

Rosenberg's iREAL determines themes

ROHAN JANI
Staff Writer

A recent Integrating Research, Engagement, Assessment and Learning commission meeting concluded three main themes iREAL wants to work toward: student success, becoming a top Carnegie Mellon tier school and finding more efficiency within the University to save funding and generate additional revenue. Two obstacles impede this path to success, however: prioritizing and funding.

President Mark B. Rosenberg's iREAL is a project he hopes to bring to the front of the University by 2020.

Ten commissioners, led by College of Arts and Sciences Dean Kenneth G. Furton, draft "white papers" to identify strategic ways that FIU can leverage success across the community, Furton said.

Missions of the commission range from the more broad like "preparing graduates for

seamless career integration and entrepreneurial success in the global marketplace" to specifics like "launching synchronized communications campaigns to elevate the FIU brand and attract donors."

"The idea is to use 'white papers' [...] and look into the future of FIU and, more broadly, the future of higher education. In a disruptive world full of technology and online MOOCs, vision papers of recommendations for the future and strategic plans [are necessary]," Furton said.

Nine major recommendations came out of recent meetings. The theme of student success included points to: work toward best practices, provide courses students need, ensure timely graduation and good, high-paying employment after graduation.

The second is continuing to strive to be a Carnegie Mellon tier school. The University is currently classified as a research university with high research

activity.

"The professors here create knowledge and share it. We also certify knowledge that students can acquire," Furton said.

The third theme is related to finding more efficiency within the University to save funding and find ways to generate additional revenue for paying for first-year recommendations, such as new programs being and funds to further research.

Furton said the strategy behind the iREAL commission includes breakdowns in planning concurrent ideas for each given year prior to 2010. This equates to the whole quantity of members needed for Furton to continue to achieve those recommendations.

The commission was charged by Rosenberg and is in its last year of strategic planning.

"We are trying to put together a blueprint for upcoming strategic ideas, using something as a foundation to build something

SEE iREAL, PAGE 2

THEY SAY I'M THE BEST



JAHREL FRANCIS/THE BEACON

Nicholas Scott Hertzman, sophomore in physical therapy, spent his night playing the third movement of "Moonlight Sonata" by Ludwig Van Beethoven in the GC Student Art Gallery. "I come here every now and then," Hertzman said. "They say I'm the best that plays here."

Students to strip in march for women's rights

VICTORIA GARCIAS
Staff Writer

Women have been fighting for equal rights for decades, since the battle for suffrage. Women have also been wearing less and less clothes over those decades, trading in stockings and ankle-long dresses for crop tops and booty shorts.

The current rape culture in our nation has assumed the position of victim blaming, because of a women's transition to more skin exposure. Many would use the term "slut" for the way a woman dresses or her promiscuity, and even go as far as to say "they deserved to be raped" or "they asked for it."

"The rape culture is real and we have to stop it," said Audrey Aradanas, secretary of FIU's National Organization for Women and a junior majoring in women's and gender studies, political science and international relations.

In Lorraine Costa's home country Brazil, "vadia" carries the same connotation.

"It is used to shame or degrade, as if the choices that a woman makes about her attire or her sexuality are motives to be ashamed, and are an excuse for sexual abuse," said Costa,

“

The rape culture is real and we have to stop it.

Audrey Aradanas

Secretary

National Organization for Women

president of NOW and a senior international relations major.

Costa is organizing this year's Slut Walk, which is April 3 beginning at 5 p.m. at the Chapman Plaza.

"The Slut Walk, to me, is a movement towards ending rape culture, as well as embracing the sexual liberation of women," said Laura Hernandez, a junior majoring in political

science and women's and gender studies.

Hernandez, an FIU College Democrat and member of the Women's Caucus Chair, thinks the walk is important "because sexual violence against women is especially pervasive in college campuses, and it is essential to take preventative measures."

The walk will make its way around the campus perimeter and end finally at the Quad. The walk will be followed by live performances and a vigil ceremony until 9 p.m.

"Last year's Slut Walk was my first and definitely not my last," said Carl-Frederick Francois, a junior broadcast media major. "My favorite part was the march and observing the courage to walk all through campus in the outfits some were in. It was impressive."

The Slut Walk is not only dedicated to raising awareness about the word "slut" and women's rights — it also works to bring the reality of rape to light.

According to a recent study by the Department of Justice,

SEE SLUT WALK, PAGE 2

FIU receives grant for Young African Leaders Initiative

LILA REYES
Contributing Writer

Twenty-five young African Leaders from sub-Saharan nations will visit the University this summer in a public management program as part of the Young African Leaders Initiative that received a \$100,000 grant from the Washington Fellowship.

According to Director of Training and International Research Initiative Susan Webster, the University's strength in public administration was a determining factor that made it a prime location to launch the Young African Leadership Initiative.

The initiative was launched by Obama in 2010, investing in young African leaders who strive who for growth, prosperity and democratic governance.

The Washington Fellowship brings over 500 young African leaders each year "for leadership training, academic coursework and mentoring that will create new opportunities in Africa to put those practical skills to use," to improve economic opportunities and strengthen democratic institutions.

The U.S. commitment in training these young talents is to strengthen democratic institutions, Africa's sustainable development, promote trade and investment and advance peace and security.

Webster said there are three different categories in public administration.

"Entrepreneurship, civic leadership and public administration is one of them," Webster said. "Our strength in that area is probably the reason why FIU was chosen to do the program."

The young talent may already have leadership positions in that area whether they're running non-governmental organizations or are part of a larger agency or organization in Africa.

During the course of six weeks, they will participate in the curriculum developed by the Metropolitan Center. They will also receive training by a group of faculty that includes the School of

Environment, Arts and Society and the African and African Diaspora Studies Program.

Webster said FIU will face challenges highlighting environmental issues and where they can draw in similarities based on the community in Miami and that in Africa.

"Access to resources is different here than they are over there," Webster said. "But there are similarities in terms of, for instance, managing resources around, such as water conservation."

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WORLD NEWS

U.S.: N. Korea actions are dangerous, provocative

The White House says North Korea's actions are "dangerous and provocative" and will further aggravate tensions in the region. North and South Korea fired hundreds of artillery shells into each other's waters. White House spokesman Jonathan Lalley says North Korea's continuous threats and provocations will only deepen its isolation. He says the U.S. remains steadfast in its commitment to the defense of its allies and is working in close coordination with South Korea and Japan.

Kerry to Mideast at critical point in peace talks

U.S. Secretary of State John Kerry headed back to the Middle East on Monday for talks with Israeli and Palestinian leaders as peace talks have reached a critical make-or-break point. Kerry spoke Monday with leaders from both sides as well as with the White House before deciding to go. American mediators have been holding urgent talks with the two sides in hopes of salvaging the troubled negotiations and getting them to extend the talks beyond a current late-April deadline.

Global warming dials up our risks, UN report says

If the world doesn't cut pollution of heat-trapping gases, the already noticeable harms of global warming could spiral "out of control," the head of a United Nations scientific panel warned Monday. The Obama White House says it is taking this new report as a call for action, with Secretary of State John Kerry saying "the costs of inaction are catastrophic." Rajendra Pachauri, chairman of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change that issued the 32-volume, 2,610-page report here early Monday, told The Associated Press: "It is a call for action." Without reductions in emissions, he said, impacts from warming "could get out of control."

