

University partners with United States Hispanic Chamber of Commerce

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The University and the United States Hispanic Chamber of Commerce have recently entered a partnership that benefits both organizations locally and nationally.

The partnership, the first ever between the USHCC and a public university, hopes to provide internships, jobs and scholarships for students while also creating a platform to promote the University's research and legislative priorities nationally, according to the USHCC website.

This collaborative agreement became possible through the efforts of University alumnus Kevin Hernandez.

Hernandez began working as the USHCC's manager of government affairs and policy last May and immediately pursued the possibility of bringing his alma mater and new workplace together.

In the USHCC website, Hernandez was quoted as saying, "It was something I felt very strongly about – that we could find ways to collaborate – from research and events to jobs and internship opportunities for FIU students."

Carlos Becerra, University director of federal relations, praised the efforts of Hernandez.

"This partnership is proof that engaged alumni like Kevin Hernandez are the future of our collaborative advocacy efforts – locally and in our nation's capital," Becerra said.

He said that the USHCC's interest for a partnership with the University was caused by the University's involvement with a "number of students graduating with STEM degrees, a priority for the chamber," and that he believes the partnership will serve to "amplify our voice and their voice to Washington D.C."

Becerra looks forward to jointly advocating "issues that relate to making small businesses thrive."

According to him, students who graduate with STEM degrees make up one of the largest communities that support and have small businesses.

"This partnership is also a testament to the standing that FIU has as an urban research university and a leader in economic development, job creation and entrepreneurship," Becerra said. "Our engagement in these areas holds value in helping inform the national dialogue in partnership with organizations like the USHCC."

In February, University President Mark B. Rosenberg met with the USHCC President and Chief Executive Officer Javier Palomarez at the Reagan House on

UP HIGH, DOWN LOW



KRONO LESCANO/THE BEACON

Senior guard Dennis Mavin high-fives a fan after their win against the University of Alabama at Birmingham 70-66 on Saturday, March 7. The Panthers were eliminated from the Conference USA tournament on Thursday, March 12 after losing to the University of Texas at El Paso 83-71.

the Modesto A. Maidique Campus to sign the agreement for the partnership.

According to an FIU News article, Rosenberg commented, "We are excited to join with USHCC and we look forward to promoting our shared interests, including recruitment, research, legislative advocacy and economic development."

Palomarez said that the University has demonstrated a true commitment to cultivating the economic and professional development of the next generation of American leaders, according to the article.

"The USHCC is proud to partner with Florida International University – a world class institution that awards more

bachelor's and master's degrees to Hispanic students than any other school in the country," he said.

The USHCC will be creating new internship and job opportunities for University students by bringing them in contact with Hispanic-owned businesses all over the United States.

It will also be working closely with the University's Governmental Relations team in order to bring to light both organizations' shared legislative priorities.

The University will be tasked with supporting both organizations' shared research priorities – namely STEM, healthcare, agriculture, trade and travel.

University facilities, including

the Latin American and Caribbean Center, the School of International and Public Affairs and the Small Business Development Center, will be utilized to promote Hispanic businesses and entrepreneurs.

Kevin Portela, a freshman business major, shared his sentiment on the partnership.

"It really goes to show the impact that 'Worlds Ahead' learning has on both a national and local level," Portela said. "The voice of FIU will be heard all over the country. Being Hispanic and a current FIU student, I think the partnership is a wonderful idea and I can't wait to see what it means for the future."

Tax fraud peaks in South Florida, student victims rise

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Paul Hunt, a professor at the University's Robert Stempel College of Public Health and Social Work, didn't receive his 2012 income tax refund until September 2014.

After having sat down on May 2013 to file his 2012 income taxes, along with those of his wife, Cecilia, Hunt was alerted by a notice on his computer screen that his taxes could not be accepted.

The reason for the error message was that someone had already fraudulently filed taxes under Cecilia's name. The notice recommended Hunt to call the Internal Revenue Service.

Hunt never received the assistance he expected.

He was told to report the incident to the local authorities.

"They made it almost seem like it was my fault. I was taken aback because [the call center attendant] basically told us it was our problem," Hunt said.

Experiences like this happen often.

According to the Federal Trade Committee, Florida was ranked No. 1 in 2013 for per capita statewide rate of identity theft complaints, with a whopping 192,200 reported incidents.

Behind Florida were Georgia and California.

The FTC also shows that South Florida, with a rate almost four times the national average, has the highest complaint rate for identity theft of all metropolitan areas in the United States.

Now students should be extra cautious when it comes to filing.

According to the IRS, college students have lately been victims of tax identity fraud because they're easy to target, with victims in cities like Miami and Atlanta. Those who are tricked into giving out certain information to false websites or to in-person scammers can be easily ripped off.

Daniella Moreno, a junior at the School of Journalism and Mass Communications, has a relative who was a victim of tax fraud.

When it came time to apply for financial aid, Moreno's sister, Rebecca, a freshman attending the University of Central Florida, says she clicked the first FAFSA link she saw on Google and began filling out her information.

