

109 Tower opens across the street for the University

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This fall semester, the private off-campus apartment and condo building 109 Tower has finally opened its doors—but only to the FIU community.

Tailor-made to fit the needs and likings of University students, the high-rise urban tower is owned and managed by the Education Realty Trust Inc., not the University.

Standing just across the street from the Modesto Maidique Campus entrance on 109 Ave. and Southwest 8 St., residents of the tower pay to enjoy modern-day luxuries such as a fitness facility, a movie theater, a pool, 24-hour study rooms, free Wi-Fi and cable.

“I think the beauty about the 109 Tower is how we’re really adding to the student housing here at FIU,” said Davica Williams, 109 Tower’s leasing and marketing manager.

The complex was designed, according to Williams, to add value to student education while still providing a home element.

The current 12-month lease term runs from August 21 to July 31, 2015, with rental rates ranging from \$785 for a four bedroom and four bathroom apartment to \$890 for a two bedroom and two bathroom apartment.

With a monthly \$30 cap per person, all rates include water, sewer, trash, utilities, digital cable, and high-speed internet.

The apartments are also fully furnished including a 42-inch flat-screen TV, full-sized Tempur-Pedic mattresses, washer and dryer and a stainless steel kitchen. Pets are not allowed.

Students have the option to join the roommate matching service that bring together residents according to lifestyle preferences.

Each person must pay their own lease so that



CLINTON WALKER/THE BEACON

The 109 Towers, located on SW 8th St. and SW 109th Ave., opened this semester to FIU students at 99 percent capacity.

if one person decides to leave, the others can continue to live in the same bedroom apartment.

The tower will have community assistants that act like University resident assistants.

Dasia Spriggs, a sophomore biology major, said she is happy with her decision to live in the complex, since she had a positive experience living in another EdR building out-of-state.

“I have experience with [EdR] elsewhere at the University of Cincinnati in University Park Apartments,” she said. “The staff is just superb.”

However, living at the tower comes out a bit pricier than living in one of the on-campus residences.

Parkview Hall’s rate, for example, is \$3,900 per semester for a fully furnished four bedroom apartment with two shared bathrooms.

For some students, the decision to move in across the street was mostly due to the lack of residential

space on-campus.

“There was no on-campus housing,” said Spriggs, which limited her options.

According to the University’s 2010-2020 Campus Master Plan’s draft, a major issue is overcrowding at the Modesto Maidique Campus—which is why the University is interested in off-campus private partnerships to provide housing for incoming students.

In a previous interview with student media, Jim Wassenaar, director of Facilities Planning and Operations, said that off-campus housing built by private developers will continue to increase.

“We’ve been supportive of private partnerships because we believe the Sweetwater community should embrace the University as a full partner,” Wassenaar said

Another issue for the tower’s residents is parking limitations.

There are only 20-25

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University faculty senate discusses The Miami Herald access controversy

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Members of the University community received an explanation about the recent conflict with The Miami Herald over media access at the Faculty Senate meeting.

After the University decided to deny media credentials to the beat reporter last week, the newspaper took a stand and did not cover the Saturday football game.

Senior vice president of External Relations Sandra Gonzalez-Levy attended the Faculty Senate meeting on Tuesday, Sept. 2 to explain the University’s reasons for banning the reporter.

It is a rule by the athletics department for media to consult its the office of Media Relations before athletes are allowed to be interviewed, she said, and most colleges and universities have this type of rule.

The University claims that the beat report, David Neal, who had covered FIU for about three years, had been interviewing its athletes without consulting media relations, Gonzalez-Levy said.

The Miami Herald reported that their Managing Editor Rick Hirsch sent an email to FIU’s Athletic Director Pete Garcia, asking for evidence of unprofessional treatment.

Garcia did not respond. After the ban on Neal, the newspaper decided to call out the University for their decision in an article and did not cover the University football season opening game, even though other Miami Herald reporters received credentials.

“It is unfortunate because the game and our student athletes, they really left their heart out there on the field on Saturday,” said Gonzalez-Levy.

Thus, the game was not covered properly, she said.

According a letter to the editor Gonzalez-Levy wrote to the Miami Herald, the University had brought up concerns about Neal’s “antagonistic interactions” with athletes, coaches and staff.

Gonzalez-Levy said disrespectful coverage of athletes had happened numerous times, and that Neal had an attitude.

Although he was not credentialed, the reporter was allowed access the FIU Stadium as a member of the public, she said.

Later that Tuesday, after the meeting ended, the Miami Herald reported that the University had decided to credential Neal for the remainder of the season.

“The fact is, we never want to go against the ink,” Gonzalez-Levy said. “Who controls the ink, right?”

VP of Engagement leaves FIU to become provost

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In a society where women and minorities are underrepresented in the fields of science and technology, one of the University’s STEM role models, Irma Becerra-Fernandez, has worked to make a difference.

“It’s hard to believe that, when I went to school, there were more women in these fields

“I want to send a message of encouragement to all our students. Everybody can do it. You can be successful.”

Irma Becerra-Fernandez
Vice President
Office of Engagement

than there are now,” she said.

She was the first woman to earn a Ph.D. in engineering at the University and rose to become the vice president of the Office of Engagement, helping the University reach recognition for their contributions to the community, according to a Sept. 2 memorandum from University President Mark Rosenberg.

“FIU, as a minority-majority university, has

an even more important responsibility in that the nation is going to be looking at us to see what we’re doing to get minorities interested in successfully completing STEM careers,” Becerra-Fernandez said.

Now she is saying goodbye to FIU to continue rising as an academic leader as the new Provost and Chief Academic Officer at St. Thomas University, starting Oct. 1.

As a female engineer, Becerra-Fernandez has frequently given talks about women in STEM fields – particularly in computer science. In recent years, she has observed that the percentage of women in computer science and information technology fields has declined.

“This is a really alarming issue because we have observed that whenever you have diversity in a field, the field is strengthened,” she said.

As prior Vice Provost of Academic Affairs, Becerra-Fernandez was involved in interventions to help students succeed in STEM fields. She lead a task force that looked at how to improve the success rate of students taking college algebra.

“We observed that the passing rate was about 30 percent, so two of every three students would fail the class,” she said.