Prioritizing and funding stand in way of 2020 strategic plan

iREAL, PAGE 1

even newer and much better into the next five to six years," Furton said. "We are confident; FIU is always innovative and is at the leading edge."

Student feedback is important to the commission, according to Furton.

"Students are required at some point; all work products are on the website and we encourage student feedback directly there. I have met with students and senators, both on campus and also at the town hall," Furton said.

He commented on the necessity to have a more expedient graduation rate, and why FIU must live up to its label as a public research university.

"Research, depending on the area, is costly but carries cost-incentive reasons," Furton said. "Research is good for the types of jobs students want to have, and can help towards advanced degrees. Town hall forums included positive direction and feedback during my visit there."

Furton also made a note that while some committee members wanted to have the program focus on working within FIU, there was an interest in collaborating with other universities in the state of Florida like University of Central Florida and University of South Florida.

"They are the best choices to partner up with for similar research," Furton said. "This was so that he could

expand the networks that FIU can get in contact with outside the University's reach and also to build long-lasting relationships."

"We are trying to put together a blueprint for upcoming strategic ideas, using something as a foundation to build something even newer and much better into the next five to six years."

Kenneth G. Furton
Dean
College of Arts and Sciences

Furton noted obstacles that were impeding the path to success for iREAL, however, which include prioritizing and funding.

"In the next six months of strategic planning, we need to prioritize where we put our efforts in," Furton said. "Challenges and opportunities are difficult because they are so many — which do we address first?"

The most recent meeting was the last Furton will have with the commissioners alone. The next meeting will be a town hall, where Rosenberg will introduce the finalized strategic plan.

Harry Guerrero, a sophomore in international relations and political science, thinks the "white paper" goals

for 2020 are very much realistic.

"If the University concentrates on increasing graduate students, then the school will gain an even stronger reputation and the quantity of kids applying will increase as well," Guerrero said. "Everyone across the board benefits, from students and faculty to the University and City of Miami."

Antonio Diaz, a sophomore in political science and government, also admires the goals that are laid out by the commission. He follows the perspective that prioritization of missions will be the greatest asset if removed as an obstacle and developed more as a strategic tool.

"The first three goals should receive priority designation because, if accomplished, they will create a chain effect or pathway to accomplish the rest," Diaz said.

Diaz also argued that there should be another recommendation added to the list.

"Increasing programs that allow you to begin graduate education as an undergraduate student," he said, inferring that that these would be very similar to the BPA/MPA programs already at FIU.

Student Media made several attempts to contact Rosenberg, who was unavailable for comment.

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CORRECTIONS

In Vol. 25, Issue 79, in the article titled "Student government polls open this week," it inaccurately stated that elections started that day, when they actually started April 1.

In the same issue, article "Less sleep causes more stress, study suggests," we said Tamara Phanor said "The average person needs eight hours of sleep." It's supposed to be Liane Dornheim, staff psychologist for Counseling and Psychological Services.

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

NOW to hold Slut Walk

SLUT WALK, PAGE 1

25 percent of women on college campuses are or have been victims of attempted or sexual assault.

With a fall 2013 enrollment of 52,980 and about 29,000 women, about 7,250 of those women would have already experienced or would experience a form of sexual assault or an attempt of it, following the study.

But according to the University's most recent security report, sexual assault numbers have remained low since 2010. There were five cases of forcible and non-forcible sex offenses on all campuses and centers in 2012, according to the University's most recent security report.

"Sexual abuse on campus is extremely underreported," Costa said. "The reaction of law enforcement and peer pressure, blaming the victim, plays a big role on that."

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DISCOVER NEW FACES College Edition



CONGRATULATIONS to Florida International University's **PAOLA DAVALOS** on receiving the prestigious College Edition Award!

The New Faces of Engineering-College Edition program recognizes students whose academic successes and experiences in the engineering field have positioned them to become tomorrow's leaders.

Paola is a student member of NACME (National Action Council for Minorities in Engineering).

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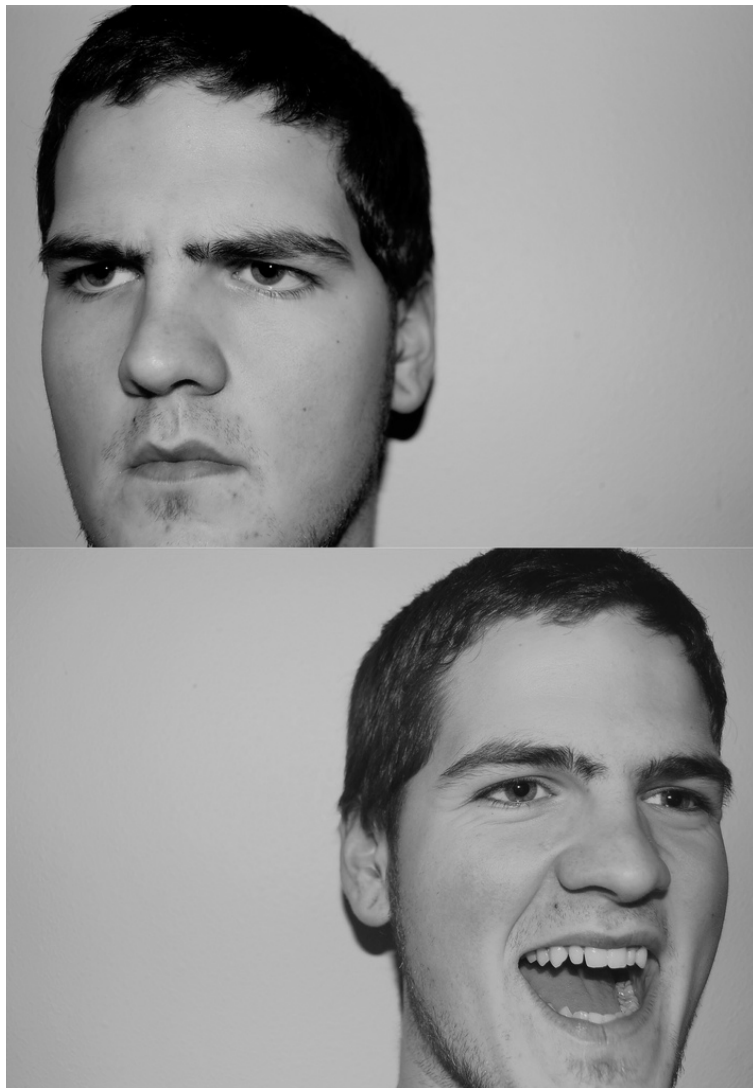
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University discriminates against student



CAPRA ROYALE/WIKICOMMONS

Bipolar disorder is a psychiatric illness characterized by both manic and depressive episodes.

ASHLEY SALAMANCA
Contributing Writer

I am a student at the University with two semesters left. My dream is to go to DC for graduate

school. I am one of those students that likes to visit professors. Recently, I have been diagnosed with bipolar disorder.