It wasn't until Rebecca reached the end that she realized it was the wrong site.

"We didn't think much of it," said Moreno. "My sister never submitted it fully but did save the information to the website. It wasn't until we started receiving checks in the mail for large amounts that my mom realized someone had filed taxes under her name."

Moreno said her family immediately reported it.

"Whoever did it wasn't smart enough to change the address," Moreno said. "But it still could've ended in some serious penalties if she didn't report it."

The IRS faces certain problems that make it easy for criminals to commit fraud.

For starters, the computer technology that the IRS uses is antiquated. And, while almost everything is done electronically, the IRS says it does not have enough resources—both in terms of technology and personnel—to carry out proper inspections to prevent fraud, according to an article in the Miami Herald.

Upgrading this technology will require money, which has not been easy to maintain a hold of.

According to the Miami Herald, IRS Commissioner John Koskinen informed the Finance Committee of the U.S. Senate that the IRS has experienced budget cuts of around \$1.2 billion during the past five years.

Said cuts make it difficult to upgrade the outdated technology the IRS is using.

In order for it to be up to par with technology, the agency would need money from the legislative branch.

There are, however, some ways to prevent tax fraud.

Among these are to file as early as possible, be cautious of what is disposed of in the trash, be sure to secure all personal information and never give out such information to anyone or any entity of whose authenticity one is unsure.

If you are a victim of tax fraud, be sure to report it to local police first. After you have done this, contact the IRS at their website.

"As a taxpayer and someone who teaches public policy and administration, I'm pretty upset with the way [the IRS] handled it," Hunt said. "I did absolutely nothing wrong...and they need to figure out how to handle these situations."

NATION & WORLD BRIEFS

Executions in Iran hit 12-year high, UN reports

Iran executed more people last year than it had in the previous 12 years, the United Nations' special envoy on Iranian human rights reported Thursday.

Ahmed Shaheed said Iran carried out at least 753 execution in 2014, up from 687 in 2013 and 580 in 2012. Nearly half of the executions were for drug-related crimes, he said, and he questioned whether they would meet the internationally accepted norm for death penalty cases of "most serious crimes."

He urged Iran to nullify

death sentences against political prisoners and prisoners of conscience, ban juvenile executions, and "enforce a complete moratorium" on the death penalty.

Shaheed's comments on the death sentences came in a harshly critical report that rebuked Iran for a variety of abuses, including torture and persecution of religious minorities. The report will be formally presented to the Geneva-based U.N. Human Rights Council on Monday.

Europe, US at odds over size of Russia's intrusion in Ukraine

A diplomatic divide between the United States and Germany over the extent of Russian military involvement in Ukraine and how to respond to it threatens to hinder hopes of providing greater support to the beleaguered nation.

The dispute comes as the United States agreed this week to provide \$75 million in nonlethal aid to Ukraine, including 30

armored Humvees and up to 200 unarmored ones. White House press secretary Josh Earnest called the \$75 million a "substantial supplement" to the assistance the United States already has provided, including some \$120 million that's gone to the Ukrainian military, but he stopped short of saying lethal aid might be considered.

University activities to promote healthy living

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For Jose Farrera, exercising and eating healthy are two things that help improve his mood. While some argue that this is impossible, Farrera's point may nonetheless be valid.

To further the discussion on this particular subject, the University's Student Health Services is teaming up with the Office of Sustainability, the FIU Bike Shop and the Student Dietetic Association for a wellness event.

According to WebMD, dietary changes can bring about changes in a person's brain structure – both chemically and physiologically – which can lead to altered behavior. While certain diets or foods may not ease depression or put a person in an instantly better mood, it may help as part of the overall treatment, according to the "How Food Affects Your Moods" article.

Farrera, a junior majoring in broadcast journalism, has experienced that change firsthand.

"My mood has changed dramatically since I began working out three years ago. Now, I tend to be [a more] positive person," he said.

Others agree. "Eating better, especially if you start at a young age, can not only help you feel better but it's also going to prevent the risk of chronic diseases," said Christine Tellez, a registered dietitian at SHS. "It's going to give you more energy and help you with your studies."

According to Tellez, March is national nutrition month and, because of this, her office decided to host the event, Lettuce Go Green, the same day as St. Patrick's Day.

"Basically, we're just trying to promote healthy eating and raising awareness about fruits and vegetables, particularly the green veggies," she said. "We want to use the theme of St. Patrick's Day – which is all about going green – to talk about sustainability, as well as thinking about ways to go green and just being a more sustainable community."

The FIU Bike Shop, from recreational services, will

be at the event to talk about different ways to go green, including ways to avoid carbon emission.

The event will also be hosting the garden club, who will be showing students how to grow their own vegetables and how to buy good produce when going grocery shopping.

"We have so many resources and I think that students don't know about all of them," Tellez said.

For Enrique Montero, a junior business major, nutrition and exercising are one of the most important things for his health.

"For me, it's important to eat healthy because you need the right nutrients to fuel your body," he said. "This allows me to have the energy to conduct physical and day-to-day activities. Being fit and eating healthy go hand in hand."

