hop

“At that time hip-hop artists didn’t even want to be on the radio, the main scene at that time was forget the radio, the radio is for Vanilla Ice and MC Hammer, the radio was not what hip-hop is.”

Growing up through this era, EFN has decided to take the same approach and include current underground rappers, who have created their own following, without the mainstream/pop approach.

Another Time features songs with veteran artists like Scarface and Redman,

of Miami hip-hop mixtapes, EFN recalls a time when he did whatever it took to get emerging artists like Outkast and Kanye West featured on his tapes.

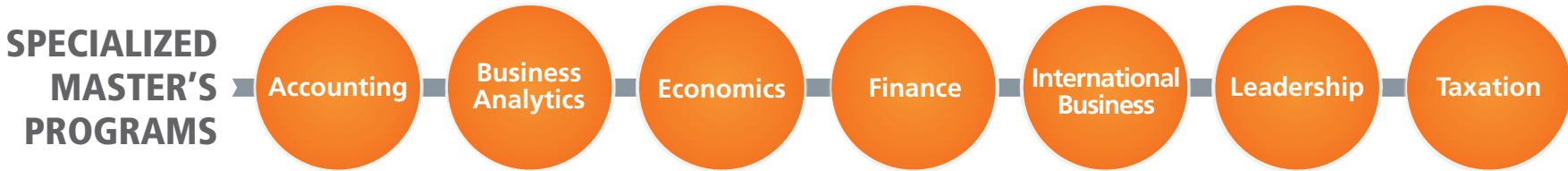
“If they were performing in Miami, for a concert or whatever, I would roll up on them with my crew, hand them the microphone and be like, ‘What’s up I’m DJ EFN, I need you to drop a freestyle for my mixtape,’ on the spot. I knew nothing was going to be given to me and I felt like these guys needed to be heard in Miami.”

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## SWIMMING

# Swimming's busiest week comes to an end with the NCAA Championships

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The FIU Swimming and Diving team's busiest week of the year caps off with two swimmers competing in the NCAA Championships in Greensboro, North Carolina.

Freshman Silvia Scalia and senior Johanna Gustafsdottir were both selected by the team on Wednesday to represent FIU at the Championship.

Two weeks ago, the two swimmers led the Panthers to their first ever Conference USA title and are rewarded with a bid to the NCAA Championships.

The Panthers' swim for an NCAA Championship began on Thursday with the 200 IM. In the 200 IM, Gustafsdottir placed in a respectable 28th out of 60 competitors with a time of 1:58.18.

With that time, Gustafsdottir was the best finisher amongst the mid-major schools.

She will compete on Friday in the 400 IM before competing in the 200 breaststroke on Saturday, which will be her final swim of her college career.

Scalia will begin her Championship on Friday with the 100 backstroke and will continue on Saturday in the 200 backstroke.

Scalia was FIU's standout of the season, breaking the record for most C-USA Swimmer of the week awards and shattered the school record in the 200 backstroke at the C-USA Championships

Harris said that two swimmers were sucked into a rip current and panicked. Harris and Chadwick, aware of the situation, jumped into the water to rescue the two swimmers, with Harris

to rescue the stranded male swimmer.

"And then a wave hit," Harris said. "I was 5 feet from the man, a wave hit and he was under and never popped back up."

"I think it's a testament to their character to instantly respond to someone in need, even as you put yourself in danger," Horner said.