I first sought help through Counseling and Psychological

Services on campus, but I was rejected. I was too much of a liability, according to them.

I spent most of 2013 in a depressed state. I got some incompletes that spring semester.

Even though professors have told me I have the potential of going to DC, an advisor said it would be best to just get my bachelor's degree over with.

Read between the lines: he told me I'm not capable of handling graduate school because I'm diagnosed as bipolar.

I feel now, months later, that I've been discriminated against. I sought help, I sought guidance and I was essentially told that I'm too sick to reach my goals, that I need to lower my expectations and get out of FIU.

Aside from being pushed aside by our university's counseling services and put down by my advisor, I started getting emails practically every week telling me that I owed over \$6,000 from spring semester, even though I had the incompletes, and that if I didn't pay back in full, my account would be sent to collections. Even though I worked out a payment plan, the emails kept on coming. I will not be able to return to school, get access to my transcripts or transfer schools until it is fully paid off.

I ended up sending an email to my professors, apologizing, telling them that I was going to fail and that I hope to take their courses again in the future. The only way I can pay back is through full-time work.

“ I feel now, months later, that I've been discriminated against. I sought help, I sought guidance and I was essentially told that I'm too sick to reach my goals, that I need to lower my expectations and get out of FIU. ”

At my job, it is known that I'm bipolar. I work at a fast-paced office in Downtown Miami.

They have been very supportive and accommodating. I work late to meet deadlines and I have come in on weekends voluntarily because I care about my employer's success. It's a little perk from getting hypomania.

They also let me take sick days to restart my brain. They know why.

Just like my professors, my mentors have known why. Being brutally honest has been working well for me, save for the FIU situation.

Mental illness should not be a death sentence. It shouldn't automatically force a person to lower their expectations. Stop insinuating that I'm just a button-pusher, FIU.

When I was rejected by counseling services, that was incredibly traumatic for me. It was like they were putting the nails in my coffin. I cried from the moment I left until I got to the car.

An institution of higher education should not shun students

with mental illness. How is society going to move forward if this institution discriminates and dismisses students like me?

I am outright accusing FIU for discriminating against students with mental illness.

There are many of us out there. It is pretty damn difficult to admit that we need help to begin with, and often college services are the best we can get.

You've raised the tuition to pay for our less-than-stellar sports programs. How about you invest more on the student body's health, safety, and overall well-being?

Make your students' success and personal growth your priority – for everyone. You are perpetuating all of the negative stereotypes about mental illness.

How is a student like me supposed to go to school confidently when you treat us as inferior? It internalizes the stigma and we hide in shame.

Shame on you, FIU.

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Single life: many perks including money, freedom

KESHA DORISMA
Staff Writer

All my single ladies and gentlemen, put your hands up! Being single is something that should be celebrated and cherished.

Being single is more than walking alone. Instead being single should be looked at as a time of finding yourself, not who you are with a significant other.

It's a time that gives you a chance to look inside of yourself, figure out all the things that make you unique and helps you figure out how to love yourself.

Of course the cute good

morning text messages, the cuddling and the romantic dates are lovely, but not having these things should not equal unhappiness.

I find that being single is such a freeing experience. Although I don't wish to be in this predicament forever, I do intend to enjoy this time as much as possible until my next prince charming comes along.

The thing about it is when you are single, you have so much more free time, time that can be used to find yourself.

It sounds a bit cliché, but it's true. In a relationship we tend to lose sight of what we as an individual

like and instead focus on the things that we as a significant other feels about it.

Having a boyfriend or

“ I find that being single is such a freeing experience. Although I don't wish to be in this predicament forever, I do intend to enjoy this time as much as possible until my next prince charming comes along. ”

couple like. Being single allows you to explore and entertain all your favorite pleasures in life with no regards to how your girlfriend is like having another part-time job where you have to punch in and out, making sure you punch in enough hours

and perform all your duties to ensure that you will keep your boyfriend/girlfriend happy and not lose your job. And those are hours that you could be dedicating to homework or whatever task you have neglected.

Being single is also sweet to your wallet. No longer is it dinner for two or movies for two. Instead, you are now the only person that you must treat and there are no obligations.

Even if you are a couple that shies away from buying each other gifts, the price of routinely going out in efforts to keep the relationship alive racks up

a bill much higher than if you are single.

Being single is a great experience and we should not believe the hype that we all need relationships.

If you are single, don't mope around searching high and low for your next significant other. You should take the time to be thankful that you have time to be totally selfish with yourself.

A healthy relationship is something that is great to have, but the absence of it should not make you any better or worse than you are as a single person.

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Cheers for Troops fundraised for wounded veterans

GISELLE CANCIO
Staff Writer

A fraternity event out of the norm – a cheerleading competition – was hosted by the gentleman of Theta Chi FIU in efforts to raise money for the U.S. military.

Cheers for Troops is a cheerleading competition between organizations to raise money for the Wounded Warrior Project for wounded veterans. Ninety percent of the proceeds go towards the Wounded Warrior Project and 10 percent go towards the charity of choice by the sorority who accumulated the most spirit points throughout the week.

Spirit points were awarded throughout the month leading up to event day. They were earned based off of participation within a series of events throughout the entire month.

“The competition is a fun aspect, but a major point of this event was to raise awareness for our sometimes forgotten heroes within the military and I feel like it more than surpassed our expectations in promoting this,” Michael DiBono, the philanthropy chairman for Theta Chi, said.

The events held the week leading up to the event included “Color Wars,” “Balloon Challenge,” “Cheers for my Dears,” “Captain Hunt” and “Brother Hunt.”

During “Color Wars,” each organization was assigned a specific nail color and team members had to go around painting the guys’ nails. At the end of the hour, whichever colors were on top were the teams that received points.

“Balloon Challenge” was similar with each organization having a specific color. For a

small donation, if you blew up balloons for your team you received points; if others popped your organizations’ balloons, you

“It was the coolest thing to see guys performing a quick routine and they were actually pretty good.

Amanda Ruiz,
Junior
Education Major

lost points.

“Cheers for my Dears” included Theta Chi brothers dressing up as cheerleaders in order to perform “cheer grams,” or choreographed cheer routines. This was deemed one of the

favorites of the week.

“The most successful to raise both awareness and money was ‘Cheers for My Dears,’ during this event in the [Graham Center] Pit, our fraternity brothers performed ‘Cheer Grams’ for people within lecture halls as big as 200 people.” DiBono said. “It was quite the show.”

People gathered to see what they would perform next.

“I was walking to class and I had to stop in my tracks,” Amanda Ruiz, junior majoring in education, said. “It was the coolest thing to see guys performing a quick routine and they were actually pretty good.”

Thursday and Friday had similar events – “Captain Hunt” and “Brother Hunt” – in which pictures were required to be uploaded to social media to earn points. The only catch, the brothers had to be in the pictures.

The Wounded Warrior Project

is an organization that offers a variety of programs, services and events for wounded veterans following the events of 9/11.

The students of Theta Chi hosted Cheers for Troops last year for the first time.