The event will be held in front of Einstein Bagels in the Modesto A. Maidique Campus' Graham Center lawn area on March 17. It will start at 11 a.m. and go on until 2 p.m. It will be free and open to the public.

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Do not ever give up on your grind

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How many times has someone involved with sports told you all of the great life lessons sports can give you? I'm betting quite a few. And how many times have you actually paid attention to those lessons? I'd say the ratio is pretty similar.

How you feel about sports is not relevant to this article. But there is one, overwhelmingly simple lesson that athletes learn the hard way that everybody should do their utmost to live by: Don't give up on the grind.

I think most people consider themselves hard workers. We wouldn't all be in college if we didn't put at least a little bit of effort in at some point in our lives. While it doesn't always seem to be noticed, it's something to take pride in – regardless of whether you get rewarded for it.

And this is the most difficult part – the most difficult, but by far the most important. Rewards, results and recognition are not the way you should define yourself.

Rewards, results and recognition may not be reflective of everything you've put in. But that does not for a second mean you should quit on the grind.

The grind is the part that you control. This is where the athletes with their heads sorted out will tell you it is the only part that you control.

“
Grades, results and recognition are gratifying, and they make us feel like we've achieved something.”

They can train their hardest every single day for months –

waking up early, saying no to Friday night drinks, missing out on parties – but when the time for competition comes their opponent just has a better day.

But that doesn't change a single thing that athlete did over those months; it doesn't make them a bad person.

And the same thing goes for everyone, with anything they are working towards.

If you study for a month before your mid-term exam – doing the same thing as that athlete, waking up early and saying no to parties – but when your professor comes to grade it he's in the worst mood he's been in all year – does that put you

at blame? Of course it doesn't.

Grades, results and recognition are gratifying, and they make us feel like we've achieved something. The system teaches us that they mean everything. But not achieving these things doesn't always mean we haven't achieved anything.

What we learn during the process, the bettering of ourselves as we go, that's what really counts. Sooner or later the grind will reward you.

But that process is the only thing we have a say over. So don't blame yourself – or let others blame you – for the things you don't have a say over. Don't give up on the grind.

Atheist Avijit Roy, a martyr for free speech

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A man brushed off the still-wet blood of, Avijit Roy, the prominent American atheist blogger, who dared speak his mind in a country where freedom of religion equates to freedom of the religion we chose for you. The photo circulated on the web as quickly and as viciously as fire takes out a dry forest during a California summer; the vulgarity of the images making them spread all the more quickly.

The images were graphic: blood soaking the sidewalk slowly being brushed away with a hand-held, straw-like broom. Roy's wife, Rafid Ahmed, soaked in the thick, red liquid and finally Haider's body resting on a stretcher mangled, but recognizable.

Haider and his wife were brutally knifed down after an attack while riding their bikes in Dhaka, Bangladesh by members of an Islamic militant group. He died on his way to the hospital, a local police chief, Sirajul Islam, was quoted saying,

Because of Roy's death "free speech" rallies have broken out all across Bangladesh.

But is this a matter of freedom of speech?

There is no denying that a lack of freedom of speech in underprivileged

“
Roy's murder expresses more than just a lack of tolerance with what people say, it expresses a lack of tolerance towards different ideas and beliefs.”

countries can mean the difference between life and death; Roy's murder expresses more than just a lack of tolerance with what people say, it expresses a lack of tolerance towards different ideas and beliefs.

As a secular thinker and as a human, I'm furious. This intolerance, found in most

religions, towards ideas and beliefs that don't coincide with their own has to stop.

Religion has become a shield people hold in front of themselves to justify their sick need to carry out violent acts whether it be through spewing harsh words at those who don't agree with them, or through

“
Roy's murder expresses more than just a lack of tolerance with what people say, it expresses a lack of tolerance towards different ideas and beliefs.”

more violent means, as Roy unfortunately found out.

Religion is a disease, a social form of bullying, and in some people's minds a cause important enough to murder for.

Extremists whether they be: Christian, Muslim, Catholic and so on, have tainted

the freedom to exist by punishing those who dare to believe ideas that do not follow the rules of their myths.

But free-thinking -- and thus progression as a human society, not a religious society -- is not only being smothered by extreme fundamentalists, but also by non believers.

Western people who have secular views have an unparalleled advantage that we should stop taking for granted.

Though we non-believers don't fear being butchered to death when we walk out the door, most of us don't express our ways of thinking for fear of other things: social outcast or judgment.

How do we expect to improve humanity if we do not speak out? There are religious people who seek to cut off our voice by scaring us into silence.

I won't be silent. I will proclaim that there is no god and that the only thing I fear is the future of the human race if religion continues to suck the vitality out of the human race.

Avijit Roy is a martyr. He will not be forgotten. His death will not be in vain.

FRANK AND IRENE: *It's over*



SAMUEL PRITCHARD/THE BEACON

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An inside view of student's participation in freestyle dance crew Liquid Menace

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Javier Romero, a 21-year-old FIU psychology major, goes by the alias Aderol and makes frequent dance freestyle appearances around FIU.