Horner made headlines this week as well. The 2014-

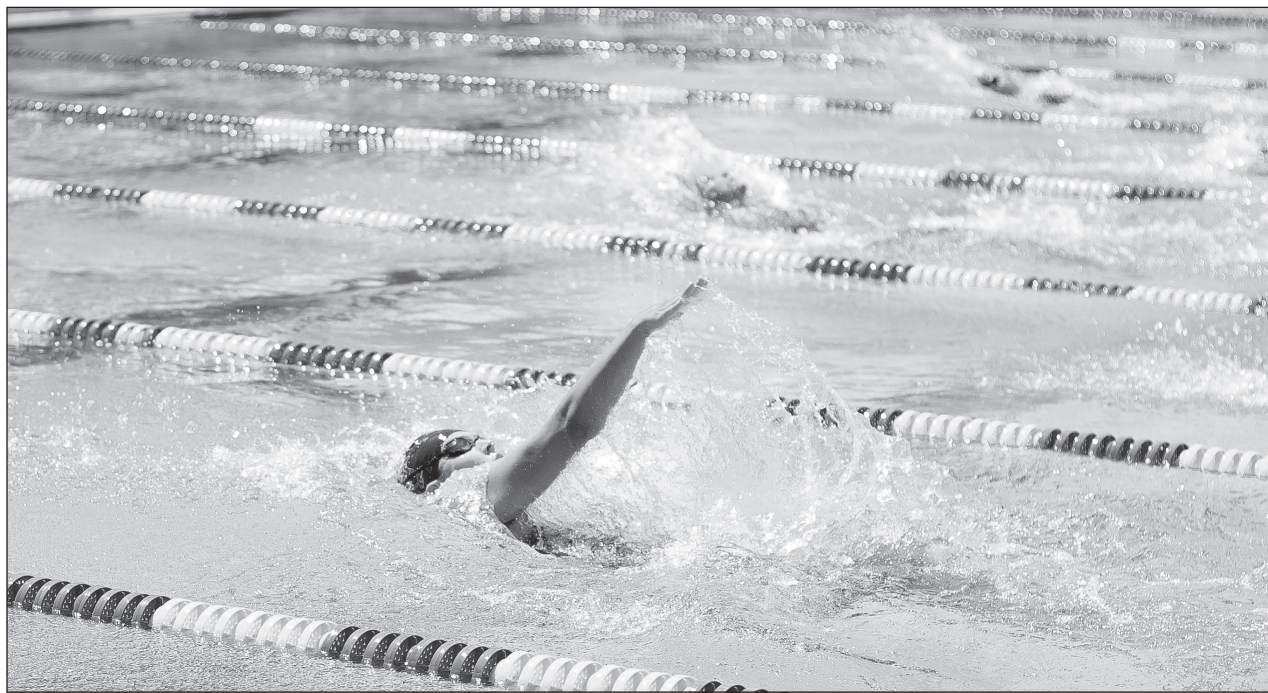
the pool, the community and in the classroom. It will be exciting to see the levels to which he will take us in the next four years."

The extension comes two weeks after Horner led the Swimming and Diving team to the school's first ever C-USA Championship and the team's first undefeated season. Horner's swimmers claimed a total of 28 individual championships during the season and broke 12 school records at the C-USA Championship.

As Garcia mentioned in his statement, the coach's success is not limited to within the walls of the pool.

In the nine semesters that Horner has been at the helm of the Swimming and Diving team, only once did the coach not lead the team to the Nike CSCAA Scholar All-America Team. In order to gain entrance into the All-America Team, the program must maintain a team GPA of 3.0 or higher.

In the 2013-2014 season, the Panthers, under Horner's guidance, earned the CHAMPS/Life Skills Cup Award at last year's FIU Athletics Banquet. The award is given to the athletic program that shows the highest level of commitment in the classroom, their community service, and their performance on the field.



JEFFREY PIERRE/THE BEACON

Senior Johanna Gustafsdottir swims freestyle on an Oct. 4 meet against Florida Atlantic University.

two weeks ago.

However, the Swimming and Diving team have made headlines outside of the pool this week as well.

Last Saturday, two FIU swimmers, Chase Harris and Jess Chadwick, rescued a swimmer in distress in North Palm Beach, Florida.

According to WPBF-ABC 25 in North Palm Beach,

going for a male swimmer while Chadwick went for the female swimmer

"She was drowning, but I just told her to hold onto my foot and I just swam as fast as I could to shore and pulled her out," Chadwick said.

While Chadwick rescued the distressed female swimmer, Harris continued to battle the fierce current

Authorities conducted a search for the missing swimmer that continued into the night, but were not successful. A day later, a fisherman spotted the body of the male swimmer while out for a day on the water.

Head Coach Randy Horner spoke to the Miami Herald after hearing about the swimmers' brave endeavor.

2015 C-USA Coach of the Year had his contract extended until the 2018-2019 season, athletic director Pete Garcia announced on Thursday.

