

# Panthers trounce Royals

| April 2, 2021

## South Florida overpowered Warner University, 20-0

By **JIM TAYLOR**  
CORRESPONDENT

AVON PARK – The South Florida State College Panthers have won five of their last ten and have put together a mini win streak of three after a 20-0 blowout of the Warner University Royals to improve to 16-23 overall on the season.

The Panthers took a modest 1-0 lead in the first inning on a sacrifice fly by Bryce Bitting into right field to drive in Reid Lisle.

South Florida added six runs in the second inning, five by the way of home runs by Lisle and Bitting. Lisle hit the first home run for three runs to make the score 4-0. Singles by Quintin Lindsey and Zeddrick Burnham produced another run as the Panthers



JIM TAYLOR/CORRESPONDENT

South Florida State College's Blayne Huter pitched seven scoreless innings for the win against Warner University Wednesday night.

BASEBALL | 4B



JIM TAYLOR/CORRESPONDENT

South Florida State College left fielder Quentin Lindsey tracks down a fly ball to the warning track for the out.



JIM TAYLOR/CORRESPONDENT

South Florida State College's Brady Markham hammered the ball during Wednesday's game against Warner University.

## BASEBALL FROM PAGE 1B

lead widened to 5-0. Bitting followed with a two-run home run that gave South Florida a 7-0 lead after two innings.

The Panthers added six more runs in the bottom of the third as Brady Markham led off the inning with a walk and singles by Tate Hansen and Lisle loaded the bases to start the inning.

drove in Burnham on a fielder's choice and Bitting scored on an error as the Panthers held a 13-0 lead after three innings.

The Panthers added two more runs in the fourth inning with Burnham doubling in Lindsey and Saladino as South Florida extended their lead to 15-0.

South Florida continue to roll in the fifth inning, loading the bases with one out before Bitting

seventh inning to make the final score 20-0.

The Panthers pounded out 18 hits for the game with Lindsey going 5 for 6 to lead the team. Burnham, Bitting each had three hits and Lisle collected two. Bitting led the team with six runs batted in with Lindsey driving in five.

Blayne Huter pitched seven innings, giving up no runs on four hits and striking out 11 to earn his second win of the

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YOUR HOMETOWN NEWSPAPER SINCE 1919

An Edition Of The Sun

## SFSC explores building student housing on Highlands Campus

By **MARC VALERO**  
STAFF WRITER

AVON PARK — South Florida State College is in the initial stages of what could lead to the construction of the first student housing on the Highlands Campus.

SFSC President Thomas Leitzel said, “The South Florida State College District Board of Trustees is in the

preliminary stages of exploring the concept of having student residence halls on the Highlands Campus of SFSC.”

No decisions have been made, he added.

The SFSC District Board of Trustees asked staff to prepare a timeline including the steps of what might be

**HOUSING | 3A**



MARC VALERO/STAFF

The University Center at South Florida State College in Avon Park. The College District Board of Trustees is in the early stages of considering building student residence halls on the SFSC Highlands Campus.

## HOUSING

FROM PAGE 1A

involved if the college was to consider working with developers who had an interest in constructing new residence halls, Leitzel said.

“Before any construction begins, the District

lease with developers since colleges in the Florida College System are not permitted to own dormitories,” Leitzel said.

The college currently houses students at the Hotel Jacaranda in Avon Park through a rental arrangement with the SFSC Foundation, the



# SPORTS

• LOCAL • STATE • NATIONAL

Wednesday, April 7, 2021

SECTION B

## Lady Panthers Volleyball Named Runner-Up for Division

### Special to the Highlands News-Sun

AVON PARK – The South Florida State College (SFSC) Lady Panthers Volleyball Team advanced to the 2021 National Junior College Athletic Association (NJCAA) Gulf District and Florida College System Activities Association (FCSAA) State Volleyball Championships on April 1-3 at Lake-Sumter State

College in Leesburg, Fla. “The last two years with this team were my favorite years of playing volleyball,” said Maria Rodriguez, outside hitter for the Lady Panthers. “This team was a hard-working team throughout, and there was never a dull moment with them.”

The Lady Panthers finished in second place for the regular season

to secure the No. 2 seed and were named the FCSAA State runner-up in Division 2.