Aderol is a member of the dance crew Liquid Menace along with two other dance-freestylers, Alexander Davalos, 25, also known as Kiddghost and Austin Rain, 19, referred to as Nerdy.

After a two month span of deciding on what to call the crew, the guys finally agreed to Liquid Menace.

Aderol said the concept behind the word liquid refers to shapeshifting dance moves and menace because they have the power to kill off opposing dance crews during battles.

"It's all about making the beat visual," said Aderol.

Their talent revolves around two sub-categories of dance style, breakdancing or b-boying,

The crew often specializes in experimenting with music genres such as hip-hop, European trap, some dubstep and other forms of sounds that are cohesive to their freestyling and breakdancing.

Aderol's interest in freestyle dance began at the age of 18.

"I honestly started dancing as a form of pulling ladies," said Aderol. However, it turned out to be his passion. According to Aderol dancing is a way

arts industry.

That was how he met one of his mentors, Atari, a renowned dancer who has been in the freestyle dance competition game for a decade.

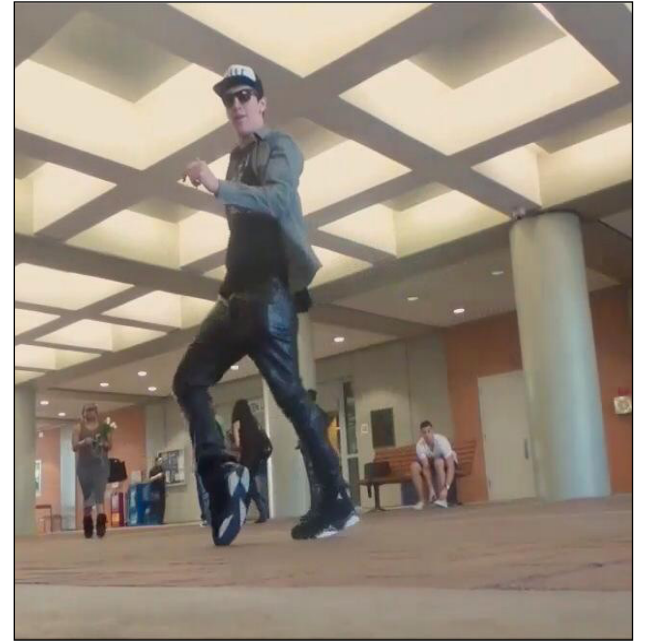
At the beginning of Aderol's dance journey, finding his place within the community was not as simple.

Aderol said he lacked the confidence necessary to create his own moves at first and never went out to parties because he was too involved with his other hobby, basketball.

His intimidation led to feverishly practicing to perfect his freestyling skills, something he and his crewmembers admit to being - perfectionists.

Liquid Menace received major recognition and exposure on Instagram after their last battle at Nuevolution Dance Studio located in Pembroke Pines.

The dancers commemorate Michael Jackson for influencing them on this dance culture and look up to successful artists in the business like Ahlamalik LeDrue Williams, a dancer for Cirque de Soleil, and Madd Chadd and Josh Ventura



PICTURE COURTESY OF JAVIER ROMERO

Javier Romero, psychology major, dances in front of the Green Library.

who are notorious for being "robotic geniuses" in the freestyling world.

Aderol hopes to achieve recognition and fame for his artistic ability. He wants people to be in awe and say things like: "How is he flying?" or "How did he do that?"

As a crew, they hope to have the opportunity to travel around the globe, meet more people involved in the scene and continue to master their dance lives. Aderol said he gratifies

the smiles and reactions from students and spectators that pass by them when they dance.

Their usual spots are around the Graham Center pit or outside the Green Library.

For more information on Liquid Menace, you can follow their Instagram profiles @officialaderol and @kiddghost.

“Aderol hopes to achieve recognition and fame for his artistic ability. He wants people to be in awe and say things like: "How is he flying?" or "How did he do that?"

The trio began dancing with each other about a year ago and have managed to network amongst each other with the aid of Instagram, followed by meeting at a jam, a term referring to dance battles.

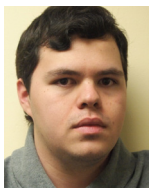
which in essence involves spinning and aerial-like gymnastic moves, and popping which involves robotic gestures, gliding or foot sliding, animation, miming, and basic forms of staged entertainment.

of bringing people and life together.

By networking through fellow crewmembers he's had the chance to meet several like-minded individuals who are also in pursuit of the expressive

'Kingsman: The Secret Service' serves up a combination of action and fun

REEL TO REEL



RAFAEL ABREU

If I had to describe Kingsman: The Secret Service" in one word, it would be fun.

Not often do I watch a movie with as much silliness and lack of seriousness as Kingsman, but this film does not just poke fun at spy movies, it is generally a good one on its own. It may not actually work as a spy film.

Not enough sleuthing, I feel, but due to the film's sense of fun, there's plenty of violent action to go around.