“From last year to now, the event more than doubled in size, from 2 participating organizations increasing to 5,” DiBono said

Phi Sigma Sigma won Cheers for Troops with Alpha Xi Delta coming in second place. Tri Sigma accumulated the most spirit points, so they will be receiving 10 percent of the proceeds to their philanthropy of choice.

“It ran smoother, starting on time and running very efficiently, next year will be bigger and better,” DiBono said.

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Former Minister of Defense on women in politics

JUNETTE REYES
Entertainment Director

Spain’s former Minister of Defense, Carme Chacón, will be coming to FIU on Thursday to give a lecture on the subject of “Women and Politics: How to Reach a Better World.”

“It is going to be about how women in politics can change the world. How they are contributing to governing and establishing those bridges that can open new ways of achieving peace and trying to fix things not through war but through diplomacy and conversation and cooperation,” said Aurora Morcillo, a professor in the Department of History.

Chacón was the first female Minister of

Defense for Spain from 2008 to 2011 under the cabinet led by Prime Minister José Luis Rodríguez Zapatero. Before being the Minister of Defense for Spain, Chacón also held the posi-

“I can see myself in some of you when I was young in Spain going to college in the University of Granada.

Aurora Morcillo,
Professor
Department of History

tion of Vice President of the House of Deputies from 2004 to 2007 and Minister of Housing from 2007 to 2008.

Chacón is currently a visiting scholar for Miami Dade College.

“This is an event that is part of a new initiative in SIPA called the Initiative for Spanish and Mediterranean Studies. This is going to be focusing on the Mediterranean basin as a place where cultures merge and where you establish bridges between countries and you create new identities. Just like the Atlantic was another body of water that allows people to reinvent themselves, as well as the Caribbean,” said Morcillo.

“A center like this is not only going to speak to Latin Americans but it is going to speak also to the many Americans that have a

Hispanic heritage. We are Latinos and we have a very vibrant city, we live in a beautiful place of the world and we’re going to do very well,” said Morcillo.

The lecture held by Chacón will be the signature event of the initiative, and will be taking place at the Green Library in room 220. The lecture is slated to start at 5p.m. and is free and open to the public.

“I want this to be for all the students here at FIU that have Hispanic heritage. I feel like this is the other Spain, the Caribbean is the other Mediterranean. I can see myself in some of you when I was young in Spain going to college in the University of Granada,” said Morcillo.

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6000 FLAGS FOR SEXUAL ASSAULT

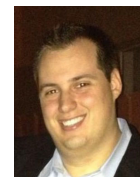


VICTORIA GARCIAS/THE BEACON

Sonia Khatkhate, grad student in higher education and administration (left), Katherine Rodriguez, sophomore in woman studies, Angelica Rodriguez, grad student in public administration, and Julio Carpio, junior in English literature, all help out in placing thousands of flags in the grass of the GC Lawn in order to represent the 6,500 women who will be affected by sexual assault at the University.

Ewing dunks over competition

SNEAK PEEK



FRANCISCO RIVERO

As the N C A A March Madness begins to come to a close, and the Final Four is set to begin, this weekend will see the release of footwear worn by two of the greatest college players to play the game. Patrick Ewing was a 7-foot and 250 pound monster that terrorized the Big East conference while he was playing for Georgetown University. Ewing would later be selected by the New York Knicks with the first overall pick in 1985. During his playing career Ewing would come out with the “Ewing Center Retro”. The second player is one that we all know and has become the face of the sport itself and that player goes by the name of Michael Jordan. Standing at 6-foot-6 and weighing in at 220 pounds, Jordan was a staple at the University of North Carolina. As we all know, Jordan would later be selected by the Chicago Bulls and the rest, as they say, is history.

Ewing models kick off April

This Friday, April 4, Ewing will release not just one but two of his signature Ewing Center Retro models to the public.

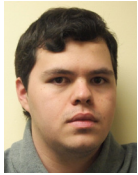
The first will be the “Knicks” version which will have the classic blue and orange colors of the historical franchise.

The second player is one that we all know and has

SEE SHOES, PAGE 7

“The Double” and its take with Jesse Eisenberg

COLUMNIST



RAFAEL ABREU

Based on the novella by Fyodor Dostoyevsky, “The Double” is the story of Simon James (Jesse Eisenberg) as he comes into contact with his doppelganger, James Simon (Jesse Eisenberg).

A black comedy of the bleakest sorts, “The Double” also works as a psychological thriller, featuring uncomfortable scenarios among subtle and large laughs.

Simon is not displayed as confident or noticed; he desperately wants to talk to his neighbor and co-worker Hannah (Mia Wasikowska) but hasn’t the guts to actually go through with it.

He’s routinely ignored by everyone he comes into contact with and he doesn’t seem to have anything about him that is unique or interesting.

James, on the other hand, is confident, noticed, and has the guts to get with Hannah. So what makes James so much better than Simon?

It’s a question that Simon asks throughout most of the film, as he views James as identical to himself, if only because they share the same face.

Indeed, no one in the entire film ever looks at Simon and James and thinks they resemble one another; sure one might have a different attitude than the other, but as Simon wonders, what makes James stand out as a different person?

The comedy in “The Double” comes from various places, such as a scene where Simon embarrasses himself or a scene from a fictional television program the characters watch.

A good deal of it can be labeled as “cringe worthy”, since Simon does have

James, and James himself (mainly in the form of dialogue).

It’s important to know that “The Double” does not feel like a comedy. Sure, it might be labeled as an incredibly black comedy, but even then, the film always feels like a thriller masquerading as a comedy.

From the very first shot to the final shot, “The Double” is always in the dark, with lighting to an incredible minimum.

The world these characters live in consists of different types of twentieth

tics of this job, and the way the police and hospitals are handled.

The appearance of doppelgangers alone is the film’s biggest mystery, but what becomes clear is that the film isn’t all that interested in answering questions that needn’t be asked.

“The Double” is, at its core, an examination on the psyche when someone comes into contact with a version of themselves that seems to express every desire and attitude they wish to publicize.

James represents the confidence and swagger that Simon could only dream of expressing, especially when it comes to Hannah.

On top of that, both Simon and James represent the flaws that exist between one another: James is too cocky and a dishonest while Simon is too emotional and introverted.

Still, the film manages to be darkly amusing and hilarious, even at times that would seem less than appropriate.

It works as a psychological thriller just as much as it works as a nightmarish comedy.

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“The Double” is, at its core, an examination on the psyche when someone comes into contact with a version of themselves that seems to express every desire and attitude they wish to publicize.

his fair share of humiliating moments.

However, there are just as many laughs from lighter moments, such as the aforementioned television program, the reactions people have towards Simon or

century technology and the style of dress, architecture, and lack of sunlight all feel authentically dystopian.

There’s also the mystery behind the jobs both Simon and James hold, the poli-

Movie trailers: The tragic loss of anticipation

COLUMNIST



CHRIS SANTIAGO

Lately, there’s been a trend of superhero/action movie trailers that seem to be released one after another.

