United States Secretary of Education, Betsy DeVos, gets tour of Nicole Wertheim College of Nursing and Health Sciences accompanied by students and President Mark B. Rosenberg.

MICHELLE MARCHANTE  
Staff Writer

On Thursday, April 6, faculty and students met with U.S. Secretary of Education Betsy DeVos and President Mark B. Rosenberg at the Nicole Wertheim College of Nursing and Health Sciences for a roundtable discussion on the current and future state of education while student protesters voiced their opposition outside.

After visiting CARE Elementary, a Christian school in Overtown, FIU was the second stop DeVos made Thursday and is the first public university she visited as the Secretary of Education for what Rosenberg called a “listening tour” to NBC6.

“I’m very honored to be here and very much interested in hearing from you about your experiences here, what things you are finding to be particularly strong and successful, what some of your challenges are, and what you see as your opportunities for your future,” DeVos said during the panel.

DeVos, Republican billionaire, faced a difficult confirmation by the Senate over her lack of education administration experience with Vice President Mike Pence giving a historic tie breaking vote to get the required numbers of vote to be confirmed.

During the roundtable discussion, faculty and students, such as Idayakis Rodriguez, a post-doctoral student, voiced concerns over the accessibility of education and federal funding, particularly for a commuter school that is minority-majority.

“FIU serves as a beacon of hope for a lot of our students in order to achieve that American dream,” Rodriguez said during the panel.

The future of undocumented student immigrants under the Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals was also brought up by Tarkiu Menberu, an Ethiopian doctor participating in the school’s foreign physician retraining program to become a nurse.

According to DeVos, besides pushing for more STEM and STEAM programs, the new administration is taking on a “bigger picture, larger look” approach and is looking to see what programs and initiatives are the most effective for students and instructors.

Once these programs are identified, the department will be able to target these resources more effectively to help them “flourish,” while defunding those that aren’t working, DeVos said.

DeVos also reiterated Secretary John F. Kelly’s words, saying that the new administration is “sensitive” to DACA students and that they have no intention of searching for students in the schools.

“We have an obligation to care for the students that are in the schools and in the system,” said DeVos.

But Francesca Riccio-Ackerman, a junior majoring in biomedical engineering and the newly elected senator for engineering, is worried that these are empty promises and doesn’t understand why FIU would accept her visit and only allow a select group of students to participate in the

Laverne Cox to visit BBC

MARYBETH LORETTA  Contributing Writer

Transgender actress and activist Laverne Cox will speak about acceptance, inclusion, the LGBT community to University students in an event called “Ain’t I a Woman: My Journey Through Womanhood.”

“Before we even found out about Laverne Cox, we knew we wanted to get someone that spoke about the current political climate and current social issues that are happening so we were looking through people and Laverne Cox just really fit that mold of who we wanted,” said Jamie Adelson, director of lectures at the Student Government Council at BBC.

For the event, which will be on April 11, SGA sent out a survey to students with a list of potential speakers including Jesse Williams, Gina Rodriguez but with the current political climate, Cox was a great person to reach out to the LGBT community, Adelson said.

“To have someone speak about the LGBT community, and not only... reach out to those people but she’s also speaking about acceptance and being who you are, being true to yourself and I think that can really resonate with all of FIU students,” he said.

Cox, whose lectures Adelson described as “topnotch,” feels students will greatly be impacted by her.

“...They’ll feel more confident in themselves because seeing this person that’s so confident and so sure in herself... her energy and what she stands for will pass on to the students and they’ll feel more confident in themselves seeing what she’s gone through and seeing her journey,” said Adelson.

“They’ll feel that and say ‘OK, I can get through this that’s going on in my life.’”

The impact of Cox’s message is one of hope and overcoming adversity, Adelson said. He further explained the relevance of transgender issues around the country referring to recent laws regarding transgender people using public bathrooms.

“...I don’t remember the exact statistic but they [transgender people] are actually being killed at an alarming rate so for her to speak on something like that... people that are not a part of the LGBT community or people that don’t know much about it, having her speak on it... will really get to a lot of ears and impact a lot more people,” said Adelson.

The event will be at 6:30 in the Wolfe University Center Ballrooms and free for students.

For faculty, staff and alumni, tickets will cost $5, and starts at $15 for the general public. Visit: https://go.fiu.edu/lavernecox to purchase and RSVP.

SGA Election Results

Following the elections held on April 4 and 5, winners were announced on Thursday, April 6 at MMC and BBC. Check PantherNOW.com for full story this week.

Krista Schmidt; elected president of SGC-MMC celebrates with her party by jumping in the fountain outside the Graham Center.