Starring Colin Firth, Taron Egerton, Michael Caine, Michael Strong, and Samuel L. Jackson, Kingsman, based on the Mark Millar and David Gibbons comic, is about a secret service that takes care of criminal activities in the shadows, never revealing itself.

A powerful media mogul

(Jackson) is planning to unleash something dangerous to the world and it's up to the Kingsman to stop him.

One name that may not be readily familiar to moviegoers is Taron Egerton, who plays the film's protagonist Eggsy.

He's a troubled youth who is recruited to be in the Kingsman by Harry Hart (Firth), who sees potential in the youth.

Egerton is one of the most impressive actors in this film, and a big reason for this might be that I found him to be the most engaging character.

Yes, moviegoers may be more familiar with Firth and Jackson, but Eggsy is the character we're supposed to root for and the one we mainly follow.

He goes through the usual ropes of character development and has gone through a transforming journey by the film's end.

I will say that no actor in

this film seems to overshadow another; they all seem to be on the same level and know exactly the kind of role they're playing, resulting in good chemistry and vibes throughout.

“Not often do I watch a movie with as much silliness and lack of seriousness as Kingsman, but this film does not just poke fun at spy movies, it is generally a good one on its own.”

Speaking of roles: Jackson plays a charismatic villain in Valentine, a man with a crazy scheme that threatens the planet.

Dressed in casual but expensive clothes and speaking

with a lisp, Jackson is a colorful character, one with interesting quirks and personality traits that make him unconventional and almost unassuming for a bad guy.

Even till the very end, he's a fun and great character to watch, and definitely one of the film's biggest highlights.

The film is directed by Matthew Vaughn who has also done Kick-Ass and X-Men: First Class, and his talent for violent action shows wonderfully in Kingsman.

From a short sequence at the beginning, to a very violent one in the middle, to an excellent extended one at the end, the film does a great job at showing action in a fast but clear style.

I was very pleased with how violent most of the action was, similar to how I enjoyed it in Kick-Ass, and I never felt as if the film was overdoing it.

Again, the film's sense of fun is well showcased in these action

sequences, complemented by the film's top-notch directing.

While there are a few things in Kingsman I didn't fall in love with such as that I felt the ending was too quickly wrapped up, I left it with the nice and confident feeling that I had seen an extremely enjoyable picture.

If you're a fan of spy films and action films, there's no reason why I would not recommend Kingsman.

Film: "Kingsman: The Secret Service"

Rating: ★★★★★☆

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St. Patrick's history and happenings

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In the United States, it's simple to celebrate St. Patrick's Day: wear something green, display a smiling leprechaun memo at work and after your shift is done, head to a local Irish pub.

In Ireland though, most go to church.

According to Philip M. Freeman, an expert in Celtic and classical studies at Washington University in St. Louis and author of the book "St. Patrick of Ireland: A Biography," St. Patrick was known for converting many people in Ireland from Paganism to Christianity.

After his death on March 17, around 460

AD, many villagers mourned his loss and so it became an annual event.

In legend, St. Patrick would use three-leafed shamrocks to explain the Holy Trinity, explaining the classic clover symbolism we see today.

What is known of St. Patrick was that he was kidnapped as a child, taken away from his home in England by Irish pirates and was sold as a slave in Ireland where he spent six years in captivity.

He later returned to Ireland as a Bishop to help the people.

In his book, Freeman discusses the letters written by St. Patrick. He states St. Patrick taught all people were equal in the eyes of God, whether they were male, female,

slaves or free.

Freeman mentions an interview conducted by Washington University in St. Louis's Newsroom, that St. Patrick also continuously stressed his concern for the welfare of Irish women.

The tradition to celebrate St. Patrick's in America can be traced back to the Potato famine around the mid 1800's when a mass migration of Irish settlers came to the states.

Today, local Irish pubs and restaurants continue the tradition with serving green beer and traditional Ireland plates such as cabbage and corn beef.

Here are six happenings going on around Miami for St. Patrick's Day:

St. Paddy's Block Party

Fado's Irish Pub will host its annual festival at Mary Brickell Village, 900 S. Miami Ave. Miami, FL. On Tuesday, March 17 beginning at 9 am. There will be music, beer gardens and traditional Irish entertainment. Tickets range from \$15-30 and can be bought at fadoirishpub.com. Call (786) 924-0972 for inquiries.

John Martin's Irish Pub and Restaurant

John Martin's, located at 253 Miracle Mile, Coral Gables, FL 33134, will celebrate St. Patrick's day, Tuesday, March 17. Bagpipers will perform from noon to 3 pm and the Paddy Kelleghan Band will be playing music from noon to 8 pm. The celebration will continue with specialty drinks till 2 am. Call (305) 445-3777 for inquiries.

Irish Fries at Shake Shack

Shake Shack will have celebratory fries and dessert for St. Paddy's day. Their fries platter "When Irish Fries Are Smiling," include crinkle-cut fries topped with horseradish cream, scallions and Applewood-smoked bacon for \$4.50 and are only available up to the end of Tuesday, March 17. For the dessert they have the Mast Brothers chocolate-mint frozen custard, available Monday, March 16 through Sunday, March 22.