Upcoming films such as “The Amazing Spider-Man 2,” “X-Men: Days of Future Past,” “Captain America: The Winter Soldier,” the new reboot of the “Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles,” “Transformers: Age of Extinction,” and the list goes on.

And it brought up a couple of questions to me: ‘Is there such a thing as too many trailers for a movie release?’ and ‘Can too many trailers actually ruin the experience of going to see the movie?’

The Amazing Spider-Man 2 has four trailers out that have been released all within a month and a half span. To fanatics, such as me, that isn’t such a bad thing because it only builds up our anticipation higher than ever.

However, to just regular movie goers, that could potentially have the opposite effect on them.

I’ve been hearing conversations around campus that go as such: “Did you see the new Spider-Man trailer?” “There’s another one?”

All this is making me not want to see it now.” But, then I hear conversations that go as such: “Did you see the new X-Men trailer?” “Yes. It looks so good.

I can’t wait to see it.” It’s conversations like that that make me realize that maybe a movie production releasing too many trailers could be damaging their chances at making a very high profit off of their film’s release date.

For me, it’s Captain America. When I first saw the trailer, I’m not going to lie, I was extremely excited because I’ve always liked the concept of the Winter Soldier.

But now, because of the numerous trailers and countless TV spots being released, I’ve lost all my excitement to go see it and now have no interest in it anymore.

I think it’s because of the overexposure I’ve had to these upcoming films that I am not as excited as I used to be for them.

The only reason I’m still excited as ever to see the new Amazing Spider-Man movie is because I’ve been a Spidey fanatic since I was a child due to the old animated series that was airing during the ‘90s (yes, I had a childhood.)

Other upcoming superhero/action movies that are releasing their trailers the right way are “X-Men: Days of Future Past,” “Guardians of the Galaxy” and the newly rebooted Godzilla. For X-Men, only two trailers have been released with a good amount of months in between them and that is how it should be done.

It builds the higher anticipation of the crowd craving

more footage and information as to what will happen in the film while keeping the plot and other juicy information hidden enough to make the crowd impatient, but more satisfied with the ending result.

The same goes for “Godzilla and Guardians of the Galaxy;” each have released less trailers and have promoted more on social media on each of their respected Facebook and Twitter pages for their movie release, and even that has proven to be a much more effective method at keeping the audience in suspense and on their toes for the film’s release date.

I’m sure that regardless of the amount of trailers that are released, people will still be coming in to the premieres. However, I wouldn’t hold my breath on the audience being as excited or surprised at the plot twists or plot reveals during the film.

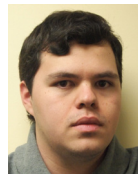
You can sure as heck expect me to be that guy that’ll still jump out of his seat at “The Amazing Spider-Man 2” premiere, but, from experience and what I’ve been hearing, I can’t say the same for others.

Hopefully movie producers will think a bit more before planning on releasing so many trailers, for the consequences could lead to a not-so-great release.

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The features of Chris Evans back in action

COLUMNIST



RAFAEL ABREU

With the release of “Captain America: The Winter Soldier” this week, I thought it would be nice to look back on the career of its principal actor Chris Evans.

I’m going to be looking back at specific films that are more in line with the superpowers and heroics of Cap, so don’t expect “Not Another Teen Movie” to get a mention here.

Fantastic Four

If anyone can recall (I know I can), Chris Evans first foray into Marvel was in 2005’s “Fantastic Four,” a film which most people

will always cite as bad. Jessica Alba aside, people do seem to agree that Evans was the standout of the Four, bringing charisma and personality to the role of Johnny Storm. He would don the role one last time in the film’s 2007 sequel Rise of the Silver Surfer.

Push

Released in 2009, I doubt many people remember this film. It starred Evans and Dakota Fanning as a couple of super-human beings; along with others, they attempt to stop a government agency from abusing these powers.

While it made back its budget, it was not a critical success by any means and opened at #6 in its first weekend.

The Losers

Based on the Vertigo comic series, “The Losers” is about a black ops group that decides to go against the man who tried to have them killed while on a mission.

Evans played a computer hacker who acted very much as comic relief; a light hearted, fun individual who cracks a joke whenever the opportunity arises.

The film received mixed reviews and just so happened to be released right before the film adaptation of “The A-Team,” which shares similarities.

Scott Pilgrim vs. the World

A small but important and popular role, Chris Evans played

Ramona Flowers’s Evil Ex #2: Lucas Lee, a skateboarder and action movie star who is defeated by Scott Pilgrim due to trying to prove he could grind an incredibly long railing (he combusted).

Evans only appears for a few minutes, but his role is never undermined or underutilized, being incredibly memorable within the time he’s given, especially in the clip from one of his films on Spike TV.

Captain America: The First Avenger

The film that made Chris Evans a Marvel star again, The First Avenger has him in ideal shape, fulfilling the role of sympathetic Steve Rogers and patriotic Nazi fighter Captain America.

The film was, of course, a massive success and part of the Marvel universe that eventually led to...

The Avengers

Captain America is now in the present day, having been frozen since World War II.

The Avengers took some time to look at Rogers somewhat out of his element, now living in a different time with different individuals. At the end of the day, however,

Captain America still needs to help save the world, and “The Avengers” showed him doing so in top form.

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TENNIS

Panthers pull out a victory from a close match

JAHREL FRANCIS
Staff Writer

The end of the season is nearing. The members of the women's tennis team are sharpening their tools and getting to their ideal game. Head Coach Katarina Petrovic is finding what's best for the team in both singles and doubles matches.

To begin, the team won their second game in a row. Coming off of a 7-0 shutout against the University of Nebraska at Omaha, the team had a tight victory over the Brown University Bears.

Beginning an unusual trend, the Panthers beat the competition in doubles. Keeping the same matchups as they had for Omaha, the Panthers earned the doubles point with best two of three. On the first court, sophomore Carlotta Orlando and freshman Valentina Briceno lost to the Bears.

"I think they are better, much better than us, and we did our best; and in the end we kind of figured out how



JAHREL FRANCIS/THE BEACON

Sophomore Carlotta Orlando (right) and freshman Valentina Briceno (left) led FIU in its wins over Nebraska-Omaha on March 25 and Brown on March 28.

to play," Orlando said, "But I just think that they were better and we still have to improve a lot."

Losing 3-8, they couldn't find their rhythm fast enough. Relying on the remainder of the doubles freshmen Tina Mohorcic and Nina Nagode matched up on the middle court.

They finished their match, along with senior Giulietta Boha and sophomore Aleksandra Trifunovic, for a win, concluding the doubles with an initial point for the team.

"We were down 5-2, we didn't play that amazing to be honest, but all of a sudden we picked it up," Boha said.

Individually, the year is

coming to an end. With that said the Panthers need to step up in both doubles and singles to prove themselves at the finals.

As a senior, Boha knows this better than anyone as this is her last chance at success.

"My senior day is coming closer and closer, so I'm

looking forward to that and I'm really excited, well, I'm also a little bit sad that it's my last matches obviously, but I'm happy," Boha said. "I want to play my best tennis the last couple of matches."

