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Florida International University

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TROPICAL STORM THREAT

University prepares for tropical storms

CAMILA FERNANDEZ
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The University prepared for a possible hurricane Monday as tropical storm Erika made its way through the Caribbean.

It was expected to remain a tropical storm throughout the weekend with the Biscayne Bay Campus at a greater threat than the main campus, according to the Miami-Dade County evacuation zone map.

A decision was made Friday, Aug. 28 that weekend classes were to remain open during storm watch. A decision was made Saturday in regards to Monday classes.

Amy Aiken, director at the department of emergency management, said students are informed

about evacuation before a storm hits. She said the County only evacuates for inland flooding, not wind.

"If a storm surge comes through, that is what puts people into harm. It is easier to control wind conditions than flood water," said Aiken.

She said that evacuation means shutting down all University operations.

"It's not like we're going to be in a middle of a class and all of a sudden there's going to be, 'What? We have to evacuate?'" she said.

Unlike the Modesto Maidique Campus, the north campus is at an evacuation zone and at a closer proximity to water. Aiken said that faculty and students would be evacuated and that they do not have on-campus residential students to be

concerned about there.

She said students would be encouraged to go home and stay away from campus so that there are less people at risk on campus. Residential students at the Modesto Campus who stay would follow housing and residential life procedures.

Breanna Gotoy-Fuentes, a freshman political science major, lives on campus at Lakeview South. She said her resident assistant says it can get crowded during a storm.

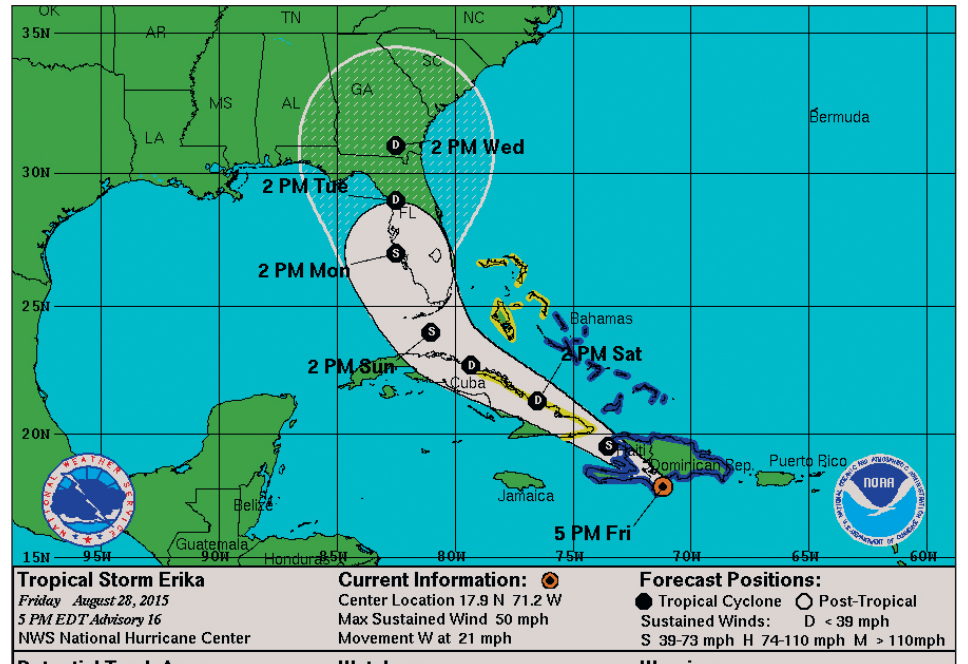
"She said that if you stay here and don't leave, you would have to share a room with, like, 18 other people," said Gotoy-Fuentes. "Most of the international students stay here and they can't go home," she said.

Alexandria Williamson, a freshman finance and accounting major, lives in 109 Tower across 8th Street from FIU.

She said she has not been aware of evacuation procedures made by the residential building.

"Not that I know of. [I know that] every room has a fire alarm thing," said Williamson.

Before last week, Mark B. Rosenberg, the president of the University, executive staff and key department heads did an annual tabletop exercise at the emergency operations



COURTESY OF NATIONAL OCEANIC AND ATMOSPHERIC ADMINISTRATION AND THE DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE.

center in Parking Garage Five.

The center is a central command and control facility where the faculty and staff manage emergency situations for different departments like finance, operations, command and logistics.

"We literally worked through a hurricane scenario," said Aiken.

Alexander Casas, chief of the University's police department, said they are collecting 48-hour supplies like water and flames.

"Operational plans to address departmental readiness, essential personnel for FIU operations, securing housing residents are being

finalized," said Casas. FIUPD also participates in Miami-Dade County emergency management and has officers there to maintain up-to-date information and to obtain resources for the University.

They are also finalizing arrangements for secured parking for departmental personnel and specialized equipment they work with during a storm.

"Basically, our preparation consists of getting ready to provide service immediately before, during and after the storm," Casas said. "Hopefully the storm will continue to track east but we are preparing as if it

were not," he said.

FIU is an all-hazards university, said Aiken.

They prepare for any type of emergency like a chemical spill and fire, besides hurricane disasters.