According to Becerra, the findings of the task force was to make an initiative to teach college algebra using a new pedagogical intervention, which involved the math lab – where students go every week and do an online component of

SEE STEM, PAGE 2

NATION & WORLD BRIEFS

Obama: Video of slain journalist is authentic, U.S. won't be intimidated

U.S. intelligence officials have verified the authenticity of a video showing the beheading American journalist Steven Sotloff, President Obama said Wednesday as he declared the U.S. would “not be intimidated” by the Islamic State militants’ acts of “barbarism.”

“Whatever these murderers think they’ll achieve by killing innocent Americans like Steven, they have already failed,” Obama said. “We will not forget, and our reach is long and justice will be served.”

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CORRECTIONS

In Vol. 26, Issue 10, in the quotation under the story, “New furniture store brings options for housing students,” we noted that Alexis Calatayud is the director of University Housing; in fact, she is the president of SGAMMC.

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

Tower offers modern living with uncomfortable parking

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parking spots available in the building due to the grounds that were available for construction.

This leaves students parking at PG-5 and crossing the street back and forth, at least until the pedestrian bridge is built.

“I assure you that the planned signature FIU pedestrian bridge across SW 8th St. connecting FIU with the City of Sweetwater is on track,”

said Vice President of Governmental Relations Steve Sauls.

In the meantime, the CATS shuttle stops in front of the tower 33 times a day, and the Sweetwater trolley is also available for residents.

Of the 542 rooms in 109 Tower, Williams said that they are 99 percent full.

Owning 67 collegiate buildings across the country, according to the Daily Business Review, EdR paid \$43.5 million for the site.

Other Florida schools that have nearby EdR residencies include the University of South Florida, University of Florida, University of Central Florida, Florida State University and Florida Agricultural and Mechanical University.

FIU now joins the list, and is the only institution in South Florida that currently offers off-campus living for their students and faculty, Williams said.

STEM role model to leave FIU

STEM, PAGE 1

the class.

After the task force, Becerra and her team noted that the intervention was a success – with an increased passing rate of over 50 percent.

“Irma has been a leader, a friend and a mentor to many at FIU,” said Rosenberg in the memorandum. “I am grateful to her for the role she has played in ensuring FIU’s place among the nation’s leading community engaged universities.”

Liana Apolis, a senior biology major, said that female mentors have helped her reach her potential in some fields where women tend to be a minority – science, technology, engineering and mathematics.

“It is very inspiring and humbling to see women who are able to fight against the odds to get where they are today and succeed in their careers,” said Apolis. “But it is true that there are very few.”

As Vice President for Engagement, Becerra-Fernandez’s role is to serve as a portal for the community and to put partnerships together.

Among the list of partnerships, Becerra-Fernandez helped

create programs to improve academics and rankings at at Miami Northwestern Senior High School, which traditionally had been ranked as a D and F school. Now, with the education initiative, the school earned its first A-ranking last December.

Due to the success in Miami Northwestern, Becerra and her team started the Education Effect initiative in another high school – Booker T. Washington – with a focus on Astronomy and Engineering.

“Each of these Education Effect partnerships have a STEM-personalized focus capitalizing on the assets that the school already has: Agroecology at Miami Northwestern and Astronomy and Engineering at Booker T. Washington,” Becerra said.

She believes that there is a greater need to prepare students for the careers of the future – careers that incorporate science and technology – and that these partnerships are essential to getting more students interested in STEM careers.

“I want to send a message of encouragement to all our students,” she said. “Everybody can do it – you can be successful.”

An earlier version of this article was published on fuis.com.

University experts highlight crisis of undocumented children

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A little 8-year-old boy stands in a courtroom, alone and in a foreign land.

Juan Carlos Gomez, director of the Immigration and Human Rights Clinic, stands by the boy’s side, representing him as one of the many undocumented children seeking asylum in Miami.

Gomez spoke about his first-hand experience dealing with these children at a University colloquium on Sept. 2 at Modesto Maidique Campus on the topic of the humanitarian crisis at hand with thousands of Central American children at the United States border.

Many of these kids are sent with paid smugglers—known as Coyotes—and face numerous difficult situations.

Violence, drug abuse and rape are just some of the extreme experiences they encounter on their way to the United States—then they still have to go through the legal system.

Gomez said it is not realistic for an these children to understand a law proceeding, especially one from a different country with another language.

“It’s funny to see them running through the halls of the immigration building,”

said Gomez. “They don’t understand the severity of the situation.”

Once they get through the grueling process of making it to the U.S. and gaining asylum, they still face the daunting task of making a living here, probably without an education.

“Sadly, most of these kids are not given an opportunity at education,” said Gomez. “In the U.S. there is no right to an education, there is only an

treated, then we failed as a country,” said Erik Camayd-Freixas, Spanish professor from the Department of Modern Languages and director of the Translation & Interpretation Program.

Freixas also reflected on his own first-hand experience of the situation. He traveled all throughout Central America and spoke with countless immigrants and prisoners who have traveled back and forth

“They don’t understand the severity of the situation.”
Juan Carlos Gomez
Director
Immigration and Human Rights Clinic

equal access right.”

At the University, these undocumented students can apply to the Deferred Action for Childhood Arrival program, and the Florida Legislature recently granted undocumented students in-state tuition, giving them a better to be able to afford college.

“If we fail to treat these children the way we would want our own children to be

to the U.S. He not only has heard the accounts of hardship, tragedy, and sacrifice in search of a better life, he’s witnessed them, too.

With both Democrats and Republicans being gridlocked on immigration reform, there isn’t a lot of optimism on solving the issue.

“The changes in the law do not fix the parts of the law that don’t make sense,” Gomez said.

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Give mental illnesses the consideration they deserve

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Unfortunately, this seems like old news, but here's something I've been thinking about a lot lately: the death of Robin Williams.

I'm not going to take this through the typical "He was a part of my childhood" route as much as stress the importance of recognizing mental illness.

I'm tired of the negative way the media portrays mental illness. I'm tired of the audiences that eat it up. It's not helping anyone.