“Congratulations to Coach Kim Crawford and her Lady Panthers for an outstanding effort during this year’s season and an outstanding representation of South Florida State College at the Region 8 tournament,” said Rick Hitt, athletic director at SFSC.

In tournament action, the Lady Panthers swept Florida Gateway College 3-0 on Thursday, April 1. They continued their quality play Friday, April 2 by sweeping Pasco-Hernando State College 3-0 and securing a spot in the Championship match against Gulf Coast State College. On Saturday, April 3, the Lady Panthers



COURTESY PHOTO

The South Florida Panthers accept their NJCAA Division 2 National Tournament Conference Runner-Up plaque.

PANTHERS | 6B

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### PANTHERS FROM PAGE 1B

were defeated 3-1 by the Lady Commodores, who won the 2021 NJCAA Gulf District Championship and advanced to the NJCAA Division 2 National Tournament.

“These past two years have been my best, and not just because of the winning, but because of the ladies who made up this winning team,” said Kim Crawford, head volleyball coach at SFSC. “They are outstanding

athletes, but more importantly they are extraordinary people. I loved walking into the gym to coach them. They loved to train and hit the weight room; they were true competitors. I will miss them tremendously. I’ll miss their music, dancing, and singing as well. I have been truly blessed to have had this opportunity to coach every one of them.”

For more information about athletics and to attend games or matches for free at SFSC, visit [southflorida.edu/community/athletics](http://southflorida.edu/community/athletics).



FILE PHOTO

South Florida State College's Karla Rodriguez (15) prepares to make the dig on a kill shot.

# SFSC student wins 2021 Skoch Scholarship for research

## Special to the Highlands News-Sun

AVON PARK — South Florida State College (SFSC) student Camila Rimoldi Ibanez was awarded the \$1,000 Skoch Scholarship through Florida Sea Grant. Rimoldi Ibanez is a Sebring High School senior dually enrolled at SFSC.

The Skoch Scholarship is awarded to an outstanding high school senior competing in the State Science and Engineering Fair of Florida. The scholarship recognizes promising young researchers in a coastal or marine science-related field.

"We are thrilled to learn of Camila



**RIMOLDI  
IBANEZ**

winning the 2021 Skoch Scholarship," said Dr. James Hawker, SFSC dean of arts and sciences. "She won because of the undergraduate coral research project she conducted at SFSC this past year. It is gratifying that talented and deserving students like her have the chance to win scholarships for university transfer, because SFSC promotes expanded learning by students doing research projects with faculty mentors."

Rimoldi Ibanez researched whether a species of coral has genes that are associated with the reception or emission of sound in her award-winning project, "Ultrasonic Planimals! Identifying Genes Associated with Coral Bioacoustics."

According to Rimoldi Ibanez's research abstract: "Because corals make up the 'rainforests of the sea,' this ecosystem is believed to be highly dependent on communication to grow and survive. Many organisms that live in coral reefs, including coral larvae, perceive and are guided by sound when

trying to find their way to coral reefs to develop."

To conduct the study, Rimoldi Ibanez performed genetic analysis on coral DNA, looking for evidence of four genes known to be sound-sensitive. Two of the sound-sensitive genes, called TRPV and FOLH1, displayed "faint bands" in the gene presence analysis, indicating that they may be present in corals and that further research is warranted.

Rimoldi Ibanez graduates from Sebring High School and earns her

| April 27, 2021 **STUDENT** | 4A



COURTESY/SFSC

Camila Rimoldi Ibanez performs research in the lab at South Florida State College.

## STUDENT

FROM PAGE 1A

Associate in Arts degree from SFSC in May. She plans to continue her education at Nova Southeastern University or Florida Atlantic University.

Funding for this scholarship is provided by the Skoch family of Boynton Beach in memory of Charles "Chuck" Skoch, an avid fisherman, boat captain, and Florida

resident who prematurely died in an automobile accident at age 51.

Florida Sea Grant is a university-based program that supports research, education, and extension to conserve coastal resources and enhance economic opportunities for residents of Florida. It is partnered with the Florida Board of Education, the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, and Florida's citizens and governments.