In a University wide e-mail sent by external relations, it says students should be aware of FIU Alerts sent by emergency management through FIU e-mail accounts, University home page and social media.

"We look at any type of emergency that can happen to our students, faculty and staff," Aiken said. "Our number one priority of the President, of everybody here, is safety."



CAMILA FERNANDEZ/THE BEACON

Students walk through the rain by the Graham Center fountain. On Friday, Aug. 28 it was decided that weekend classes were to remain open.

It's On Us campaign faces challenges

NICOLE MONTERO AND CAMILA FERNANDEZ
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With several buttgrabbing incidents and an alleged rape from an FIU football player, the University continues to push for an end to sexual assault.

"Last year, FIU embarked on the It's On Us campaign that focuses on changing campus cultures around the issues of sexual assault and sexual violence," said Cathy Akens, dean of students at the division of student affairs.

"[We want to] encourage students to all share the responsibility for changing the culture and that happens as a result of people becoming educated," Akens

said.

In April, the alleged rape victim and a female friend met with a football player at an on-campus cafe and then followed him to a dorm, where she was raped, according to 7News. The victim was a 19-year-old freshman.

"[This is] a nightmare that I'm still living in and I'm still going through," she told 7News. "I'm still in shock that it happened to me."

About four rapes have occurred on campus since January, according to Alexander Casas, chief of the police department.

FIUPD complies with Title IX, a federal law that prohibits discrimination on the basis of sex in any federally funded education

program.

The police also work independently from criminal investigation. A special victims unit, one investigator and one victim's advocate that is a school counselor, works with the victim.

"The last arrest made to a sexual assaulter was two and half years ago," said Casas. He said a lack of physical evidence means a low number of arrests.

"It doesn't mean it didn't happen," Casas said.

He also said that any evidence or fact is thoroughly evaluated. The information can be sent to an attorney's office to then make a possible arrest.

The University's serial buttgrabber struck again in late June, slapping the

buttocks of a female student. Similar reports in the past indicate a man riding on a bicycle as the assaulter, according to FIUPD.

"Right now, [the buttgrabber] is not a threat to the FIU campus," said Casas. "But it's a significant concern that I'd want to communicate with the community. Now we have a pattern. It's happening more often than just a random incident."

The victim was walking towards the Green Library at 9:25 p.m., according to the case file. The male suspect rode off she sat down in the middle of the Green Library breezeway waiting for police to arrive.

The suspect returned five minutes later and started to blow kisses at her and then



GRAPHIC BY JASMINE ROMERO

rode off to the Chemistry and Physics building.

The female student described him as a white male with dirty blonde

hair, thin and with raccoon eyes -- "as if he had lack of sleep."

SEE CAMPAIGN, PAGE 2

NATION & WORLD BRIEFS

Foiled train attack adds to concerns over refugees

After three Americans thwarted a gun- and knife-wielding attacker on a French train Aug. 21, Belgian Prime Minister Charles Michel said that it might be time for security checks at his nation's borders with its European neighbors.

"It might be time to adjust the Schengen agreement," he told Belgian public television, referring to an accord between 26 European nations to allow passport-free travel. "The agreement is important, but we now find ourselves confronted with a new threat scenario in Europe."

Amid spreading violence, 2nd commander of Syrian rebels assassinated in 2 weeks

A key commander of the U.S.-supported Syrian rebel forces was assassinated in a car bomb attack in southern Turkey Wednesday, a sign that the war raging next door is spilling across the border again.

The target of the attack was Col. Jemil Radoon, a defected Syrian Army officer who lived in the ancient city of Antakya. Turkish officials said he had just turned on the ignition of his black Hyundai hatchback when a bomb exploded. He was pronounced dead at a local hospital.

Turkey denies allegations it tipped off al-Qaida abductors

The Turkish government Tuesday denied accusations by Syrian rebels that its intelligence service had tipped off an al-Qaida-linked group that then abducted the commander and 20 members of a U.S.-trained group of Syrian fighters about to confront the Islamic State.

In a statement to McClatchy, which first reported on Monday the allegations from multiple Syrian rebel groups that the Nusra Front had been alerted by the Turkish government, Turkish Prime Minister Ahmet Davutoglu's office said it denied "the allegations in the strongest terms possible."

TRIBUNE NEWS SERVICE

WREC Center offers free fitness classes

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Students no longer have to save up pennies to pay for group fitness classes on campus. With a new vision at the FIU Wellness and Recreation Center, beginning Aug. 3, PantherFit is now free.

"The center wants to focus on general wellness of students and not just physical fitness," said Lia Jiannine, a fitness programs assistant director.

Prior to the name change, the center was only called FIU Recreation Center. The change was proposed by Mark B. Rosenberg, the president of the University in April.

"[While] equipping the space and also the programs, we're going to be doing [what] will reflect that new direction," said Robert Frye, director of WRC.

New classes have been added like Wellness in the Woods, which is held at the University's Nature Preserve Wednesday and Friday mornings. The class includes power walks, meditation, breathing exercises and a barefoot Earthling where students connect to the ground for relaxation.

"With the name change, we're becoming all-encompassing," Jiannine said. "It's not just about being physically fit, but really being overall healthy and just feeling that level of wellness," she said.