You know what I'm talking about — we've seen it in "Shutter Island," Alfred Hitchcock's "Psycho," "The Perks of Being a Wallflower," "Wilfred" and the UK Channel 4's "Skins," to name a few. Even "Girl, Interrupted" is taken as a glorification, although it is based on a true story. "A Beautiful Mind" would be great if the

character's schizophrenia weren't used as a plot twist instead of a personality trait.

There is one film in particular, based on an autobiography, that I would recommend to those who want to understand what it's like to live with a mental illness, namely clinical depression.

“

It's time we stop ignoring mental illnesses and put them on par with physical ones.

”

sion. "Prozac Nation," starring Christina Ricci, closely follows the tantrums, suicidal ideation, self-harm, substance abuse, anxiety and regret that riddle the life of a sufferer.

This isn't some glorified sadness (depression), social awkwardness (anxiety),

confusion (personality disorders) or a grudge (post-traumatic stress) that you can ignore every so often.

Living with a mental illness really ruins the life of a person. If you aren't lucky enough to find a medication that helps, the illness tears away at intricate parts

of your life. You live with it. You wouldn't know yourself without it.

That's why Robin Williams didn't die from suicide — he died from major depressive disorder. If it weren't for the suicidal ideation coming from that disorder, he would never

have found it a plausible cure for his alcoholism or Parkinson's disease.

The National Institute of Mental Health says that, as of 2012, 4.1 percent of Americans over the age of 18 have a mental illness. That's 9.6 million adults!

Why do we, as a society, want to shun these people's problems? How come only some of the people plagued with a serious mental illness are deemed in need of treatment?

It seems easy to ignore these issues because they aren't immediately dying or complaining. However, consider how much they're going through. If it's enough to consider suicide or even a school shooting, shouldn't something be done about it?

It's time we stop ignoring mental illness and put them on par with physical ones. These lovely people need treatment just as much as the latter.

The ALS Ice Bucket Challenge is stupid

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Now, before you get all in an uproar, there's a difference between being against the ice bucket challenge and being against the awareness of a foundation. I'm all for bringing awareness and actually donating to a cause, but I'm against the whole action of throwing buckets of ice water over your head to just do it.

I remember back in early May when this Ice Bucket Challenge started a little buzz amongst friends. The idea was to get the people you nominate to donate \$100 to a specific fundraiser. If they accepted your challenge then they only had to donate \$10, but also dump a bucket of ice water over their heads. If they did not accept your challenge, then they had to donate the full \$100 to that fundraiser.

The challenge had to be done within 24 hours after being nominated. The ice challenge buzz didn't last too long.

Earlier this August, Oprah Winfrey was challenged by Tyler Perry to do the Ice Bucket Challenge and after that in the world of stardom the ice bucket challenge for ALS took off! Celebrities that did or didn't accept challenges still donated to the ALS Foundation. But, as usual, once all these celebrities started doing this, everyone watching started doing it.

They forgot the whole point behind it — which was to donate to a foundation. My Facebook was filled with friends nominating other friends just to get them wet. A lot of people were doing it just to gain popularity.

I rarely heard people say, "If you don't accept this challenge, you have to donate! You've got 24 hours." Every once in a blue moon, someone that's very community-oriented mentioned something about donating to a foundation.

Another problem I had with the Ice Bucket Challenge was that we all know of the issues going on in Ferguson and Gaza. There are thousands of other foundations that need donations.

I wish that most of the celebrities would have brought awareness to other foundations or to current national and world wide issues by doing the Ice Bucket Challenge.

Celebrities know that they are looked at in the public eye constantly and we look to them to figure out what's "in" or what's next. I hope these celebrities can take the world by storm with another challenge and bring awareness to several foundations and current issues.

So please do not nominate me. I'm not going to do it. I rather donate to whoever I please and dump a bucket of ice over my head whenever I please. Thank you.

LETTER TO THE EDITOR: NUTRITION STORE

This editorial is in response to your June 25 article, "FIU to open nutrition store in new parking garage."

Since there is a nationally accredited and highly science-based Dietetics and Nutrition program on campus administered by the Department of Dietetics and Nutrition, we would have liked to have been consulted before EXN Nutrition or any such supplement establishment was allowed to open a store on our campus.

You begin the article addressing the normal, average person who wants to stay in shape by exercising. This is the last person who needs supplements because, by extension of a fitness-leaning lifestyle, he/she most often watches what he/she eats.

Current research is showing a move away from popping pills and concentrating on food with a well-balanced diet and moderation in all aspects of eating. Single (or worse: multiple) supplements most often have untoward negative consequences because our bodies evolved to handle food — not pills.

As the article moves to the inside page seven, the conversation shifts to sources of food on campus — not supplements.

The University does have many healthy-option restaurants. But in

reality, with a basic knowledge of nutrition (which our courses HUN 2000 and HUN 2201 provide) everyone can make healthy choices at nearly all restaurants.

Then, the article speaks of scholarships, discounts and rewards from EXN Nutrition.

This may end up enticing someone away from otherwise healthy food choices to leaning towards more supplements which are always more expensive than food.

Only in the last two columns does the article start mentioning athletes with the simplistic statement: "Student athletes will also gain possible advantage to EXN."

For EXN to "sponsor athletes with supplements and sportswear" is waving an overly enticing red flag in front of the athlete to take supplements instead of eating a well-balanced diet of regular food.

Notice further down in the article when it is stated "90 percent of [EXN] employees compete and take their products, so consumers won't be receiving tips and information from someone who does not know the product firsthand." This only says that they "know their products;" they do not know the health and family history of the person intending to buy their products.

There is a nutrition licensure law in Florida (and most states), wherein

anyone teaching one-on-one nutrition therapy or counseling for specific health-related issues is in violation and will be prosecuted.

Any buyer of any product should note that supplement stores have a self-serving interest in selling their products — not about how healthy you end up.

It takes a thorough nutrition history and analysis by a registered dietitian to know what nutrients are low or too high in an individual and how nutrients interact with each other, and then to counsel the client on it.

We believe that the University is "playing with fire" in allowing this for-profit supplement company to open its doors on campus.

Joan A. Marn MS, RDN, LDN
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and
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GOOD TIMES AHEAD

The Electronic Dance Music duo kicks off tour at Grand Central

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The Miami native disk jockey duo Good Times Ahead kicked off the start of their Good Times Ahead Tour at Grand Central on Sunday, Aug. 31.