Going into to singles matches Boha had tough competition. Not the ordinary opponent, she had to turn away from her ordinary game.

"Normally I play aggressive tennis but my opponent liked to play fast tennis, so I played with more spin on my balls, played a little bit with the wind, which she didn't like," Boha said, "so i played a little more tactics."

Boha showed up and showed out for a victory but she was not the only one. Orlando had to put in a lot of work for her opponent with questionable calls and a persevering attitude. Having lost three matches and only winning two, the Panthers and Bears were at a split of 3-3.

"I'm happy, I played well," Orlando said. "The

first one was 6-3, then the second one, I got a little bit nervous about a ball the referee made a mistake on."

The score had been 4-4. After the call the Bears went up 5-4.

"She had a couple of bad calls from the ref toward the end of the second set and she got a little annoyed about it," Petrovic said. "I think she just kept her composure and did what she was supposed to do."

The second set was lost in the end keeping her mind on the call instead of the game. Having the match on the line, to go to the third round, the crowd was anxious to see who had what it took to win.

"The third set I just decided to start again and it went well. I'm happy," Orlando said.

4-3 the Panthers do what it takes to overcome.

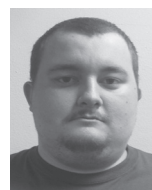
The next match will be against University of Central Florida at the home courts on April 4.

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COLUMN

Having some Sunblazer pride should still be a thing

COLUMNIST



RHYS WILLIAMS

Back in 1987 the athletic department at FIU decided to retire the university's first mascot, The Sunblazer.

It is my thought that this should not have been the case.

One of the main reasons is that people who follow sports, in general, do not tend to think of FIU at first when they think of the Panthers.

In my mind, even as a student here at the University, the order of thoughts are the Carolina Panthers of the NFL, the University of Pittsburgh Panthers, and then the Florida Panthers of the NHL before noting FIU.

I would much rather be a member of the Sunblazer nation, something that is both original and has the ability to have catchy slogans, catch phrases and even hashtags for social media.

"I wouldn't have minded it [being the Sunblazers]," junior sociology major Moses McGahee said. "#BurnEmBlazers would have been a nice saying and I'm sure the Sunblazer would have looked a lot more dangerous in this day and age."

I do agree with McGahee when he says that the mascot would have needed some updating for the present day however.

It does look a little strange but I remember that it was back in the 1980s so I can't expect that much.

I also have to note that it is a very odd mascot. However, there are some pretty strange ones still out there today. Some of these include the Banana Slugs of the University of California at Santa Cruz, the Geoducks (pronounced goeyducks) of Evergreen State College in Washington, the Scottsdale Community College Fighting Artichokes, and the Washburn University (Kansas) Ichabods.

Now, it is my opinion, since athletics decided to drop the brighter side of our university's mascot name, it became confusing.

When the word Golden was taken off of the Panthers name, incoming students who do not know the history of the mascot, probably wonder why we have a yellow,

almost lion-like, mascot when we are simply the FIU Panthers.

A friend brought up a valid point to me though on why the Panther makes sense. She told me that it is an animal native to Florida.

That does make sense.

However, Florida is known as the Sunshine State.

A big part of the Sunblazers would be the sun and I do recall that we as a state are the only that didn't really have a winter and can see the sun most days.

Also, for people outside of Florida, as I lived in Virginia for a few years, I had no idea whatsoever that there was a Florida Panther and I just thought that the Panthers of the NHL just took the name out of randomness like the Carolina Panthers.

The Sunblazer would have so much potential in my opinion for growth and marketing.

Yes, the colors could still be blue and gold but there can be some cool color combos if the change would be made for the fiery and fierce Torch, the Sun Blazer.

Yes, I gave him the name of Torch.

I thought torch because current Conference USA opponent in the University of Alabama at Birmingham who are the Blazers and have a dragon as a mascot.

We could be red and gold or gold and black, as space is black.

In theory he could even be friends with Burnie the Miami Heat mascot, which would be cool or hot to put that pun into things.

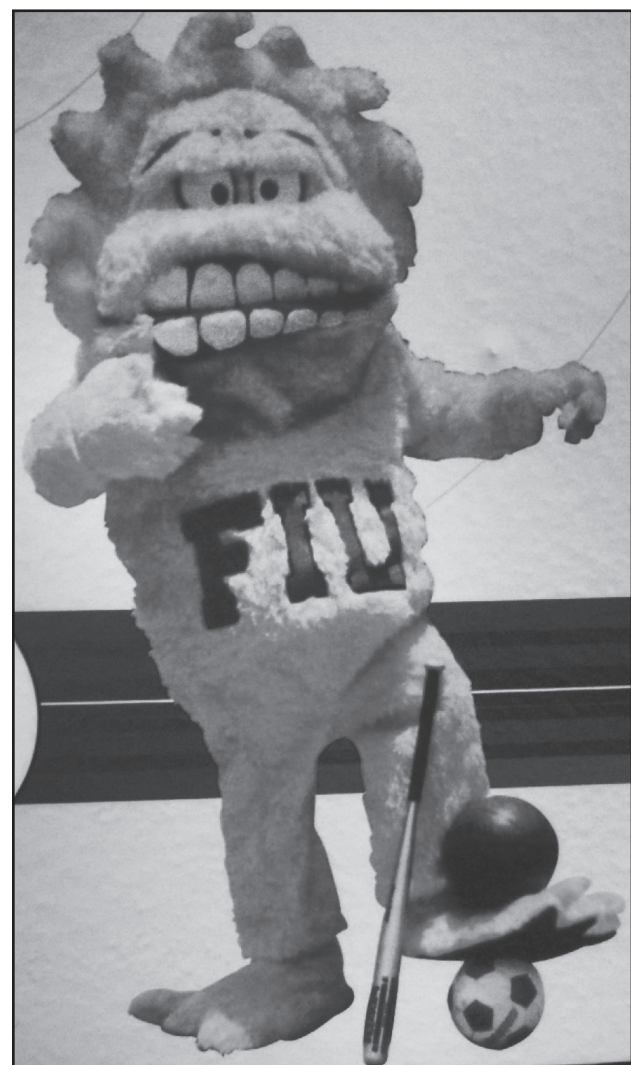
However, unless athletics wants to raise Torch from retirement and give him a face lift.

I don't think I will ever get to say Burn 'Em Sunblazers, Burn 'Em.

Nor will any future student of FIU.

Share your opinion via our poll question in this story on fiusm.com.

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RHYS WILLIAMS/THE BEACON

The former FIU mascot, the Sunblazer, is shown here in part of the timeline of the University which is in Parkview Hall by the Sky Lounge.

GOLF

A new country brings new challenges for golfer

REINALDO LLERENA
Contributing Writer

The FIU women's golf team, led by number one golfer sophomore Meghan MacLaren, looks to remain consistent heading into the last of its regular season tournaments.

MacLaren, who is from the United Kingdom, has an 18 hole average of just over 74 or two over par this season. She was named Conference USA's Women's Golfer of the Week for the week of October 3 after finishing fifth at the Golfweek Conference Challenge in September.