Baliofit, Baseline Fit, Bootcamp, Plyometrics and Spin and Sculpt are also new classes added for the fall. Jiannine said the changes to the classes were ideas from students and PantherFit instructors.

"If students ask us for something, if we can do it, we will," said Jiannine.

"Free classes means more access for students and more participation," said Sara Holtzman, the WRC coordinator.

Holtzman said the center received a lot of feedback from students asking for classes to be free of charge.

Last spring, students paid a one-dollar fee for all the classes. Previously, classes were offered free in the mornings and two dollars in the evening when classes were fuller to balance out attendance.

"Paying an athletic fee in tuition with the addition of fitness class fees was an inconvenience for students," said Holtzman. Due to the budget at the time, the fees were used

to pay instructors but now less classes are being offered.

Despite the free classes, the center's no-show policy is more strictly enforced than in the past.

After students register and do not show up to a class more than three times, they will no longer be able to take classes for the semester. Open registration is online only through the center's website one hour prior to class start.

Students can register at the desk, but there is a risk of a full class like the popular, Zumba.

"I feel like they're going to be packed now," said Maria Roman, a Zumba instructor.

"They'll just come out and kind of just forget about all their worries and problems and just release all the stress that they have. It's wonderful, you just see it in people's faces," said Roman, a senior double majoring in sports and fitness and psychology.

"Paying a dollar for classes every day adds up," Frances Melendez, a senior international business major, said.

"I like working out. It's become like a part of me now," said Melendez. "So not having to worry about that is way better," she said.

CORRECTIONS

In Vol. 27, Issue 8 of The Beacon, Robert Macias is referred to as Mancias on page five. In Vol. 27, Issue 9, the hispanic homeownership graphic shows data for 2015, it is actually data for 2013.

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

University faces sexual assaults on campus

CAMPAIGN, PAGE 1

Students were told to be careful and to "stay out of the poorly lit areas" when walking at night in a statement issued later by FIUPD, which has University female students worried.

"Sexual assaults on college campuses are becoming more and more common," said Maria Tellano, a junior psychology major. "We need to stand together as one and urge victims to come forward to talk because only talking about it will make it better."

Claudia Navarro, a senior women's and gender studies major, agrees with Tellano. She said she was excited when the It's On Us campaign came to campus, but that the University could do more.

"I don't see a substantial difference in the attitudes dealing with sexual assault on campus," said Navarro.

Navarro said the statement released by FIUPD is misguided. She said that, while assault can be committed by a stranger, it's more often done

by someone familiar.

"It's an issue that FIUPD released that statement because it's 100 percent victim blaming. It's the idea that rape is preventable by the victim's own actions, which is false," she said.

Navarro believes that addressing these issues, as well as addressing rape myths and victim blaming attitudes, are essential for change in a community.

One in five women and one in 16 men are sexually assaulted while in college -- with 90 percent of those assaults never reported, according to a study by the National Sexual Violence Resource Center.

Part of the It's On Us pledge is "to create an environment in which sexual assault is unacceptable and survivors are supported." Navarro also believes that, while there was a University-wide email released, the "booty bandit" incident was not taken seriously.

"This all occurred after the It's On Us campaign had already had a large presence

on campus with banners and flyers galore," Navarro said.

The NSVRC study says that 30 percent of colleges and universities offer no training on sexual assault for students and staff.

Akens disagrees and said the University has seen more victims seeking services because of the It's On Us campaign. According to her, students have engaged with the organization and the University has started to offer workshops and other ways to get involved with the topic.

The University also provides services for victims -- like counseling at the Victim Empowerment Program, calling a hotline, filing a police report or making an anonymous online report.

Akens said the University will focus on engaging FIU Greek, athletes and student clubs and organizations on issues of sexual assault.

"The more students we can engage, the more likely that the culture is going to change in a positive way," she said.

THE BEACON

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Cultural appropriation: What you need to know

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According to Oxford Reference, cultural appropriation is “a term used to describe the taking over of creative or artistic forms, themes, or practices by one cultural group from another.” The conflict and malice comes when the culture being appropriated is one that was oppressed or continues to be oppressed.

Cultural appropriation, instead of cultural appreciation, is more present in today’s society given how easy communication has become through social media usage, as well as how easy it is for common people to be misinformed via the internet.

Cultural appreciation occurs when the person makes an effort to learn about and respect a certain culture, as opposed to simply taking bits and pieces of the culture that appeal to them. Unfortunately, many people are appropriating cultures when they should be appreciating them.

On the bright side, many people are learning from others’ mistakes. When television celebrity Kylie Jenner posted a picture of herself with cornrows

on Instagram, it immediately caused a fuss on Twitter. Amandla Stenberg, an influential voice on social media, confronted Kylie because she was appropriating a culture that didn’t belong to her. Amandla previously elaborated on the appropriation of black culture in a video she made with a classmate of hers for a school project titled, “Don’t Cash Crop My Cornrows.”

Artists like Taylor Swift and Katy Perry have also been targeted for exhibiting elements of cultural appropriation in their work. The bottom line is, when incidents like this happen, almost everyone hears about it in some way.