It was your standard electronic dance music/rave night in the city—neon strobe lights, “Kandi” masks, dance floor poppin’ and that one dude who pre-gamed a little too hard passed out in the corner.

Yet, GTA lived up to their mantra of “Death to Genres” and mixed bass heavy trap and hip-hop, with Moombahton, Electro house, and even some 90’s rhythm and blues. The duo doesn’t believe in being classified in a single “genre” but rather focuses on good music.

GTA’s members, JWLS aka Julio Mejia and Matt Toth were introduced to each other virtually, through a mutual friend on Facebook back in 2008. Since then, they’ve released festival anthems like “Booty Bounce” and “Turn It Up” through some of the biggest labels in electronic dance music: A-Trak’s Fool’s Gold, Calvin Harris’ Fly Eye Records, Diplo’s Mad Decent, Laidback Luke’s Mixmash Records and Tiesto’s Musical Freedom.

The local DJs toured extensively over the past few years. GTA has no plans of slowing down. After opening 87 shows on Rihanna’s Diamonds World Tour and playing at Philadelphia’s Made In America Festival; California’s The Coachella Valley Music and Arts Annual Festival; Electric Daisy Carnival in Las Vega; and our very own Ultra Music Festival, the duo can expect “good times ahead.”



An attendee (top) enjoys the music during Good Times Ahead’s set. Miami natives GTA (bottom left) performed at Grand Central on Aug. 31. DJ duo Sluggers (bottom right) opened the show.

VINCENT RIVES/THE BEACON

Panthers to celebrate National Hispanic Heritage Month with Noche Latina on-campus

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National Hispanic Heritage Month is celebrated Sept. 15 to Oct. 15 and the Student Programming Council has already begun to put together their trademark event: Noche Latina.

“It’s the most anticipated event for me because it’s a great way to incorporate so many different students at FIU,” Matt Atkins, junior majoring in Psychology and director of SPC, said. “It usually turns into a big party with lots of food, dancing and other fun activities.”

The Student Programming Council is an organization funded by the Student Government Association. They host different events throughout the semester, including Movie Fridays, holiday-themed pit events, general pit events, concerts, comedy shows and lectures. Events are always free and involve multiple giveaways.

Noche Latina will take place 6 p.m., Wednesday, Sept. 24 in the Graham Center Ballrooms. The ballrooms will be set up as

“It’s the most anticipated event for me because it’s a great way to incorporate so many different students at FIU.”

Matt Atkins,
Junior
Psychology

stations, each representing a different country. “It will be similar to Disney’s EPCOT, and students will be able to do an activity at each country,” Atkins said. “The activity will include anything from tasting food from the culture, a dance to learn or a novelty giveaway.”

SPC hopes to improve this event from years past by making it a more interactive experience

SEE NIGHT, PAGE 5



PHOTO COURTESY OF STUDENT PROGRAMMING COUNCIL

Above are Florida International University students celebrating diversity during last year’s Noche Latina celebration.

Summertime albums of 2014 to note

REBEKAH KEIDA
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Summer— although known for vacations, summertime doesn't mean that everyone is on holiday. This is especially true for the music scene.

Albums are being cranked out daily—it's nearly impossible to keep up. Thankfully, we kept an eye out for some of the must-hear album releases of summer 2014. Disco, dance, demure and delightful, there's something for everyone.

“LP1” by FKA Twigs

Erupting from relative obscurity in 2012, Tahliah Debrett Barnett – better known as “FKA Twigs” – is a London based singer-songwriter. Originally a dancer, FKA Twigs self-released her first album on bandcamp and buzz quickly generated around her YouTube music video channel. Her first real studio album, titled “LP1” and released on the Young Turks record label on Aug. 6, was spotlighted by fellow musician Ellie Goulding on her British Broadcasting Corporation radio show.

FKA Twigs has the swag of M.I.A., but the slow dreamlike melodies of The Weeknd. Her

sexy vocals and explosive mix of trip hop and dream pop beats will keep you coming back for more. Listen to the single “Two Weeks” when thinking about the one you love.

“The Golden Echo” by Kimbra

Best known as the vocalist from Gotye's grammy winning song “Somebody That I Used to Know,” New Zealand born Kimbra Lee Johnson, 24, is unpredictable—in a good way.

Besides Gotye, Johnson has collaborated with indie rock singer Mark Foster of the band Foster the People and disc jockey A-Trak. She lists modern progressive metal bands as a source of inspiration.

Released this August, her new album, “The Golden Echo,” is electric, jazzy and soulful. If you are looking to rock out with your convertible top down, the single to check out is “90s music;” with its interesting synthesizer sounds, youth inspired lyrics and infectious beat, it is definitely a great summer anthem.

Kimbra is one to watch.

“Lost in the Dream” by The War on Drugs

Frontman Adam Granduciel, of the indie rock band The War on Drugs, is one of those musi-

cians who does it all: vocals, guitar, piano, bass guitar, harmonica, keyboard and synthesizer.

All of this is present on the band's third album, “Lost in the Dream,” released on the label Secretly Canadian this past March.

The album is heavily influenced by Granduciel's post-tour loneliness and musings. The psychedelic guitar delay and western harmonica are reminiscent of a lonely cowboy sitting in a saloon.

Turn on “Lost in the Dream” while looking out the window during a summer road trip.

“Piñata” by Freddie Gibbs and Madlib

Looking for some fresh lyrics peppered atop eclectic beats? Look no further than Madlib Invazion's “Piñata.” This album is a collaborative effort between Indiana based rapper Freddie Gibbs and the California king of beats, Madlib.

Three years in the making, this album is more than music. It's a story. Polar opposites both physically and mentally, Madlib and Freddie Gibbs recorded this album separately. It is the result of two very different and independent individuals trusting the talent of one another.

Madlib spent hours upon hours of beats to Gibbs, and Gibbs had the freedom to choose what sounds spoke to him.

When inspired, he would write and rap lyrics

on top of them. During that time, Gibbs drew away from drugs and street life. This album captures that transformation with sophisticated beats and heartfelt lyrics.