Elected winners of the SGC-BBC winners are announced in the Wolfe University Center with Roary.
China urges ‘restraint’ after U.S. airstrike on Syrian airfield

BEIJING _ China on Friday warned against “the escalation of tension” in Syria after President Donald Trump launched an airstrike on a Syrian government air base, adding a surprise twist to his two-day summit with Chinese President Xi Jinping.

The U.S. launched 59 Tomahawk cruise missiles at the base late Thursday in response to a chemical weapons attack in Syria earlier this week that killed dozens of people in a rebel-held area, many of them children.

Thursday’s airstrike marked the first direct U.S. military action against the government of Syrian President Bashar Assad since Syria’s civil war began in 2011.

Thousands march against South African President Zuma, but unity remains elusive

There was never going to be a march of a million people, but even before Friday’s protests in South Africa calling for President Jacob Zuma to resign, members of his party were deriding the demonstrations as the once-off roar of privileged white people.

The crowds that protested in the country’s main cities of Pretoria, Johannesburg and Cape Town did transcend South Africa’s ever-present racial divide, but not in the numbers likely to worry Zuma and the governing African National Congress. At most 20,000 people of all racial groups rallied in the two main cities, Pretoria and Johannesburg.

Hamas hangs 3 Palestinians in Gaza

GAZA CITY, Gaza Strip _ Hamas, the Islamic militant group that controls the Gaza Strip, said it executed three Palestinians on Thursday for alleged “elites.”

A statement from the Hamas Interior Ministry said the three Palestinians were hanged in Gaza City’s Azzah district, but did not specify why they were executed.

DeVos, page 1

Students protest Betsy DeVos’ visit

The University’s College of Nursing and Health Sciences is pioneering the future of occupational therapy development for stroke and brain injury patients.

The faculty and graduate students have been at the forefront through implementation and research of techniques such as mirror therapy and the Inmotion 2 Robot.

“Mirror therapy [was] originally used to help individuals who had amputation deal with phantom pain — where they will feel that their hand is cramping up, but look down to see that there is no hand, said Huberta Huerta, a clinical assistant professor in the occupational therapy department and the first to conduct mirror therapy research at the University.

A few years ago, they put a mirror that would obscure the amputated hand; the individual would look at the reflection of the sound hand and would begin to move their body, pretending the reflection is in the phantom hand.

Thanks to a continuing investment in research, the therapy has become more effective. The treatment has begun to help not just amputees, but people with stroke and partial paralysis as well.

As a therapist, I get more excited than the patient because I know what [the success] means for the research... when you help [stroke patients] recover and regain, it is so rewarding,” Huerta said.

For more from Huerta, Clinical Assistant Professor of College of Nursing and Health Sciences

In addition, mirror therapy is easier, cost-effective, and patient directed for improving function, according to Alexa Valdez, a graduating student at the college who works hands on with various types of occupational therapies at the University.

“Research is finding that [mirror therapy] works to regain function of motor impairment after a stroke,” said Huerta. Over the years, Huerta presented the findings to leading physicians and researchers from across the country at the FIU struggle for Injury Conference. The event, meant to increase awareness on their progress with mirror after...
In fact, online pornography has gotten so big that it has transformed into a multi-billion dollar industry. Just last month, Pornhub, the largest pornography website, took advantage of its influence and launched a “wellness center” portal that revolves around sexual education.

According to The Next Web, “the website will offer tips from experts on a variety of sex-related topics like basic sexual anatomy, STIs and STDs, as well as relationship advice.”

It would’ve been more admirable if it weren’t for the appalling depiction and treatment of women in pornography, both on-camera and behind-the-scenes.

To be fair, I can see why many people believe pornography empowers women. The women in these videos are often shown as being in control of their bodies and sexuality. As actresses also receive large sums of money that I’m sure anyone would envy. The 2015 documentary, “Hot Girls Wanted,” highlights these kinds of advantages in the adult film industry, especially freedom, money and sexual empowerment.

The adult film industry likes to give off the illusion that everything is wonderful, that their actresses are treated like princesses, and that there’s always consent. The reality, however, is that all it’s cracked up to be.

For one, women aren’t exactly given the princess treatment. On camera, they are often portrayed as naïve or mormic and willing to do anything for money.

In some videos, they are also abused, either physically or verbally. The titles of such videos usually refer to these women as animals too, such as “cow” or “dogs.”

As Rachel, one of the porn actress presented in the film, said, “Are you kidding me? I made $900 in five hours. I’m going to go home and make $8.25 an hour? No.”

What constitutes as consent is blurred significantly in pornography. In “Hot Girls Wanted,” there’s a scene where filming a pornographic video where the director tells the male actor, “You kinda never get that yes,” suggesting rape as an acceptable forbidden act to arouse viewers.