Marina Watanabe, a writer for the popular feminist media site Everyday Feminism, said “Despite the fact that people of color are being imprisoned, deported, evicted and murdered at atrocious rates, contemporary media often tries to imply that the US is post-racial and politically just.”

Although she is referring more to the racial issues present in the US, she highlights the impact that the media has on the public’s interpretation of the human condition. Cultural appropriation,

just like race, is affected by contemporary media.

It is important to be aware of how one’s actions can affect another person, especially when it affects them negatively.

Unfortunately, babies don’t

“Despite the fact that people of color are being imprisoned, deported, evicted and murdered at atrocious rates, contemporary media often tries to imply that the US is post-racial and politically just.”

Marina Watanabe
Writer
Everyday Feminism

come out of the womb socially aware; it is a process. A process that requires asking questions, remaining open-minded and overall respecting all cultures.

For example, there are high schools that plan out spirit weeks and include Native American and Mexican themed days as part of the celebration. These themes only enforce stereotypes that,

unfortunately, are already in place. To have kids roam school halls in sombreros and feathered headdresses is a problem because the majority aren’t aware of the harm they are causing.

When thinking about cultural appropriation in action, I always think back to the trips I’ve taken to Guatemala. Meeting indigenous families and visiting communities where the culture is alive and well really resonated with me. I visited museums, took tours and really immersed myself in the culture.

At the time, I wasn’t aware of the term “cultural appropriation,” but I was soon introduced to the concept. When I looked into it more, I felt a range of emotions because there was so much I didn’t know, and I couldn’t help but believe I must have offended someone in the past without even realizing the harm I was causing.

Being aware of cultural appropriation does not mean a culture cannot be appreciated. As I mentioned before, there is a difference between cultural appropriation and cultural appreciation - that distinction is what I hope people can take away from this. Cultural appreciation is when someone of a given culture educates themselves about

another culture and supports the appreciation of that given culture by buying art or informing others about the culture instead of modeling themselves after it for personal gain.

Drawing the line between appropriation and appreciation is difficult because one can’t label someone as a member of a certain culture just by looking at them. For example, if someone who was not Jewish was gifted a hamsa by a person of the Jewish community, it would not be considered cultural appropriation, but appreciation, if they decided to display it. For those who aren’t familiar with the Jewish religion and culture, the hamsa symbol, or hand of Fatima, is thought to bring good luck and happiness.

These distinctions are difficult to make for people who aren’t familiar with the concepts of cultural appropriation and appreciation, but society is slowly on its way to awareness. I am proud to be a part of a generation that is working toward becoming more socially and politically aware. All cultures deserve respect and nothing less.

Planned Parenthood is more than just abortions

BROOKE FRENKEL
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Regardless of your stance on abortion, Planned Parenthood isn’t the thing you should scrutinize.

Across the country, pro-life activists and lawmakers are rallying to cut government funding of

the non-profit organization, Planned Parenthood. With over 700 health centers, the organization provides services to 2.7 million patients annually. Beyond providing medical services, Planned Parenthood offers educational resources so that teenagers and women can make informed choices about life changing decisions such as birth

control, abortion and emergency contraceptives.

While most of the American population equates PP with abortions, abortions only comprise three percent of its annual services. Moreover, the organization provides 77 percent of its services to women who need contraceptives and treatment for sexually

transmitted diseases and infections.

The government funds the organization through two programs: Medicaid and Title X. Medicaid is a health care program that helps lower-income U.S. citizens, while Title X is a family-planning program aimed toward the same demographic. Since 2011, six states have attempted to defund Planned Parenthood. Earlier this month, three states slashed funds for the organization while others threatened to cut its funding from Medicaid (which is federally illegal).

According to the March Government Accountability Office report, 79 percent of the individuals who went to Planned Parenthood in 2014 had incomes at or below 150 percent of the federal poverty line. With Planned Parenthood providing 97 percent of its annual services on women’s health services and only three percent to abortions, cutting its government funds on the premise of

eliminating abortion is

senseless. Let’s take a look at Texas, a state where its conservative views have drastically impacted women in the state. In 2011, Texas began cutting funding to Planned Parenthood. At this time, Planned Parenthood served between half and four-fifths of the Women’s Health Program, meaning the state would have to double, if not quintuple, their women’s health care capacity in order to absorb all of the Planned Parenthood patients. With less affordable care available, many women simply won’t seek medical attention.

Furthermore, with the lack of insurance and inability to obtain prescriptions, researchers are projecting nearly “24,000 unplanned births between 2014 and 2015.” These births will cost state and federal taxpayers to pay \$273 million dollars more toward Medicaid. And because the state

is receiving less federal support for women’s health programs, annual exam costs have increased enough that the 79 percent at or below the poverty line are averting check-ups.

Without the implementation of a better women’s health care system, cutting Planned Parenthood funds would be disastrous. The number of unplanned pregnancies will increase, as will the number of unidentified or untreated sexually transmitted diseases and early cancer screenings decrease - all while taxpayers’ dollars towards Medicare rise.

Americans must understand all of the repercussions of defunding Planned Parenthood before trying to destroy it. Cutting Planned Parenthood funds will affect all American citizens and we must be ready for the direct and indirect implications of a drastic, uninformed decision if we continue on this path.