Turn on “Thuggin'” for a tune so catchy that you can't help but hit replay.

“Nikki Nack” by tUnE-yArDs

The U.K.'s Merrill Garbus is the female version of Darwin Deez mixed with the theatrics of Empire of the Sun. Her vocals are raspy, but her delivery is captivating and unique.

Bright colors and Jean-Michel Basquiat-style symbols make tUnE-yArDs seem 80's, but the second album “Nikki Nack” by the electro-world-pop group is anything but dated. The single “Water Fountain” is party music with a message.

Garbus loves deviating from the norm and made a point to do so by immersing herself in “non-western musical tradition” in Haiti during her creative process.

Both uplifting and entertaining, tUne-yArDs makes music that you can't quite put your finger on, but you can't help but move your body and mind to.

Noche Latina to come for FIU students

SEE NIGHT, PAGE 4

and representing all Hispanic countries, instead of the most publicized ones. Each country's activity will relate to what the country is known for, in order to give the event an educational aspect.

“The purpose of Noche Latina is to educate students about Hispanic Heritage month,” Atkins said. “This is one of our signature events of the Hispanic Heritage Series, and of course it also serves to give the students a fun outlet during a stressful semester.”

SPC's Hispanic Heritage Series outside of Noche Latina includes a Graham Center Pit event on Sept. 23, a movie on Sept. 26 and a comedy show on Oct. 1.

“I can't wait to attend the events SPC puts on this year,” Stephanie Castellano, sophomore biology major, said. “They always allow the students to create items – from bears to bulletin boards – and I always look forward to the next thing I can add to my room.”

SPC has over 50 general members that help put on the events throughout the academic year. They continuously provide cultural, educational, recreational and social programs aimed at building unity and pride among all students.

A NIGHT OF SPOKEN WORD



VINCENT RIVES/THE BEACON

Black Student Union presents artists from The Strivers Row at the Graham Center Ballrooms Friday, Aug. 29. The event showcased various performers demonstrating the art of spoken word poetry and music. Alyssa Harris (bottom right) of the Strivers Row performed a spoken word piece, while panthers Noel Rose (bottom left) and Jefferson Joseph (top) play a song on the acoustic guitar and the bass respectively.

SOCCER

Panthers fall to Santa Clara Broncos 1-0

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The No. 15-ranked Santa Clara Broncos proved their worth Friday night, handing the Panthers their second loss of the season.

For 75 minutes, both teams were vacant in the scoring column, but one side can only play defense for so long. There were late-game heroics in front of a crowd of 329 by Santa Clara University's senior forward Sofia Huerta. She scored the eventual game-winner at the last minute against a Panther defense that looked impenetrable all evening.

The Panthers had a wonderful first half. They seemingly controlled the tempo and how they wanted to facilitate their shot selections: four shots, three of which were on goal, no small task.

Midfielders Johanna Volz and Alyssa Robinson, an interesting early substitute by Head Coach Thomas Chestnutt, both had three combined shots, with one on goal from Robinson, through the first 32 minutes.

Santa Clara was on their heels early. There was pressure on the opponent, but then came the second half.

Keep in mind that the Broncos were not exactly quiet in the first half, eight shots to FIU's four, and they continued their loud shooting streak from that point onward.

Santa Clara struck early and often after halftime ended, but Panther goalkeeper Nevena Stojakovic held her own for a considerable amount of time. She finished the night with three saves, an impressive stat that continues to grow for the freshman:

six on the season.

After chipping away at a Panther defense that held down the fort for so long, a late goal was eventually conceded. It came off of a cross by Santa Clara's Kat McAuliffe from just outside the box that found its home at the feet of Huerta.

Unfortunately for Chestnutt and his team, there needs to be a fair amount of both offense and defense played on any given night. The three-game road trip is a learning curve that each Panther can take with them once Conference USA play begins in late September.

Panther forwards Chelsea Leiva and Ashleigh Shim were held quiet for a majority of the game.

Shim, who had two goals against University of North Florida, had no activity on the stat sheet in the 57 minutes she saw the field. Leiva, who played a more considerable 74 minutes, had one shot that almost put the Panthers on the board at the 69th minute on a breakaway opportunity.

Ellen Crist—a sophomore forward/midfielder, Robinson and Volz were the only other Panthers to attempt shots that night.

The second half just wasn't kind to the Panthers, as they had only one shot and no shots on goal for the last 45 minutes. That isn't due to inabilities to find opportunities near the net, that attests to Santa Clara's defense. Sometimes, as hard as it sounds, a team has to give credit to a tougher defense.

A bright spot to take away from this loss is the increase in the amount of set pieces the Panthers saw. In their previous match, FIU only saw one corner kick. Against Santa Clara, there were five, with a whopping four in the

second half. With chances like this – something Chestnutt has emphasized in practices – there's bound to be a goal produced sooner rather than later.

It is far too premature to justify any of the standings in the C-USA, but if FIU needs any bit of motivation, it will be found against University of the Pacific before coming home to Miami to begin their strong seven game home stretch.

NOTES:

FIU's starting XI: Stojakovic, Leiva, Volz, Egan, Shim, Montoya, Hernandez, McMurtrie, Weinhardt, Stewart and Rios.

Redshirt sophomore defender Shelby Bowden did not start Aug. 29 after starting the first two matches of the season.

Both California teams, Santa Clara and Pacific, have no history with the Panthers.

Panthers declaw the Tigers, beat Pacific 1-0

There were lights, cameras and a whole lot of action for the Panthers this past weekend in California.

After coming off a 1-0 loss to No. 15 Santa Clara on Aug. 29, the University of the Pacific in Stockton was the next stop. Coming into the Aug. 31 match, both Panthers and the Pacific Tigers were 1-2 on the season, looking to reach .500 for the first time in 2014. Before coming home, Panthers had some unfinished business to handle: a win.

Last season, the Panthers were 4-5 on the road, giving teams reason to lick their lips in anticipation of meeting the University. This season, the tale of the tape has seemingly started off on a note that can resonate

throughout the locker room.

After playing three straight away games, from Aug. 24 to Aug. 31, FIU is 2-1 and is coming back to South Florida with a 2-2 overall record. This win served as a much-needed boost of confidence for the team and, more specifically, for a certain redshirt senior.