Finnegan's

On Tuesday, March 17, Finnegan's Brickell will have Bud light girls coming from 7 to 10 pm and will be part of a bar crawl in honor of St. Patrick's Day. Their three locations in Brickell, South Beach and Miami Beach will have specialty shots, green beer and Irish car bombs specials.

Clandestino Pub

Starting Tuesday, March 17, at 6:00 pm. Clandestino's will celebrate "St. Patricio's," a Mexican spin off of St. Patrick's Day, with available whiskey, tequila and beer specials. Located at 758 Washington Ave, Miami Beach, FL 33139. Call (305) 397-8946 for inquiries.

Brickell Fest – St. Patrick's Day Celebration

Brickell Fest will celebrate their third annual St. Patrick's Day Celebration Tuesday, March 17. There will be a Bag Piper, DJs and green beer. Located at 690 SW 1ST Ct. Miami, FL 33130. General admission is \$24 and includes one day entry, a 16 oz. sponsored green beer, one souvenir item and green beads. The VIP package is \$50 and comes with VIP entry, one liter of sponsored green beer, a souvenir beer boot, a hat, green beads, a T-shirt and souvenir sponsor Item. Tickets can be bought at <http://brickellfestival.com/st-patricks-day/> and all tickets final sale.

Trends and celebrities at Paris Fashion Week

FASHION DISPOSITION



CATA BARDOTI

The runways of Paris Fashion Week 2015 hosted the luxurious collections of the some of the world's most known designers in the world as a stream of designs and trend filled the catwalk displaying winter and fall garments.

It is clear that the black and white trend remains solid. It was seen making fragmented appearances on Louis Vuitton and Chanel's catwalk, within others, in prints such as gingham (small black and white squares) and houndstooth, or as outfits composed of color blocking. Red also played a role in many designer's eyes for the upcoming seasons.

Barbara Bui presented a collection of light body-hugging pieces that emphasized the female figure, along with skirts and jackets made in velvet, silk and vinyl. Bui's runway was themed in black, gray and maroon.

Céline's creative director Phoebe Philo played with straps as she layered them on skirts and dresses. Céline showed a variation within beige, dark reds, burnt yellows, blacks and off-white tones.

Kim Kardashian helped increase Lanvin's popularity through the years as she has been seen wearing pieces from it. The celebrity seems to have an admiration for the brand's pieces, and without a doubt she was spotted at the show, surprising all with her brand new platinum blonde

long-bob, while accompanied with rapper husband Kanye West, who recently launched his collaboration with Adidas. The audience saw the Lanvin garments designed with an inspiration of taking an imaginary trip to Morocco, with midskirts, pencil skirts and a color story of blacks, deep red, hints of pink, shiny sequined layers, and gold.

Mugler by Damir Doma focused on a modern "girl of today" style with tight mini dresses in black and white, yet with detailings in bronzed metallics. The designs were seen in a majority with high collars and belted waists, chosen by Doma, to emphasize the hourglass shape of the wearer.

Valentino Garavani gave us a fall/winter show with a major emphasis on the gingham and floral print. Most of the collection is seen with at least one red garment. Other accompanying colors are blush pink, forest green and heather grey. The Valentino show was full of surprises, starting with Ben Stiller and Owen Wilson making an appearance not on the benches, but on the catwalk. They strutted their outfits in full character, for promotion of the new Zoolander movie.

Fashion Disposition is a bi-weekly column by fashion enthusiast Cata Bardoti. Bardoti has been a personal fashion stylist for over four years. Make sure to follow her fashion blog: www.CataBardoti.com which updates readers on the latest fashion news and trends.

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BASKETBALL

Men's Basketball Falls to UTEP to End Season

DAVID DRUCKER
Staff Writer
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The men's basketball team completed their season on Thursday in their 71-83 loss to the University of Texas at El Paso Miners in the drama-filled Conference USA Tournament. The Panthers finished the 2014-2015 season with an overall record of 16-17 and a C-USA record of 8-10.

As the no. 10 seed, Florida International University was slated to play the University of Texas at San Antonio Roadrunners in the first round of the tournament.

Junior forward Dominique Williams and sophomore guard Ray Rodriguez stepped up in a big way in the first half; Rodriguez drained two three pointers and Williams scored all nine of his points in the first 20 minutes. At halftime, FIU trailed 25-26.

To say that Dennis Mavin's scoreless first half didn't get to him would be an understatement – the Gainesville product exploded for 15 points in the remainder of the game to give his team a lead that they would hold for most of the second half. That advantage evaporated, however, when UTEP's Keon Lewis knocked down a three pointer to tie the game at 54-54 with two seconds left.

With just a couple of seconds to throw up a miracle to avoid overtime, Mavin shifted into his fastest gear to get as close to the hoop as possible. Two defenders guarded Mavin as he launched a

shot from half court, but neither would dare contest the shot out of fear of sending him to the line. The Mavin heave was true, and the Panthers took the game 57-54 to move on to the second round of the tournament.