THE MODERN VALEDICTORIAN



ANGEL BANEGAS/THE BEACON

SEND US YOUR LETTERS

Have something on your mind? Send your thoughts (400 words maximum) to opinion@fiusm.com or drop by our offices at either GC 210 or WUC 124. With your letter, be sure to include your name, major, year, and copy of your student ID. The Beacon will only run one letter a month from any individual.

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MUSIC MADNESS

Above left: Senior biology major and WRGP DJ Cristina Barros talks to a student about her punk show, Leather Jacket.

Above right: Luis Estopinan, the drummer for Sun Ghosts, a local garage rock band, plays at the Frost Museum on Aug. 26 for the WRGP Welcome Back BBQ.

Center: WRGP DJs Roxana Ramirez, a junior communications and French major and Ashley Llanes, a junior communications major, table the bake sale.

Below: A poster board decoration put together by WRGP DJ and junior English major Cindy Hernandez, whose radio specialty show focuses on space and science fiction themed music.



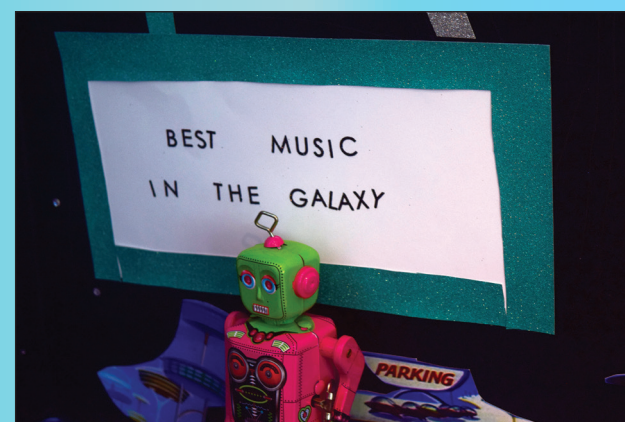
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Division of Student Affairs seeks to support students

PANTHERS CARE



CATHY AKENS

From Cathy Akens, dean of students

The Dean of Students Office, in the Division of Student Affairs, creates a culture of care for students, their families, faculty and staff by providing proactive education consultation, resources and response to distressed students or students in crisis. The Dean of Students will provide a monthly column in the Beacon, to acquaint students with some of the important campus resources in place to support their success.

Panthers Care

Panthers Care. It's not just an initiative out of the Dean of Students Office; it's how we approach our work every day with our FIU Panthers. We are excited to welcome so many new students to the FIU community and we want to make sure all students know about our office and the support we offer for students and their families. At a university our size, it is important that you know many people here care about you and your experience.

College life is both exciting and challenging. You're here because you are capable of succeeding and reaching your goals to earn a college

degree. You envision a life that will be better because of the opportunities a college education will provide you. You are ready for this FIU experience and you should embrace all of the opportunities available to you. Sometimes, though, students will face obstacles along the path toward their academic goals, such as personal distress, anxiety, depression, family emergencies, health issues and more.

There are excellent support services on campus to assist students, with the purpose of getting them back on track toward their goals. The Dean of Students Office can assist students individually by

identifying the appropriate campus resources to best help them.

The Division of Student Affairs has many departments in place to support students. We hope you've already learned about some of them, including Counseling and Psychological Services, the Victim Empowerment Program, the Disability Resource Center, Residential Life and more. Each of these offices are full of caring professionals who want to help students. You're never alone on this journey.

It is also not uncommon for peers to be the first person to recognize when a student is in distress. If you see dramatic

changes in a friend's behavior, if you're concerned about a fellow student, take it seriously and share your concern with someone who can intervene and assist. The Dean of Students can assist in this situation. Students can share their concerns anonymously on our website.

Feel free to stop by our office or give us a call. We're located in Graham Center 219. Our office number is (305) 348-2797 or you can visit our website at pantherscare.fiu.edu. We are available to meet with a student on any of the campuses.

Have a great semester and remember...Panthers Care.

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- Urinary Incontinence

FOOTBALL

Panthers will open eyes in season opener

HOT TAKES



JORGE CORRALES

The Panthers open up their 2015 football season on Thursday, Sept. 3 at 6 p.m. when they travel a few

hours north to take on the University of Central Florida Knights. A matchup with the Knights is the closest thing the Panthers have to a rivalry game. The two teams have met in three of the last four years with the Panthers getting their only win against the Knights in 2011.

Last week, Vegas handicappers listed the Panthers as 17-point underdogs with the over/under set at 46.5.

My first piece of advice is to take the over. The Panthers won only four games in 2014 but averaged 23 points a game. That mark was a huge improvement from the 2013 season in which they averaged just over 10 points a game. The increase in point production can be pinpointed simply to increased talent on the offensive side of the ball.

Quarterback Alex McGough



BRIAN TRUJILLO/THE BEACON

Running back Alex Gardner prepares to have a successful sophomore campaign and looks to bounce back from last season's shoulder injury, which held him to play eight games and miss the last four.

and running back Alex Gardner, both freshmen in 2014, had strong seasons after taking over as starters. McGough completed

over 50 percent of his passes and had 14 touchdowns with only 10 interceptions. He was also second on the team with four

rushing touchdowns. Gardner appeared in eight games for the Panthers before a shoulder injury sidelined him

for the last four. In his limited time, he had 582 yards on the ground and averaged 4.2 yards a carry.