Forward Chelsea Leiva had zero goals this season before placing her cleats onto Knoles Field in California.

After 69 minutes, Leiva finally found the back of the net thanks to a ball serviced in by redshirt junior midfielder Scarlet Montoya, marking her second assist of the season.

With Leiva's goal, she brought herself to a career 71 points, which is fifth all-time of any FIU women's soccer player. Leiva not only made history, but she proved again what her leg can produce during crunch time for her team.

With that lone goal, she has 13 career game winners.

Although the results were different, the efficiency in the first half over the past two games had been apparent.

Through 45 minutes, Panthers had four shots and three on goal against Santa Clara and mirrored that ratio against Pacific's goalkeeper, Jacqueline Kane, on Sunday.

The question after 45 minutes is this: Can the offense consistently shoot and, eventually, score?

The answer is yes.

FIU out-shot Pacific 4-2 in the first half and acted as the aggressors in the second half: 4 shots to Pacific's 3.

Freshman goalkeeper Nevena Stojakovic kept her team in the thick of things by producing two saves and her second shutout of the season. After

the game, Stojakovic mentioned they played well as a unit, recognizing that the defenders were just as aggressive as her.

Hidden beneath the historic day was the fact that five Panthers had at least one shot on goal, seven as a team.

Ashleigh Shim, senior forward, had two shots on goal today, coming very close to scoring on an early first half try inside the box. Leiva had two shots on goal, alongside Montoya, Talia McMurtrie and Sara Stewart with one each.

Not even the six offside calls by referee Matthew Buckman's crew could stop the outpouring of offense by FIU.

Head Coach Thomas Chestnutt and his team trek east to Miami in lieu of a match at home against a familiar opponent in Florida Gulf Coast University.

With Leiva's confidence restored and the defense complimenting the offense, the Panthers look to get to 3-2 in the season. What better way to flaunt a winning record than on one's home field?

NOTES:

The starting XI for FIU: Stojakovic, Leiva, Volz, Egan, Shim, Montoya, Hernandez, McMurtrie, Weinhardt, Stewart and Rios.

The seven shots on goal were the second most for FIU through four games.

The Panthers made Pacific head coach Keith Coleman scramble for a solution all day. FIU's five substitutes played a total of 166 minutes compared to Pacific's 10 subs, who played a whopping total of 256 minutes. That's what happens when you're in the driver's seat.

FIU looks for third win against Florida Gulf Coast

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The air was rich Tuesday morning with sharp passes, clean tackles and a no-nonsense attitude. Florida Gulf Coast University is in the crosshairs of each Panther and, although the Eagles of FGCU have traditionally had success against FIU (5-1 all-time), the script is ready to be rewritten.

"What I learned [in California] is that we're definitely capable of winning every game from here on out," said redshirt junior Scarlet Montoya.

Montoya's midfield presence is translating into offensive output, which was displayed nicely against UNF on Aug. 24 with her six shots. Shots seem to be coming from not only the Miami native, but also from redshirt senior Chelsea Leiva. Leiva has 10 shots through the first four games of the season and one goal.

FGCU is no stranger to barrages of shots, though. Junior goalkeeper Brittany Brown has 18 saves on the season, helping her team get to a 2-1 record.

The difference for Wednesday night's match is FIU is coming to play hot off a 1-0 victory against Pacific and the Eagles startled after a 1-0 loss at the hands of the University of South Florida. But, nothing is being taken for granted at

this point of the season.

Head Coach Thomas Chestnutt knows there's still work to do. "We need to continue to get better. Every week we need to be better than the next. Just because we had a good week doesn't mean anything," he said.

This past weekend in California taught the Panthers about themselves. Chestnutt recognized that there are still aspects of his team's play that need to be improved upon, but realizes the gleaming positives of this Panther squad.

"In the main areas that we care about, we feel we did a good job — a solid job — for this time in the season," said Chestnutt.

Not only has the offense found its way, but the defense is also a cohesive unit, standing tall against teams like no. 15 Santa Clara. Arizona is the only team that has scored multiple goals against the Panthers, meaning something has changed in their defensive scheme.

"I think [the defense] is way [more] organized," said senior defender Marie Egan. "We're better equipped for balls through and over-the-top."

For the past couple of years, this FIU team has stuck to their game plan against FGCU according to senior Caroline Hernandez, who has found her role on defense with a powerful leg to clear any dangerous ball-in.

"We've just gotten unlucky," said Hernandez. "We're gonna play how we usually do: get

around the outside, look up, play [the ball] down, and everything will work out fine."

This is the first of seven straight games here at home for FIU. Just how important is this home stand?

"[The team's] goal is to win seven in a row,"

said Chestnutt. "And that starts Wednesday night with Florida Gulf Coast."

The practice concluded with senior Johanna Volz leading the huddle and a cry of "beat Gulf Coast on three" — sounds of a team ready to face their adversary.



JAMES PROFETTO/THE BEACON

Assistant coach Kyle Schroeder talks to the women's soccer team during scrimmage.

VOLLEYBALL

Women's volleyball wins the season opener

COLUMNIST



ALEJANDRO AGUIRRE

The FIU women's volleyball team kicked off the season last Friday, away at the Radisson University of Central Florida Invitational on a very high note. They defeated the Western Carolina Catamounts 3-1. It was the team's first season opener win since 2011 and the first time under Head Coach Rita Buck-Crockett. The offensive charge of the game was evened out as three players – junior Lucia Castro, senior Martyna Gluchowicz and freshman Lea Montavon – recorded double-doubles.

Castro finished the match with a career-high 22 kills. Junior Gloria Levorin added 10 kills while hitting a match best: 471 and had four blocks. One of the younger and rising talents, sophomore Anabela Sataric, recorded a new career high 53 assists.

The team was able to breeze through the first two sets with a score of 25-20 and 25-15 with the help of the players mentioned above. The team set the tone early with a solid .316 hitting percentage. During the first set the offense seemed to be running through Sataric who had 10 assists in that set.

The Catamounts didn't seem to have an answer for Gluchowicz in the second set as she seemed to be all over the place with eight of the team's 21 kills in that set alone.