"The success that our swimming and diving program has had since Coach Horner's arrival is remarkable," Garcia said. "He has turned FIU into a championship program in

## FOOTBALL

# Football season underway as team begins spring practice

**JACOB SPIWAK**  
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FIU football was officially back Thursday morning, as the new-look team took the field for their first spring practice of the season.

After the Panthers' very active offseason, there's a lot of excitement as practice begins this spring.

This will be the first chance for the new coaches to work with the entire roster, and some of the new additions to the team will have the opportunity to show the coaches what they have to offer.

One of those new additions is true freshman offensive standout Anthony Jones, who signed with FIU after his high school career at Miami Central High School came to an end.

Jones is expected to have a lot of playing time right off the bat at wide receiver, and since he's an early

enrollee he's getting the opportunity to practice with the team all spring.

According to Pete Pelegrin of FIUSports.com, in addition to making some plays at wide receiver, Jones was also lining up with fellow speedster Richard Leonard for first team kickoff returns.

The two are some of the best athletes on the team, so the strategy a lot of teams used to kick the ball away from the dangerous Leonard (an All-Conference returner) in 2014 may not work this year with Jones standing alongside him.

Leonard, who was named to the 2014 All-Conference USA team as a cornerback as well as a returner, opted to return for his senior season rather than enter the NFL Draft.

Not only is he focusing on getting better and more physical as a cornerback, but he has some bigger goals as well.

"I made my decision [to return] so I can graduate school and compete to



KRONO LESCANO/THE BEACON

Freshman quarterback Alex McGough passes the ball in the game against Middle Tennessee last season. He will compete to start again this season.

win a Conference USA championship and a bowl game," Leonard said in an interview with The Beacon in January.

Another player who starred in 2014 was running back Alex Gardener, who

was the team's leading rusher until a shoulder injury against Marshall ended his true freshman season.

According to all reports, Gardener looked fantastic in the first practice of

the season, which is great news for new running backs coach Tim Harris Jr.

As the spring goes on, it will be interesting to see how certain position battles go. One of the biggest question marks is who will start on the offensive line this year.

Pelegrin reported that Aaron Nielsen, Trenton Saunders, and Edens Sineace were getting first team reps at the three open positions on the line (center, right guard, and right tackle).

The Panthers will take the practice field again on Saturday morning, and then have a couple days off before returning to practice on Tuesday.

Although it was announced earlier in the offseason that spring practices would be open to fans and media, it was recently decided that all of the practices would be closed.

Fans are still encouraged to go to the Spring Game, which takes place at 7 p.m. on Friday, April 17.



## MLB

## Welcome the new 'Big Three' in Miami

## CAPTAIN'S CORNER



ALEJANDRO AGUIRRE

Nobody is going to have to take their talents to South Beach this offseason in Miami sports as the Miami Marlins have established a young and exciting team over the offseason that is ready to spin some heads.

Headlining this team is right fielder slugger Giancarlo Stanton who was a final MVP candidate last season and arguably in the top five of best hitters in the game today.

After having his best season yet the Marlins' front office negotiated with Stanton and were able to agree on a 13 year, \$325 million contract extension.

This is the largest contract money wise in sports history.

Miami is looking for a new team to rally behind and its been a while now that baseball was the sport fans loved in this city.

So I am going to say before hand now that South Florida fans are going to dust off the wagons that have been unused since the 2003 title because there are going to be some bandwagons.

This season the Fish have a unique blend of grizzled veterans and young players with some fresh legs that are ready to compete in the difficult NL East.

With Stanton as the catalyst of the team, the Marlins last season were able to establish a young core of players that were able to lead this team to compete for

wild card spot in the playoffs. Enter the new big three. This big three is the Marlins outfield and they were able to play all together for a full season for the first time this past year. Stanton has established himself as the right fielder obviously and his other two teammates covering the outfield is center fielder Marcell Ozuna and left fielder Christian Yelich.

Fans already know what Stanton can bring to the table in years past but for the new guys, Ozuna and Yelich, they still have a lot to prove counting on the fact that they only been in the majors for two seasons.