The increased reps that McGough and Gardner have gotten this offseason combined with the talent of All-Conference tight end Jonnu Smith will make the Panthers' offense even more potent than it was a year ago.

The Knights scored more than 30 points in all but four games last season. Their production could take a hit in 2015 with the loss of wide receiver Breshad Perriman who has drafted 26 overall by the Baltimore Ravens.

Returning for the Knights is junior quarterback Justin Holman. Holman threw 23 touchdowns and 14 picks after taking the reigns from another first-round pick, now Jaguars quarterback Blake Bortles.

These two teams have enough talent on offense to easily cover a 47 points.

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SOCCER

Calabrese ready to lead University to winning record

DAVID DRUCKER
Staff Writer
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For men's soccer Head Coach Scott Calabrese, 2015 season offers a real opportunity to prove his worth to the team. After joining the Panthers in 2014 following a successful six-year stretch as Head Coach at East Tennessee State, Calabrese coached his team to a 6-9-1 overall record and a 2-6 record in Conference USA. Now with a group of handpicked freshmen and transfers as well as a core used

to his style of coaching, Calabrese has no excuses in his second season as Head Coach.

After spending his first year adjusting to the conference, Calabrese believes he knows how to improve his odds of landing a bid in the postseason tournament.

"I think one of the things that was really clear in our first season was that we surrendered a lot of points against Conference USA opponents in set pieces. Conference USA is a physical league with a lot of exceptional athletes, so the

game can't be so idealistic. We have to be able to match the physicality of teams that we play against, but we also have to impose the way we play on the game. If we get to play our way, than the physicality and the set pieces won't hurt us," said Calabrese.

Before FIU, Calabrese was the first ever head coach of the ETSU men's soccer team when the program was started in 2008. In six years at ETSU, Calabrese coached his team to two Atlantic Sun Tournament Championships and four back-to-back seasons of ten

wins or more from 2010-2013. Now with a year of experience at FIU under his belt, Calabrese has had more time to implement the style of soccer that won him championships at ETSU into the Panthers' game plan.

"I think that when you look at our way of playing, we try to possess the ball. We do that through good movement from our players and try to break teams down using our technique, awareness and our cohesion to try to create chances. We want to try to win the game and create chances, we're

not just here to sit back, soak up pressure and hope to get a goal. That's hard to do; not all teams make that choice, but I think it's what our players are capable of doing and we make that choice because I think that's how we're going to be successful," said Calabrese.

Calabrese has also had a chance to handpick a group of freshmen and transfers in his second year. This ten-man group includes a mix of true freshmen as well as transfers from overseas colleges and even a transfer from Calabrese's

previous university, ETSU.

"I think the [group of freshmen and transfers] all have a fantastic attitude. I wouldn't say that there's one above any other since it's very early, but I think they compliment our core very well. I'm happy about the spirit of the team right now," said Calabrese.

This year, the Panthers have a steady core and a settled coach headed into the season - only the season will be able to tell how much that's worth in C-USA.

FOOTBALL

Key injuries could affect Panthers' first game

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As we get closer and closer until opening night this coming Thursday Sept. 3 against UCF, the Panthers could be without their key players, starting with wide receiver Juwan Caesar. The Michigan State transfer with an injury history will have arthroscopic knee surgery that could keep him out for at least two games, according to David

Neal of the Miami Herald.

This is not only a devastating blow for the Panthers, who expected Caesar to be that big threat target outside with his 6'5 225 lb frame for starting QB Alex McGough and leaving one receiver short in depth and height, but this is Caesar's final NCAA eligibility, so if he's physically unable to be available for the Panthers this season, this could potentially be the turning point to Caesar's football career. The offensive line is also at

their vulnerable stage, especially at left guard after losing two year starter Jordan Budwig for the season. After rotating and shuffling players in the starting front five, redshirted freshman Kai Absheer, who's forced to play multiple positions in the offensive line, moved up the depth chart to play right tackle. Unfortunately, Absheer will be out for at least one game because of a sprained knee he injured during practice.

"We'll have to wait and see

where he is when we approach this weekend. He'll be back very soon, if not for this one he should be back for the next one (September 12, Indiana)." Head Coach Ron Turner said to the Miami Herald.

Last Monday's practice backup linebacker Jordan Guest and outside receiver Shawn Abrams were in orange shirts, which means they are off limits for any contact drills during practice. Their injuries have yet to be acknowledged and their

availability for Thursday's game is to be announced. The good news is that according to Coach Turner Guest should be 100 percent the next day.

The injury bug came at a bad time for the Panthers and now they lack some depth in some positions. It will also show which young players are going to step up when the team needs them. Opening game is against UCF at Citrus Field in Orlando.

BASKETBALL

Hassan Whiteside raises 2K rating

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With the rapid growth of the NBA 2K video game franchise, it's become somewhat of a tradition to see players excitedly anticipate their overall rating in the game every offseason. Players from every team take to Twitter to ask Ronnie "2K" Singh, the franchise's digital marketing director, what their rating will be.