Just like the previous two sets, the team opened up the third set with a strong start posting 16 kills compared to Western Carolina's 14 kills. It seemed FIU would take this match three sets straight

but the Catamounts put up a good fight and were able overcome the hot start of FIU to take the third set 25-20. FIU was able to regain the edge they had in the previous sets to win the fourth one 29-27. This was not an easy task, to say the least, due to FIU's leading 23-18.

FIU coughed up the lead to let Western Carolina University tie the game. From that point on it, was a back-and-forth game that had 10 ties and four lead changes. The Panthers were able to close the deal thanks to Lucia Castro's kill to win the fourth and final set.

The Panthers squared off again the same day against the Northeastern Huskies. Unlike the last match, the team could not breeze its way through a victory. Instead, they suffered a tough match and lost in five sets. This match was pound-for-pound as each team gave each other its best. This does not mean the team played badly; it just means that the playing field was very evened out but of course somebody needs to have the "W" in the win column.

The first two sets FIU played made it seem like this match would not even reach five sets. They controlled the tempo from start to finish. They ran through the Huskies in the two sets with the scores of 25-18 and 25-16. Defense seemed to be the focal point to start the match as the Panthers held Northeastern to a .069 hitting percentage in the first set and a .128 percentage in the second set.

Freshman Jennifer Ene seemed to be setting the pace on the defensive side as she posted five blocks and respectively had a hitting clip of .333.

The third set had the exact opposite gameplay compared to the two first sets. It was an extremely tight battle that had 15 ties and seven lead changes. Neither team had the opportunity to grab hold of any strong lead in this set. What really hurt the Panthers was their late attack errors which helped Northeastern University win that set 24-26. From that point on, FIU could not regain their edge and focus as they lost the fourth and fifth set 18-25 and 11-15.

What seemed to be the problem in the last two sets was the defense couldn't hold up and was not as sharp compared to the first two sets. The Huskies outthit the Panthers .387 to .290 in the fourth set and .167 to .143 in the final set. The strong point for FIU in this match was ultimately the downfall which led to their first loss.

The volleyball team should not be worried about this loss as they walked out with more positive factors to take into the remainder of the long season ahead of them as these games do not affect their Conference USA record. It seems that this season has a very bright future ahead as this once young team has now gained an immense amount of experience and knowledge about the rest of the conference.

Be on the lookout for the volleyball team to make a strong push to be a top team in the conference. The team has their first home game September 17 against in-state rival Florida Atlantic University – circle that on your calendar.

FOOTBALL

Quarterback new to team, but wise to the game

JORGE CORRALES

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Alex McGough arrived at FIU early this summer. In just a few short months, he's gone from a no-name freshman to the quarterback of the Panthers.

McGough attended Gaither High School in Tampa. In his senior year, he passed for 1,258 yards and eight touchdowns. He is listed at 6-foot-3, but stands closer to 6-foot-4 or 6-foot-5.

He received interest from schools like Wake Forest University, Florida Atlantic University and Colgate University; but ultimately chose to take his talents to South Beach.

"The coaching staff was the main thing that made me decide to come here," said McGough. "I love coach [Ron] Turner and the way he has the offense set up. I think it fits me to my abilities. It just felt like home and I knew it from the beginning. They told me I would have a chance [to compete for the starting quarterback spot]. They said it was up for grabs but never in my wildest dreams did I ever think I was gonna start so soon."

McGough came into camp as a long shot for the starting job. Junior quarterback E.J. Hilliard seemed like a lock, entering his second year in coach Turner's system.

Even after an impressive showing at camp, McGough was named the backup quarterback behind Hilliard. McGough was expected to see limited action in the first game as a backup.

"We said going into the game that we were gonna put him in on the third or fourth series," said Turner when asked about his plans for the

young quarterback.

McGough entered the game on the fifth drive and led the Panthers to a field goal; their first three points of the game.

The coaches liked what they saw because they left McGough in for the the next drive. He once again led them to a field goal that put them within one point of Bethune-Cookman University. After that, McGough led the offense for the remainder of the game. The Panthers lost to the Wildcats 14-12 after a botched field goal attempt late in the fourth quarter.

"I didn't expect to stay in as long as I did," said McGough. "I hoped that if I put together a good drive that they'd give me a chance, but I didn't know. I was just going out there and playing football."

McGough finished the evening 13 of 27 with 117 yards and one touchdown pass. He utilized all the weapons at his disposal, completing passes to eight different receivers.

Despite his youth, McGough played well enough to at least give the Panthers a chance to win down the stretch. His zero interceptions are an indication of his poise in the pocket and good decision making.

After the game, Turner did not say who would be starting the following week.

At practice on Tuesday, McGough took the bulk of the snaps with the first team. When asked whether he expected to be on the field for the opening series on Saturday McGough said, "Absolutely."

On Saturday, the Panthers take on the Wagner College Seahawks (1-0). Saturday's game will be the first ever meeting between the two schools. Wagner was 3-8 last season and returns

but it may be a home game for FIU. The home team would pay the visiting team \$500,000.

The two schools have not played a football game against each other since 2007, but is most memorable for its 2006 brawl that broke out at the Orange Bowl after a PAT by the Hurricanes in the third quarter.

Once the sparring was over and players returned to the sidelines, 13 players were rejected and the fight made national headlines. The teams faced each other a year later, but all ties had been cut ever since.



KRONO LESCANO/THE BEACON

Quarterback Alex McGough tries to stay alive in the pocket. McGough's name was called frequently in his first home game.

14 of 22 starters from 2013. The Seahawks are coming off a decisive 21-3 victory at Georgetown University. The Georgetown Hoyas are not known for their football program, but that does not take away from the impressive performance by the Wagner defense. The Seahawks held the Hoyas to only 204 yards of offense.

The Hoyas were also 3-13 on third down conversions. The Panthers also struggled on third down in their opening contest; converting 1-16 attempts against the Bethune-Cookman Wildcats. The Panthers will have to improve on that number if they hope beat Wagner.

The Panthers look to capitalize on this opportunity to get their first win. Their next two games are against Pittsburgh (1-0) and Louisville (1-0), two tough ACC opponents.

When asked about how he would prepare for what could be his first collegiate start, McGough said he wouldn't change much of his routine.