The beauty about this trio is that they are young and being ranked No.1 overall as the best outfield by ESPN and MLB Network doesn't hurt either.

Having that much talent in one outfield on any team is extremely rare to find so it was crucial for the Marlins to lock up these players long term.

The team obviously did that with Stanton with his massive contract and a few days ago the front office was able to extend Yelich's contract and agree on a seven year, \$49.57 deal.

This is great news for the team especially since Yelich is now ranked as the tenth best left fielder by MLB Network. He was also awarded the National League left fielder gold glove for his defensive efforts last season.

The team still has not been able to work out a contract for Ozuna but he is still under club control until 2018.

and engaged NBA fans in the study. WalletHub looked at 300 eligible teams (at least one college basketball or NBA team) and weighed them using 11 different metrics to determine the ranking of a basketball city.

The categories broke down into team performance, ticket prices, stadium accessibility, and fan friendliness and engagement. Storrs, Connecticut - the home of the University of Connecticut Huskies - polled in at number one overall on the list.

## THE WINDUP AND THE PITCH



MEGAN TAIT/THE BEACON

Freshman pitcher Andres Nunez pitches against Manhattan College on Feb. 28. The Panthers won that game 17-0.

This still gives the Marlins a window for a few years to compete for a championship with this trio. All three players have

“

I think 12 years is long enough of a streak of not making the playoffs.

”

above average defensive skills and cover lots of ground in the spacious Marlins Park.

Yelich's scouting report projects to be a 20-20 threat. This means he has the ability to hit 20

homeruns and steal 20 bases.

Ozuna has the ability and is projected to hit over 25 homeruns a season and what makes Ozuna

more unique center fielder is his arm. He has above average strength on his arm because he is naturally a corner outfielder but has the speed and athleticism to patrol centerfield to this a factor

that not many teams have.

With Stanton at 25, Ozuna at 24, and Yelich at 23 years old they have so much room to improve each year and look what they have accomplished in a span of two season playing together.

The sky is the limit for these players and each of them resemble a prototypical "5 tool player." Expect not just these three, but the Marlins to be competitive and in the hunt for a playoff spot. I think 12 years is long enough of a streak of not making the playoffs.

Hopefully this big three is welcomed by Miami fans but don't expect them promising not one, not two, not three, not four... you get my point.

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## NBA

## Miami ranked No. 13 best place to be a basketball fan

## DRUCKER DIGEST



DAVID DRUCKER

in America.

Miami was ranked number one in friendly

The theory that Miami is shaking its football roots and becoming a basketball town is no longer just speculation - it's fact.

In a recent study by Wallethub.com, the city was ranked as the 13th best place to be a basketball fan

and engaged NBA fans in the study. WalletHub looked at 300 eligible teams (at least one college basketball or NBA team) and weighed them using 11 different metrics to determine the ranking of a basketball city.

The categories broke down into team performance, ticket prices, stadium accessibility, and fan friendliness and engagement. Storrs, Connecticut - the home of the University of Connecticut Huskies - polled in at number one overall on the list.

Miami made multiple appearances at the extreme ends of the data. For lowest average ticket price, the city was ranked 24th most expensive.

The Miami Heat was also ranked as the third best performing team in the NBA on the other side of the spectrum.

Fan friendliness and engagement was determined by the team's number of Twitter followers plus number of "Likes" on Facebook. While the Miami Heat earned

number one in this aspect, college basketball teams of Miami dialed in at 292.

The results of the study should not be a surprise for the Miami Heat, who tied an NBA record last year with four straight trips to the NBA Finals.

The team will travel to Milwaukee to play the Bucks on March 24 for its second contest of a four-game road trip.

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## Dwayne "The Flash" Wade is back... again

## LOUIS AGUDELO

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The Miami Heat have seen a significant turning of the tides in Biscayne Bay since this time last year, as the greatest basketball player on the planet and obvious first ballot hall-of-famer LeBron James took his talents back to his

home in Ohio.

This and other setbacks, such as losing Chris Bosh and Josh McRoberts for the remainder of the regular season have sent the Heat from sitting virtually atop the Eastern Conference for the last four seasons and being a favorite to make the finals, to hanging on for dear life to one of the final two playoff spots in a

conference where you can lose more than you win and make the postseason.