The Miners would prove to be a handful for the Panthers. The bye week given to them as the no. 2 seed ensured that they were well rested before the game. The Panthers found a way to hang with the heavy favorite, however and possessed a 13-12 lead with 12 minutes and 27 seconds left in the first half.

Eventually, UTEP's size on the inside started to cause trouble – Cedrick Lang seemed to find ways to match up against anyone not named Diaz in the post. This opened up shots for the Miners on the outside. At halftime, the score was 47-33, Miners.

FIU would not be able to find enough magic left in the tank to erase the 14-point halftime deficit. After being double-teamed all game, Dennis Mavin along with most of the starters were pulled out by Head Coach Anthony Evans in the second half for senior guard Marco Porcher Jimenez and some of the younger players.

A Porcher three, five points from freshman Hassan Hussein and two made Rodriguez free throws would cut the lead to 12, but the Miners managed to hold on. Although Mavin made yet another three at the buzzer, it would yield no Top Ten moment this time; the Miners won by a final score of 83-71.

The loss at the tournament



KRONO LESCANO/THE BEACON

Junior forward Daviyon Draper waits for the referees to decide what fouls to give out after a scuffle in the game against University of Alabama at Birmingham on March 7. Draper sat out after he was given a technical foul.

marked the end of a season that saw Mavin and Diaz lead the way in almost every game. The statistics show just how much the two players contributed in 2014-2015: Mavin led all Panthers in scoring on the season with an average of 17.2 points per game.

The Gainesville native also claimed FIU's assist title with an average of 3.1 per game.

To no one's surprise, the 6'11" Diaz led the Panthers in rebounds with an average of 6.9 boards per game.

He also led his team in blocks, averaging three rejections per game.

Junior forward Adrian Diaz made significant strides in his first year playing for FIU. The former Kansas State player flashed an impressive post game. He blew by defenders down low and swat away shots in the paint all year long.

Diaz tied a University-record eight blocks against UTSA in the regular season. He would later blow that record away with a 13-block performance against the University of Alabama at Birmingham Blazers.

Diaz added 14 points and 12 rebounds in that contest to post the University's first recorded

triple-double.

Without a doubt, Mavin kept FIU in contention both during the season and the tournament; his abilities to spot-up shoot and score in transition profited from the extra attention opposing defenses attributed to Diaz.

When Mavin was double-teamed, FIU struggled to score – a fact that UTEP took advantage of. The senior may be leaving the Panthers, but his buzzer-beater against UTSA in the tournament is a shot he will remember for the rest of his life, and is one that Panther fans will not be forgetting soon.

WOMEN'S BASKETBALL

Pound named Conference USA Freshman of the Year

REBECCA CHARUR
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It's been a season of hardships and lessons for the Panthers. FIU finished the season with an overall record of 3-26 and 0-18 in the Conference USA competition. Still, amongst the cloud of losses, the Panthers found a silver lining in red shirt freshman Kiandre'a Pound.

On March 9, the league announced that Pound had been named Conference USA Freshman of the Year. This is a historical moment for FIU's basketball program, as she is the first Panther to garner the award. Furthermore, Pound was named to C-USA's All-Freshman Team.

An impressive personal season, culminated on the road against the University of Alabama in Birmingham where she finished with 12 points. On the season, Pound averaged a team-leading 14.8 points per game and second



KRONO LESCANO/THE BEACON

Freshman forward Kiandre'a Pound looks to pass during the game against Colorado State University earlier this season. Pound was named part of the conference USA 2014-15 All freshman team.

with 7.0 rebounds per game.

Not only was this enough to earn the honor that made school history, but she went on to make

C-USA history with the numbers she put up.

This season, Pound was the only freshman in C-USA to rank

in the top 10 in scoring and top 15 in rebounding. In addition, she led the league with six C-USA Freshman of the Week awards.

Other awards this season have included FIU Thanksgiving Classic and FIU Fun and Sun All-Tournament honors after recording double-double averages in both tournaments. On the season, Pound recorded eight double-doubles finishing second on the team behind only senior Marita Davydova.

The Vero Beach native recorded a career-high 29 points in the game against Florida Atlantic University in late January.

Pound notched 20 or more points on six other occasions this season, including their last victory against Bowling Green State University. In that game, she led the way with 20 points and 14 rebounds motoring her team to their third and final win of the season.

Next season, the reigning C-USA Freshman of the year will look to lead a young FIU team with an extra year of collegiate experience under her belt.

TENNIS

Panthers continue home dominance

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After losing five straight games and starting the season with a 2-5 record, the women's tennis team needed to turn its season around in a positive note. However, the games were tough as the last three losses have come against Yale University, Boston College and Brown University, all ranked opponents at the time.

Since then, the Panthers have reeled in three straight victories with wins coming against Bethune Cookman University, Florida Gulf Coast University and University of Southern Mississippi.

All of the victories have been by a large margin, defeating BSU 5-2, FGCU 6-1, and Southern Miss 5-2. During this three game win streak, the talented tandem of Yana Koroleva and Nina Nagode has won each of its doubles matches.