"I'm gonna do the same thing I did last week," said McGough. "Last week I prepared like I was a starter. That's what the coaches told me. Now you know you're gonna go in. I'm just gonna be in the film study and get to know Wagner as much as I can."

FIU & UM agree to 2-game football series after brawl

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It has been almost a decade since FIU last played the University of Miami in athletics, but a recent agreement between the universities will bring back the interstate matchup.

According to the agreement, the first football game between the two schools will be in 2018 at Sun Life Stadium. The second matchup will be in 2019. The location has not yet been determined,

Both schools previously discussed the possible renewal to include more than just football.

"Pete [Garcia] and I have spoken about the possibility of playing in all sports, not only football," said UM Athletic Director Blake James. "I think it is good for both institutions, the community and – more importantly – student-athlete welfare as the travel schedules of both institutions are challenging. I am confident that we will finalize a date for football in the near future and will see competitions among all of our teams in

the coming years."

Video footage from the infamous game showed a Hurricanes player swinging his helmet at an FIU player and an injured FIU player swing his crutches toward UM players.

Following the embarrassing brawl for the programs, 31 total players were suspended as result: 18 from FIU and 13 from UM.

The next year's game went off without any incidents, but saw the end of the series.

The schools last played each other in baseball and volleyball in 2010.

University announces partnership with Museum of Science

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A partnership between the University and a science museum is to bring a new environmental building for the crowd at Biscayne Bay Campus.

The University Board of Trustees approved a new partnership with the Patricia and Phillip Frost Museum of Science three months ago to build a new facility on campus. Here, animals will be cared for when not on display at the museum downtown.

“FIU is a great partner for us,” said museum President and CEO Gillian Thomas.

The museum received a \$5 million donation from the Batchelor Foundation to build the on-campus center, the Batchelor Environmental Center at FIU.

Operation and maintenance costs will be covered by the museum, while any academic programming will be financed by the University.

The structure will take up 75,000 square feet of the north side of campus, according to Provost Emeritus Douglas Wartzok.

The museum will consider FIU its primary academic partner, with the chance of applying for joint research grants, offering internships to FIU students and coordinating classes for students at the

BBC facility and the new downtown Miami location, scheduled to open 2016.

The museum intends to use the proposed two-story facility to care for their animals as they rotate them between exhibits. It will house large fish tanks and hold hawks, falcons, owls and vultures for their Falcon Batchelor Bird of Prey Center there.

The Bird of Prey Center, Thomas said, is where museum staff rehabilitate rare predatory birds that are ill or injured, and then release them back into the wild.

Michael Heithaus, executive director of the College of Arts and Sciences, said he thinks this will be a unique facility to have at a college campus and will make BBC an exciting place for students.

With access to “exotic animals that are rarely available on college campuses,” according to the contract, the University hopes to attract students interested in preveterinary studies.

The contract grants the museum four parking spaces and museum staff can buy an administrative decal from the Department of Parking and Transportation. If the project site includes the construction of new parking spaces, these would be exclusive to the museum.

The contract also outlines possible programs between the University and the museum at both locations.

One plan mentioned is the use of a 24-seat classroom for undergraduate

GET INVOLVED!



Bottom: Students enjoyed free pizza at the Involvement and Volunteer Fair on Sept. 2, hosted by Campus Life and the Center for Leadership and Service.

Top: Erlandie Belledent, a freshman criminal justice major, checks out her butterfly face painting at the Involvement and Volunteer Fair on Sept. 2.



NATALIE REYES/THE BEACON

lab courses, for science and nonscience majors at the BBC facility.

Another possibility is to enroll 12 undergraduate students in an animal care intern program.

The University also plans for 20 undergraduate students to intern at the museum downtown, with half interacting with museum visitors as science communication interns and the other half placed in other departments of the museum.

The museum can use the on-campus

facility for 30 years, and may renew their contract.

In the long term, the University intends to use this partnership to create new professional science master’s programs at the School of Environment, Art and Society and a professional master’s in science communication program in the School of Journalism and Mass Communication.

“It’s an open canvas for collaboration,” Thomas said. “We are looking to have as many crossovers as we can.”

Panthers to dash through obstacles for cash

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Mud, zombies and obstacles are making an appearance at the University next month as well as a chance for Panthers to win some cash. FIU’s Biscayne Bay Campus Recreation and the Benjamin Dash will host their first

running event as partners on Saturday, Oct. 4. The first wave of runners starts at 8 a.m.

Christina Reddick, assistant director of Student Affairs and coordinator of the event, said people are excited about the event, particularly rec center faculty who have already formed in teams.

The Benjamin Dash held their first run at Amelia Earhart Park a year ago, with roughly 1,000 attendees sprinting, hurdling and scavenging for flags that were exchanged for cash after the course was completed.

This year the group decided to bring the Benjamins to FIU, not only to use the unique landscape of BBC, but also to give students a chance to give back to the community.

Reddick said students have the option of donating their winnings to student clubs and organizations, although participants may also keep their earnings for themselves.

The course will be about three miles long and will have ten obstacles, including 4-foot wall climbs, quarter pipes, traverse walls, tilted walls, mud pits, tire

flips, and even a water obstacle – all of which are optional.

“We put them there because a lot of people like the challenge,” said Frank Samper, Benjamin Dash operation manager.

However, there will be several color and zombie zones, charity warriors and water balloons some runners may not be able to escape.

Students not only win money at the event, but they also save money when registering.

University students can participate at a discounted price when registering at: <http://bit.ly/1tu6Uya>.

All other participants can register on the Benjamin Dash website and may use the promo code “DASH4CASH” to receive a 10 percent discount.

The start and finish of the run will be behind the Biscayne Bay Aquatic Center, where an after party with vendors, music and giveaways will take place.

Prospective participants can visit the Benjamin Dash site or contact Christina Reddick at Reddickc@fiu.edu for details about packet pickup, volunteering opportunities and more.

JOUSTING FOR HOMECOMING



KRONO LESCANO/THE BEACON

Juan Gonzalez (left), a marine biology sophomore, and Alex David (right), a hospitality senior, battle in an inflatable pedestal joust during the 50 Days to Homecoming event.