After being named Women's Golfer

of the Week, MacLaren began to struggle with consistency at the FIU Pat Bradley Invitational in October. In the tournament, she shot a 71 on the first day, a 78 on the second day, and a 76 on the third day of the tournament.

Since the UCF Challenge in February, however, she has remained consistent, shooting an average score of 72.66 in both the Amelia Island Collegiate and the 2014 Notre Dame Clover Cup, the most recent tournaments.

"The biggest thing that I have learned this season is to never give up," MacLaren said. "You never know what is going to



MEGHAN MACLAREN

happen later in the round. There have been rounds where it doesn't go well for you, but you have to remember that you play for a team and not for yourself. If you let your play affect you negatively, you let down not just yourself, but the other four players on the team as well as your coach."

Last year, the golf team went on to win the NCAA championship. So the entire team had a lot to live up to, especially MacLaren.

MacLaren went on to win three tournaments last season and led the Sun Belt Conference with a stroke average of just under 74. The accomplishments do not end there, however. She was also named the Sun Belt Conference Freshman of the Year and named to the All-Conference First-Team and All-Tournament Team.

"I did pretty well last year," MacLaren said. "I won three tournaments last season and we won four tournaments as a team. We have had quite a lot to live up to this year, but we lost a couple of players that were replaced by several freshman. It's been a steep learning curve for us this year and I guess people expected a lot from us after last year. We are trying to build back towards that success that we had. We've got a really good team and we showed what we can do in the past tournament [Amelia Island Collegiate]."

MacLaren, is from Cambridge, United Kingdom. To those not familiar with the origins of Golf, it was invented in Scotland, which is part of the U.K. So naturally,

she started playing the sport from an early age.

"I started playing golf at around the age of four," MacLaren said. "I started because everyone in my family plays golf. I actually wanted to stop playing for a while, but I decided against it and just to stick with it. That decision has paid off ever since then."

So with an abundance of opportunities back home, why did she come to FIU to play Golf?

"I came over here mainly because the weather is miserable in the winter," MacLaren said. "Having bad weather in the winter makes it difficult to practice and to find the motivation to practice. Out here, you have the opportunity to compete year-round and that is a chance you can't get back home."

The Women's Golf teams wraps up the regular season with the Web.com Intercollegiate at the Marsh Landing Country Club in Ponte Vedra Beach, Florida on April 8th. After the tournament is done, the team will travel to Gulf Shores, Alabama, the site of the Conference USA Women's Golf Championship.

As for MacLaren, she has a difficult decision to think about over the next few years concerning her future as a golfer.

"I would like to turn professional, but I haven't decided which tour that I want to participate in," MacLaren said. "Being here for four years, however, will ultimately decide which tour [American or European] that I want to participate in."

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BEACON FILE PHOTO

Golf team Head Coach Joe Vogel recruited sophomore Meghan MacLaren from the United Kingdom where she was the Young Sportswoman of the Year in 2009 and the Upper School Sportswoman of the Year in 2010 for the Ferrers Specialists Arts College.

Jordan retro's stay classy with style and color

SHOES, PAGE 4

The shoe itself is a high top model and although its overall appearance is one of bulk, the smooth flow of dark blue mixed in with the hints of orange underneath the shoe and around the tongue, make the overall appearance look very retro.

The second of Ewing's models will be the "Black" version. As the name suggest the shoe is primarily black in color with hints of white located towards the bottom of the shoe and also on the tongue.

Both models will sell for a retail price of \$110 making the Ewing's the steal of the week. The shoe is limited so same day purchase is suggested for anyone interested in buying the models.

Jordan Retro's add to weekend delight

Anytime a Jordan Retro releases you can almost guarantee that it will be a must buy for any person interested in sneakers. This week is no different as Jordan will release two different Retro's to the public.

The first is the Jordan Retro 9 "Birmingham Barons" that will be released this Saturday, April 5 and will be sold for a retail price of \$170. The shoe is based on the minor league baseball team that Jordan played for when he first retired from the game of basketball. The shoe will sport his number 45 that he wore during his time with the Birmingham Barons.

Jordan pays homage to that time

with a fresh new colorway that the Retro 9 version has never seen. White controls the upper part of the shoe while grey takes care of the accents as well as black.

The second model of Jordan's that will be releasing this Saturday will be the Jordan Retro 1 "Barons". Just like in the Retro 9 models, this model of Jordan's are based on the same minor league baseball team Jordan played for.

The Barons are a classic high-top model with the colors black, white and grey mixed throughout the design of the shoe. The Barons will be sold at a retail price of \$140 and is a nice purchase for the casual shoe collector.

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PHOTO COURTESY OF CREATIVE COMMONS

Michael Jordan made a name for himself while playing basketball at the University of North Carolina. He wore 23 as a member of the Tar Heels.

SOFTBALL

Wake up call for the softball program

JAHREL FRANCIS
Staff Writer

The softball team recently has received a slight shock. Though it was a shock it was not a tragic loss and was also in due time.

The Panthers hosted a three game series over the weekend ending March 30. They won the series 11-9, 2-0, 12-2, against East Carolina University Pirates. Before they ended game two March 29, it was delayed due to weather and wrapped up Sunday along with game three.

"We need to improve everything from this weekend," Head Coach Jake Schumann said.

The games, even when they were won, were not well played. The Panthers are able to do much more than what they delivered throughout the weekend. When everyone knows that the performance can be at one level and it is showcased at another there is a problem.

"Honestly, we played how we are capable of playing it's just we didn't get key hits when we needed to," freshman infielder Stephanie Teixeira said.

So may not have been much of not play to what their potential is but to have their attitude and mind elsewhere and it was clearly seen. The bleachers grunted at much of the missed opportunities that we let the Pirates raid.

Main concerns from Teixeira and Schumann seemed to be batting.

"Hitting, I think we just need to relax when we get up to the plate," Teixeira said.

"We only had seven hits in the last two games," Schumann said. "So we have to go back to knowing our strike zone."

With about a month left in the season there is well time to get on track and last weekend was a due call for it.

Ending the weekend, the Panthers are now 22-13 (5-4 C-USA)The next game will be late today 5 p.m.

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FOOTBALL

Pro Day tomorrow

RHYS WILLIAMS
Staff Writer

FIU Athletics has announced that the Pro Day workouts for the athletes in front of NFL scouts and front-office personnel will be held tomorrow, April 3, on Alfonso Field at FIU Stadium.

The workouts will begin at approximately 2 p.m. The event is closed to the general public.

Participants include

defensive back Sam Miller, wide receivers Rocky Vann and Jarius Williams, line-backer Markeith Russell, defensive linemen Isame Faciane and Greg Hickman.

According to a press release by the athletic department, the draft-eligible seniors will perform several strength, agility and skills tests in front of not only the NFL guests, but also the media.

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New Panther Square unveiled at BBC

BRANDON WISE AND
PAOLA MOLINA
FIUSM Staff

Almost a year after the first swing of the hammer, the thudding smashes have finally stopped in the Wolfe Center.

The brand-new Wolfe University Center's Panther Square renovations were on full display on March 31 during the ribbon cutting ceremony. President Emeritus Gregory Wolfe was extremely happy to see the work completed.