# SFSC Students Recognized For Award-winning Art

By **DEBORAH BELL LATTER**

Special To The Herald-Advocate

The South Florida State College (SFSC) Museum of Florida Art and Culture (MOFAC) honored the winners of its annual juried Student Art Show during a reception and ceremony on Tuesday, April 20, in the Alan Jay Wildstein Center for the Performing Arts on the SFSC Highlands Campus in Avon Park.

The awards ceremony recognized drawings, paintings, photography, and a range of other artwork students created during their studies in SFSC's Art Department. The students' art is on display in the MOFAC Gallery through Saturday, May 15.

Aleah Walker came away with the Max Gooding Best in Show Purchase Award for her digital media presentation titled, "Metamorphosis." She received \$400 in prize money, and her work becomes part of the SFSC Student Art Collection. Max Gooding, an alumnus of SFSC's Art Department, sponsors this top prize. Gooding, who went on to earn a degree in landscape architecture at the University of Florida, owns a landscape architecture consultancy, the Max Gooding Company, in Naples, Fla.

This year, two students, Keila Montelongo and Caitlin Cruz, won the Cathy Futral Award of Excellence for their artwork. Montelongo won for her mixed media artwork called, "Abstract Collage," and Cruz won for her acrylic work titled, "Red Flowers." The honor comes with a \$100 check for each student. Futral was a beloved SFSC art professor who retired from SFSC in 2016.

Dr. Thomas C. Leitzel, SFSC president, selected one piece that garnered the President's Award and \$100 in prize money: Caitlin Cruz's acrylic titled, "Red Flowers." The award, chosen by Dr. Leitzel is a purchase award—the artwork becomes part of the President's Art Collection at SFSC. The artwork remains on display in the Office of the President for one year, after which it resides in the Building F conference room with the work of previous President's Award winners. The image is also used on birthday cards that Dr. Leitzel gives to SFSC employees throughout the year.

Members of the Tanglewood Art League were on hand to present their annual scholarship of \$300 for each student recipient. This year, the League honored two students with

the award: Nancy Zuniga and Chiara Chillemi. Kathy Mousseau, Judith Eckstein, Peggy Scefcyk, and Bob Clarke of the Tanglewood Art League presented the award at the ceremony.

"We created this scholarship because of our interest in the arts and want to help students who are trying to further their education and career in this field," Mousseau said. "Further, the students will have an acknowledgement of their achievements to display on their wall, they will be able to put this award on resumes, and the check will help them with finances."

The winner of the People's Choice Award is chosen by a vote of those who visit the Student Art Show in MOFAC during its opening week. The winner receives \$50 in prize money. This year's winner was Nancy Zuniga.

The MOFAC docents created an award for student artwork. The winner receives \$100. The Docents' Choice Awards was bestowed upon Abigail Tollison for her mixed media work called, "Serenity."

Six students received the Best of Media Award, with each awardee receiving \$75. The winners were Nykerria Jackson, mixed media/collage, "Autumn Leaves"; Maxely

Perez, drawing, "Striped Pearl"; Chiara Chillemi, ceramics, "Slab House"; Hailey McMahan, painting, "Flamingo Transformation"; Abigail Erekson, digital media, "Hummingbird"; and Betsy Mejia-Flores, photography, "Bread and Juice."

The 10 Awards of Merit were presented to Chiara Chillemi (two awards), Kaylee Dibble Sheppard, Maxely Perez, Sierra Smith, Mackenzie Burch, Nancy Zuniga, Abigail Tollison, Ruby Rivera, and Shannah Cutcher.

The 2021 Student Art Show sponsors were Max Gooding, Cathy Futral, Tanglewood Art League, SFSC Student Government Association, and the SFSC Art Club.

MOFAC is located on the SFSC Highlands Campus in Avon Park and open to the public Wednesday, Thursday, and Friday, 12:30 – 4:30 p.m. For more information about the Museum and its exhibitions, visit [mofac.org](http://mofac.org) or contact Leighton Skipper, Museum curator, at [skippelr@southflorida.edu](mailto:skippelr@southflorida.edu) or 863-784-7240.

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COURTESY PHOTOS/SFSC

**South Florida State College President Dr. Thomas C. Leitzel (left) with student Caitlin Cruz who won the President's Award for her acrylic artwork, "Red Flowers."**



**South Florida State College student Aleah Walker won Best of Show with her artwork, "Metamorphosis."**