Against Southern Miss, Koroleva, Nagode, Valentina Briceno and Carlotta Orlando all won their singles matches to help the Panthers win and improve to .500.

The most impressive win came against conference opponent Western Kentucky University, as

the Panthers went on to win 7-0. The Hilltoppers came into the match with the same record as the Panthers at 5-5. This was also the first time the tennis team has faced off against WKU.

The afternoon started off strong for the Panthers. The team won all six of its singles matches. Koroleva defeated Emelia Granstrom 6-3, 6-1, Carlotta Orlando defeated Teresa Hejlova 6-2, 7-6 (7-5), Nerma Caluk defeated Elpida Malamou 6-2, 6-1, Nagode defeated Andrea Christopoulou 7-6 (7-2), 6-3, Kaitlin Brozovich defeated Emily Przystawski 6-1, 6-1, and Valentina Briceno defeated Gabby Crofford 6-0, 6-3.

Orlando and Nagode won yet again. They have each posted impressive singles records. Nagode, a sophomore, has a 17-7 record and Orlando, a junior, has a 19-8 record. Both of these players play an important role for the Panthers.

Winning all the singles matches gave the Panthers six of the seven total points the team earned in the afternoon. The last point would be earned by winning the two out of the three doubles matches.

The Panthers continued to dominate as the doubles matches began. The Senior duo



MEGAN TAIT/THE BEACON

Junior Carlotta Orlando returns a serve against Bethune-Cookman University on Sunday, March 1. The Panthers have maintained a four game win streak.

of Koroleva/Nagode defeated Granstrom/Christopoulou 6-2 and the Junior duo of Orlando/Brozovich defeated Crofford/Madeline Phillips 6-1.

The Panthers got their

first victory against WKU in convincing fashion and improved to 6-0 at home. The next five matches are home, which could boost their record to 11-5 if they continue to command at home.

Up next for the Panthers is Boston University on Saturday, March 14. The Terriers are 6-4 and have won four of the last five matches.

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SHS hosts Wellness Expo, offers free health screenings

SOFIA GALIANO
BBC Managing Editor
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This St. Patrick's Day, students and faculty will embody total health at the annual Wellness Expo.

The University's Wellness Center will host this year's event on Tuesday, March 17 in Panther Square at the Biscayne Bay Campus, offering free health screenings, an outdoor workout and healthy snacks.

A total of 17 tables will be stationed throughout the first floor of the Wolfe University Center.

More vendors were present in past years,

Health Services at BBC. However, this year more health screenings will be offered, including blood sugar, cholesterol and HIV, unlike previous years where one or two tests were available.

"This time we are trying to have as many health screenings as possible," Capella said.

In line with the holiday theme, WUC will be adorned in shamrocks and other green decor.

At the event, students will need to visit six tables and collect coins to redeem a green, kiwi fruit pop. Water bottles and granola bars will also be provided.

Other health-related freebies include cutting

health, along with other University departments such as Biscayne Bay Campus Recreation.

Warren Shaw, assistant director for BBC Recreation, said students and faculty will be quizzed at the REC Center table and entered in a raffle. Prizes include complimentary tennis lessons, personal training sessions, locker rentals and towel service in the gym.

Another unique feature at this year's expo is a 30-minute total-body workout.

An INSANITY workout is expected to be held right outside WUC in Panther Plaza, according to Capella and confirmed by Shaw.

FLASHBACKS AND TATTOOS



MARCIA AKSU/THE BEACON

Tamarah Stuart (left), a senior studying psychology gets a Henna tattoo on her arm at the FIU Flashback on Thursday, March 5.

Shaw said Perez will be present, demonstrating exercises and providing fitness tips as well.

If students and faculty miss the workout, they will still have a chance to tone their bodies.

Perez teaches hour-long INSANITY classes Tuesday at noon and

Thursday at 6 p.m. in the Group X Studio, inside the BBC REC Center.

This type of group exercise uses MAX Interval Training, designed to work every muscle in the body and get hearts pumping.

However, this is just one of the Group X classes

offered in the REC Center at no additional cost to University members. Other classes include Zumba, P90X Cardio and the new addition, Reggae Fit.

Ultimately, Capella said the Wellness Expo is an attempt to promote healthy living habits both on and off campus.

“ This time we are trying to have as many health screenings as possible.

Isabel Capella
Senior Health Educator
BBC Student Health Services

before recent renovations to WUC and when space permitted, according to Isabel Capella, senior health educator for Student

boards, measuring cups and salad bowls.

Vendors will consist of local businesses devoted to preventative and sustained

The workout is scheduled for noon and will be led by rec center INSANITY instructor Michelle Perez.

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Graduate Senator

Danhong Jin
Litian Zhu

The Debate/Last Candidate Event will be held on March 30th, 2015 from 11am to 3pm in Panther Square. Election Dates: the students will be able to vote in the Registrar's Office on March 31, and April 1 from 9a.m. -7p.m.

Info provided by: Marquale Brown / BBC Student Government Association
Elections Board Commissioner

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