"It's wonderful to have something in my name to recognize the pleasure it was to serve this community and

education in general," Wolfe said.

The renovations, which started in May 2013, have made the building more modernized, with more carpeting and the removal of the red bricks, according to Scott Jones, director of the

Wolfe Center. When originally opened in 1980, the Wolfe University Center was an open-aired facility which later became enclosed. Those red bricks led to the name Red Square, which has now become Panther Square, according to Jones.

“It's wonderful to have something in my name to recognize the pleasure it was to serve this community and education in general,”
Gregory Wolfe,
President Emeritus
Florida International University

enclosed. Those red bricks led to the name Red Square, which has now become Panther Square, according to Jones.

"A student center is the heartbeat of a campus," Jones said. "What I hope we've created for a student experience is a lot more connection and networking opportunities, whether that be through formal programming or informal socializing through what we've created through a variety of lounges."

The project was funded through SGC-BBC cost around \$3 million, according to Jones.

He is also excited for the future and upcoming projects the university will undertake at BBC.

"I've only been at FIU for 11 months, part of my attraction for coming was what was happening at BBC and the plans were with Wolfe University Center but also a new residence hall, expansion of the academic programs, which for me only means more growth and more opportunity."



PAOLA MOLINA/THE BEACON

Gregory Wolfe, left, was on hand for the new unveiling for the Panther Square at Wolfe University Center. He said he was extremely excited about the growth and development BBC has seen over the years.



STEPHANIE MASON/THE BEACON

The official ribbon-cutting done by President Mark Rosenberg was the final touch needed to officially open the renovated Panther Square back up to students.

for 11 months, part of my attraction for coming was what was happening at BBC and the plans were with Wolfe University Center but also a new residence hall, expansion of the academic programs, which for me only means more growth and more opportunity."

President Mark B. Rosenberg honored President Emeritus Wolfe by discussing his vision for the University and how far it has come since its opening.

"Dr. Wolfe came here and he raised the question: Is it possible to build a major American public university in the tropics? And the answer sits plainly before you today that he led us to and you have all helped us build and that is FIU," Rosenberg said. "We've built it. We've succeeded and we've done so as a result of the verve, the courage, and the vision that Greg Wolfe had."

Wolfe, who is recovering from a broken hip, said that

he was very proud of what has been happening on the founding grounds of the University and the outlook for the future.

"We've had a magnificent start, every program that we have applied for accreditation for has received it on application," Wolfe said. "You really can't beat that. I'll challenge any educator in America to meet our standards."

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Many SGC-BBC candidates running unopposed

ALYSSA ELSO
Staff Writer

The Student Government Association at Biscayne Bay Campus will soon be under new leadership as the 2014 elections approach.

This year there are 12 candidates hoping to fill various positions. Some positions have multiple candidates while others, such as President and Vice President are running unopposed.

With only one candidate in the running for President and Vice President the positions are guaranteed to go to Jazmin Felix and Camille Williams.

Felix is a junior majoring in nursing and nutrition and has been involved in the Academy of Leaders Program and the Executive Protege Initiative.

She is currently SGA's Speaker of the Senate, a site leader for Alternative Breaks, as well as having a number of other leadership positions under her belt.

Williams is a senior journalism major who has been a part of the Black Student Union and is currently an active member of Strong Women Strong Girls, where she mentors with three other young ladies.

Together Felix and Williams plan to improve FIU by addressing many issues affecting students, like fixing the parking situation, creating a second road access to campus and reaching out to students currently living on campus that will soon be displaced due to the construction of the new residence halls and The University's partnership with Royal Caribbean.

When it comes to major concerns, Felix believes that BBC needs to be more

student-centered.

"I think we forget that the school is here for the students and it needs to be more about them," said Felix.

And when it comes to housing, Felix is still looking for a solution for those students that will be displaced come summer even though they will receive priority housing at MMC in the fall.

Williams, like Felix, appreciates that students will have priority housing at MMC but thinks that The University should be doing something more to compensate for displacing them.

As for Felix's opinion on running unopposed, she believes that it does not stem from a lack of participation on students' part but more in students believing in the duo.

"There was someone running against us but after certain circumstances dropped out," said Felix. "However I think that students believe in what we stand for and don't feel the need to run against us."

Both Felix and Williams are prepared to lead SGA and get the work done, as Williams said about Felix, "She means business."

Running for Arts and Sciences Senator are Faedrah Mahotiere, a junior philosophy major and Maria Pulido-Velosa, a freshman environmental science major.

With current experience as an Arts and Sciences Senator, Pulido-Velosa wants to continue working on the Second Road to Success Campaign as well as increase student involvement.

"I want to increase student involvement, that is my main concern," said Pulido-Velosa. "I feel that this university has a lot of opportunities to grow both personally and academically outside

of the classroom, and I want to enable students to take advantage of them."

Mahotiere is also running in order to increase involvement and introduce students to the many activities available on campus.

"I think it is important for students to get out there and network and get involved," said Mahotiere.

Running unopposed for Business Administration Senator is Allhan Mejia, a sophomore management major with current experience as SGA Business Senator and Speaker Pro.

As a business major himself, Mejia hopes to create more business clubs at BBC and to partner up with Career Services to bring more recruiters. Mejia like Pulido-Velosa also feels there is a lack of involvement at BBC.

"There is a problem with student involvement at BBC and I think more campaigning needs to be done to make students aware of clubs and events," said Mejia.

Running for Honors College Senator, also unopposed, is Gloria Valencia, a junior majoring in biology.

"I've been a part of the Honors College for the past three years so I have a personal tie with this department," said Valencia. "I believe that I can bring some interesting ideas to the table about having more student involvement within FIU whether they are a part of the honors college or not."

For Lower Division Senator, the candidates are: Paige Butler, a freshman majoring in political science and English, and Yudelina Pertil, a sophomore majoring in health administration services.

Pertil, a previous member of the Academy

of Leaders, and Butler, an LGBTQA Initiatives member and author, have similar goals in mind and that is to inform and represent the freshman and sophomore students at FIU.

"As a freshman SGA member, Lower Division will give me a taste of every duty by communicating with the other Senators and committees to properly represent my first and second year undergraduates," said Butler.

"I want to notify incoming freshman and those who have no clue the resources available here at FIU and to be the voice for freshman and sophomores and try to have more events that are diverse since this is Florida 'International' University," said Pertil.

Running unopposed for Senator at Large is Yuanqiang Pan, a senior hospitality management major. Pan, a member of the Let's Talk Mandarin club has not had much experience holding a leadership position but looks forward to representing fellow students.

"I'd like to listen to any comments from students and report to the committee in order to create a better environment for students," said Pan.

Lastly, the candidates running for Graduate Senator are: Fan Yang, Jingyi Weng and Le Chai, a hospitality management graduate student.

Le, who has participated in many campus activities and helped create the Chinese Cuisine and Cooking club hopes to attract more Chinese students to get involved in campus life.

Both Yang and Weng were unable to comment by press time.

Voting begins on April 1.

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