One player has been publicly obsessed with improving his 2K rating, and that player is the Miami Heat's own Hassan Whiteside. After appearing seemingly out of nowhere as a standout player last season, the outspoken center has gone on record saying he wants to increase his in-game rating on multiple occasions.

This season, Whiteside's wish is coming true.

The release of NBA 2K16 is just a month away, and players are beginning to receive their official ratings for the new game. With the

new rating system that judges each player's stats to those of all-time greats, only 50 players were awarded with a rating at or above 80 on a 1-99 scale. Whiteside is one of those players, as he was awarded with an official rating of 81.

While Whiteside has accomplished his goal of "getting his 2K rating up," he still has a lot to prove on the court. 2016 will be an extremely important season for Whiteside and the Heat, as they look to bounce back after missing the playoffs for the first time since the 2007-08 season.

After re-signing future hall of fame shooting guard Dwyane Wade and the 29-year old point guard Goran Dragic during the offseason, plus Chris Bosh returning from a blood clot in his lung that kept him out for the second half of last season, the Heat look to finally have a healthy roster in place that has potential to compete in the Eastern Conference. Whiteside, who is under contract until the end of this season, will be a key factor in the team's success.

Prior to last season's breakout

performance in which he averaged 11.8 points and 10.0 rebounds, called a double-double, in just over 23 minutes per game, Whiteside had only played 19 games in the NBA. Many people, fans and journalists alike, have doubts that Whiteside can have a repeat performance of last season due to his limited experience. However, Heat fans have many reasons to be optimistic that their beloved center can continue playing at a very high level.

It doesn't take a basketball expert to realize right away that Hassan Whiteside plays with a fire and intensity that few other players in the league possess. That intensity does get him into trouble from time to time, evidenced by his brawl with Alex Len last season and Twitter beef with Draymond Green this summer; however, it also gives him a strong will to win and a refusal to give up on a play.

Was Hassan Whiteside and his incredible season one of the most bizarre stories in the entire NBA last season? Absolutely. Will he ever let himself fade back into



COURTESY OF CREATIVE COMMONS

Starting center, Hassan Whiteside, prepares for his first full season with the Miami Heat. Whiteside looks to bring the old school type center back to the Heat's offense which is something they haven't had since the days of Shaquille O'Neal and Alonzo Mourning.

irrelevancy again? Absolutely not. This is a contract year for Whiteside and a crucial season for his team, so expect another season filled with

dominant performances from the big man from North Carolina.

MLB

A season to forget for the Miami Marlins

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Though unclear how it happened, the Fish are drowning. These losses the Marlins are stacking up are like a recurring nightmare that the hometown Miami Marlins fans have to live through just about every night.

The stands are barren, the confidence is low, and right now this squad looks more like a quilt or a scrapbook than a professional baseball team. Players are being patched in wherever glorified general manager Dan Jennings wants them and they have only a unique home run, from a player who was optioned down to the minor leagues earlier in the season, to be proud of.

Anyone remember Henderson Alvarez? He's been on the bench for what seems like the entire year sitting next to Jose Fernandez and Giancarlo Stanton looking out from the dugout to watch a team with so much promise

just crumble. What seemed like simply an inconsistent team in May has now been revealed to actually be a bad team here in August.

The finger can be pointed at a plethora of reasons behind this team's demise. One can be their offense. The marlins have the eighth worst on base percentage in the league and have scored the second fewest runs. Even the Phillies have scored more than the Marlins.

Maybe point another finger at their pitching? As a team, the Marlins have the twelfth worst ERA in the bigs with 3.97. The Fish also rank 23 in the league in strikeouts, only being able to notch 911 K's. Lastly they rank second to last in saves with a meager 25 saves to go with their 41 save opportunities. Those are 16 games the Marlins watched leave their fins at the very end.

Finally, injuries have plagued this team from the very beginning of the season. Henderson Alvarez has been

out since July after having surgery on his throwing shoulder. Jose Fernandez has only appeared in seven games this year thanks to membership on the DL. And of course, Giancarlo Stanton went on his annual trip to the disabled list right before the All-Star Break. Those are your two best starting pitchers and, at the time, the National League leader in homeruns and RBIs.

This team has had a void, an empty space for someone to take a hold of to command this team. That's usually the time someone works hard, steps up and leads their team through adversity. But, come on, these are the Marlins.

So here the Fish sit as the second worst team in Major League Baseball. However, nobody sits in the stadium that surrounds them. It seems like nowadays nobody's doing the fish, no, no, no.

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AT THE BAY

The Beacon – 8

fiusm.com

Monday, August 31, 2015

BBC renovations features more modern ambience

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Alex Sierra spent two years taking classes at the Mary Ann Wolfe Theater in the Biscayne Bay Campus. His seat was uncomfortable, the furniture was old and rusty and his electronics were always out of battery.

"The theater was always a bit depressing," said Sierra, now a senior majoring in journalism. "I never understood why it was so old and uncomfortable and why there was never an available plug for me to use."

But, now, with the renovations for the theater completed, all that is behind him.

Due to the constant demand for more plugs and modernization, the director of the Wolfe University Center at BBC, Scott Jones, embarked on a project to renovate the Mary Ann Wolfe Theater.