This Heat team has had to rally behind things such as having acquired roughly a third of their roster off of minimal 10-day contracts, and "Heat-Lifers" Udonis Haslem and Dwyane Wade.

Wade has missed much of the season with recurring leg issues,

making things a lot harder on his teammates, as the three-time Finals Champion and NBA Finals MVP is one of the lone bright spots for Miami. As of late, he's managed to really turn things around though, as he's scored at least 25 points in the last seven contests, and is averaging 53% shooting in those seven games.

Wade credits the fourth quarter play to his improved care for himself, and a slight change in his workout routine.

"It feels good, man," Wade said, now the Heat hope to hold on to their spot with the continued great play of Wade, as well as good guard play out of recent acquisition via trade Goran Dragić, and support

from Henry Walker and Michael Beasley.

As long as Flash can keep this up, the Heat don't look too shabby going into the first round of the Eastern Conference Playoffs, potentially matching up opposite LeBron James and the Cleveland Cavaliers.



## Celebrated novelist to be awarded at BBC

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The University's creative writing program, in accordance with the Writers on the Bay reading series, will be honoring published writer, Michael Ondaatje, with the 2015 Lawrence A. Sanders Award in Fiction.

The program presents the award to one author each spring and, this year, Ondaatje, novelist and poet, will be its sixth recipient.

According to Julie Wade, assistant professor in the Department of English and Writers on the Bay coordinator, Ondaatje embodies the vision of the creative writing program.

"He is prolific; he works in multiple genres; and he contributes to contemporary literature in many ways, including his work as a writer, editor, and critic," said Wade. "He brings with him to FIU forty years of rich experience and earned insight to share with our audience."

Ondaatje has published 13 books of poetry and six novels. He is also a memoirist and was the editor of the Canadian literary journal, *Brick*, for more than 20 years.

"Ondaatje's multi-genre expertise reflects the spirit of literary exploration that the creative writing program at FIU celebrates and encourages in our own faculty, students and alums," Wade said. "We feel so lucky that he

will join us for a reading from his work."

Other than the reading, there will be an on-stage interview with a faculty member, as well as a Q&A session for guests.

Among his honors, Ondaatje was made an officer of the Order of Canada and, in 2005, he was presented with Sri Lanka Ratna by the former Sri Lankan president, the highest honor given by the government for foreign nationals.

"He has something specific to offer for readers and writers of any genre," Wade said. "His contribution to global literature is notable, as a Sri Lankan and Canadian who is read widely around the world."

Evelyn Rodriguez, junior education major, thinks that his talk will help develop her writing.

"I love to write fiction stories," said Rodriguez. "Right now, I'm going through a kind of writer's block and I'm stuck. I'm really hoping that by attending this reading and asking him some questions about character and story development I can move forward with my stories."

Rodrigo Hernandez, senior English major, thinks that Ondaatje's presence at the university will help all aspiring writers.

"I think that he very much deserves the Sanders award," Hernandez said. "This writer is phenomenal and, honestly, he's one of the biggest influences for me. His novel 'Coming through Slaughter' was the best book I've ever read. I was captivated the whole time and, for

### RIBBON CUTTING



WALTER RIVERA/THE BEACON

President Mark B. Rosenberg and Richard Fain, chairman and CEO of Royal Caribbean Cruises, cut the ribbon of the new Royal Caribbean studio at the ribbon cutting ceremony on Friday, March 20.

me, that's amazing."

Hernandez is glad that the University takes part in the Writers on the Bay reading series.

"Basically, this is why I love FIU," he said. "Look at all the opportunities it provides. I'm going to get to sit in the same room and talk and ask questions to Michael Ondaatje, a person who I've looked up to for a long time. We should all thank FIU for everything it does for its students."

The event will be held on March 26 in the

BBC Wolfe University Center, Room 221.

It will start at 8 p.m., and it's free and open to the public.

"Writers on the Bay makes possible not just readings but genuine encounters between writers and readers," said Wade. "When we hear literature read aloud and have the opportunity to talk about it with others, including the writer, we grow as a community – one of the greatest pleasures and values of university life. So, people should take advantage of that."

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