According to Jones, the interior of the theater was redesigned and the layout

of the seats changed from a center aisle to two aisles directly off the lobby doorway.

The seats now host power and USB capabilities, like plug-in means for students.

In the past, Sierra always made sure that his computer was fully charged before entering the theater -- until he was late to class one morning and his computer had a battery level of twenty percent.

"The power had gone out in my house the night before and I couldn't charge my computer before class," he said. "Long story short, my computer died and I had to record the entire lecture on my phone and later transcribe it into my computer... Needless to say, I am very grateful for these renovations."

According to Sierra, most students would have abandoned note-taking for the day or would have used paper and pencil. But he believes that, when it comes to studying for tests and making study guides, it's better to have the notes electronically.

"It's the twenty-first century," he said. "You should have plugs and a more modern ambience."

And, now, thanks to a partnership between the Office of Academic Affairs, the Student Government Association and the Division of Student Affairs, they do.

"We've done a variety of things relating to the classroom, with course capturing and other things that academic affairs has indicated they need," said Jones. "We've completely reimaged BBC and it's important that we make sure the facilities remain up to date and meet all student needs."

The space features a new color pallet -- all blue and gold -- and has new stage lighting for performances and other student events.

"The transformation is remarkable," said Jones. "The theater hadn't seen this level of upgrade in over 20 years. We've pantherized the entire space."

According to him, there's been a lot of attention to detail and



JASMINE ROMERO/THE BEACON

Performers from the Mai-kai Restaurant dance along to upbeat music at the Freshman Luau in the WUC Ballrooms on Thursday, Aug. 27.

they've been making sure that every chair has a plug -- either in the form of USB or some other sort of electrical power so students can "power up while attending class."

"I'm really excited to see the project completed and to see how students are able to use the space," said Jones. "This is another milestone and we're happy to celebrate it with our students this academic

year."

The theater reopened just in time for the start of the new fall semester, finishing its renovations by Aug. 17.

Additionally, WUC has started looking into game room renovations and have started working with Servitas, the housing facility that is scheduled to open in fall 2016 at BBC.

Servitas and WUC have started coming together

to create a leasing office, which will be located in the first floor of WUC.

According to Jones, they are scheduled to open sometime in September.

"It's about time that BBC step up and start renovating," said Sierra. "The other campus has something new and modern every day and we don't and I'm just glad that I'll still be here to see what this year has to offer."

WREC center at BBC attracting attention

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The Wellness and Recreation Center experienced an average of about 1,000 students a day during the first week of the new fall semester.

"I've seen a lot of students come into the gym the past few days and it's pretty full even during the slower hours between 2 and 5 p.m.," said Jonathan Daley, a junior majoring in journalism.

Daley just started working at the Wellness and Recreation Center at BBC on Aug. 25.

"I work at the front desk and I've noticed that most are FIU students, but some are students from MAST high school and Royal Caribbean," said Daley.

On Aug. 26, the Wellness and Recreation Center had 1,032 students make use of the machines and group exercise classes. The number has changed since the break between the end of the summer and the beginning of the fall semester session. The number of students coming into the Wellness and Recreation Center averaged a few hundred and sometimes about 100 per day.

"BBC is filling up and you can see it," said Elias Bardawil, Director of the Wellness and Recreation Center at BBC.



JASMINE ROMERO/THE BEACON

Students are attending the Biscayne Bay Campus Rec Center in higher numbers compared to last summer and fall semester.

Compared to the numbers from last year's start of the semester, where the numbers ranged between 400 and 500 per day according to Bardawil.

There is an increase of students attending BBC during fall as opposed to the summer sessions or the summer break. This means that more students will be using the machines offered by the center, as well as the group

exercises, according to Bardawil.

"Students have expressed their excitement about the new cardiovascular machines," said Bardawil.

There are 12 new cardiovascular machines in the center including ellipticals, treadmills and crossovers. They are all wifi enabled and the screens even allow for the students to choose a location, for example a

pathway in London, and pretend the student is exercising there with help of a video showing a scenery of that location on the screen in front of the student.

"We care about the students and want them to enjoy our center and what it has to offer," said Bardawil.

He also added that there will be a Rec Expo taking place between September 14 and 18 at BBC.

On September 16, Shaun T, creator of Insanity, will be one of the speakers at this expo.

"We will have a Careers in Sports and Recreation event on September 17, which will take place between noon and 4 p.m. in the WUC Ballroom."

Warren Shaw, Assistant Director of the Wellness and Recreation Center said, "We've been trying to do this for a while now and we're excited it's finally happening."

"With this event we want to lend a helping hand to students interested in a career that involved sports, recreation, wellness and fitness," said Shaw.

According to Shaw, a lot of students can relate to sports, anything ranging from recreation to wellness. This is why they put the event together, to reach out to those students. However, this event is open to all FIU students.

"There will be a Q and A with the lecturers, which are about four right now," said Shaw. "And we have Jason Jackson from the Heat coming, as well as vendors from the Marlins."

There will be 15 to 20 vendors at the career fair after the lectures.

"For those students who are passionate about sports this is a great opportunity," said Harold Clayton, Associate Director of the Career Services Office.