It’s not so different behind-the-scenes either. In “Hot Girls Wanted,” the actresses initially praise crew members for their kindness during shoots.

As the film continues forward, some of the actresses complain of being lied to or feeling like they lack the choice to walk away from filming porn. In one instance, Rachel, the actress previously mentioned, felt forced to do a rough scene after being promised it was consensual so that she would accept the job.

According to Verily, “it’s an experience that amateur porn actresses face on a regular basis — signing on for one thing (a porn scene as it was described to you, for a certain amount of money), but then being forced to do something else while the cameras roll. It’s not uncommon for women to get physically beaten or forced to do a sexual act they weren’t informed of beforehand.”

It’s a disturbing reality that isn’t given much attention due to fear that pornography will be regulated or taken away altogether.

Unlike some critics of pornography, my purpose doesn’t involve the eradication of explicit content. I’m not interested in what people do in the privacy of their own homes or rooms.

My concern lies with how women are portrayed and treated because it can transcend from screen into real life, especially since viewing pornography is common today.

Fortunately, more former porn actresses are coming out to talk about their negative experiences in the industry, which I hope will open the eyes of the adult film industry.

Caroline Lozano is a contributing writer for Panther Press. Her column, Seriously, Folks, is a commentary on the arts and entertainment industry and how it relates to society today.

Rape and sexual assault should not be cultural obscenity

with the planned rape of a 14-year-old girl, which took place in the bathroom at Rockville High School.

In the case of the Rockville Rape, however, Fox was one of the few news channels to televise the actual event.

Unfortunately, this is an occurrence that happens too often. As Caroline Sanchez recently wrote, developments in the investigation revealed that the actual sexual assault might have been consensual.

Nevertheless, the age differences between that of Sanchez and the victim would still constitute statutory rape.

The minimal amount of awareness that the Rockville Rape received, however, raises an important question: does the media give sexual and rape related crimes the importance they deserve? The insufficient action taken by the media perpetuates the view in society that sexual assault and rape are not as heinous as other crimes and felonies.

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Plan to avoid move-out madness

Housing halls close April 29, and I don’t know about you, but I already feel like the fire alarms are going off and I need to pick the five things that are most important to me and jump out. Luckily, moving out doesn’t have to be as drastic as evacuating a burning building. With proper planning and enough know-how, residential students can rest easy.

Colton Goodman, graduate higher education administration student and assistant residential life coordinator for Panther Hall, says that it’s extremely important for students to know their dates.

“The move-out day specifically for students that are not graduating is April 29, but it depends on your schedule when it comes to your finals. What we ask is that as your final comes around, we want you to move-out 24 hours after that time,” said Goodman.

The best plan for any occasion is to start the process early. Don’t get hung up about hanging up your shirts; leaving them all over the floor is a mistake. Start getting all of your clothes together and organized in your closet in advance to make it easier when it comes time to pack.

Goodman suggests that students start the packing process a week before their move-out date to give themselves ample time to get ready, and not make the classic mistake of signing up with their Resident Assistants (RAs) and having the room completely unprepared.

Speaking of packing, where does all this stuff go? You know that you were able to get your belongings into the room somehow... but now it seems like every article of clothing and each piece of junk has somehow multiplied, and the old suitcase seems to have shrunk.

Worry not! There’s a five letter solution to all of your packing needs: boxes. If you don’t have enough baggage space, there are plenty of cardboard boxes that you can find in and around campus, but just be careful what kinds of boxes you get.

“If [students] are getting boxes, it’s usually Walmart because they want those sturdy boxes. A lot of times the boxes that are tossed around the university, they get wet, they get soggy, they break; and I’ve seen a lot of students where they’re holding it and it just falls right through. It’s terrible,” said Goodman.

So here’s the plan of action: go to Walmart or any of the local stores around campus and ask for boxes.

Above: Vic3, a local artist, performs at Bayfest, FIU’s annual music festival at the Biscayne Bay Campus. Vic3 performed among artists like DJ Luke Nasty, A Boogie wit da Hoodie and Jeffrey Walter, a student at FIU.

Left: Joshua Harvey, a student studying public relations, and Tania Brown, a student studying psychology, show off art painting they had done at Bayfest on April 1, 2017.

Mike Posner to headline ‘UPROAR’ concert

“Mike Posner is the headliner, and then Niykee Heaton is the [other] artist,” said Munoz.

Mike Posner is known for hits such as “I Took A Pill in Ibiza” and “Cooler Than Me.”

Emily Ervolino, sophomore management information systems major, is looking forward to the event, particularly senior psychology major Anthony Nunez and sophomore nutrition major Jocelyne Mendez.

Mendez feels that the featured artists this year are a little under the radar, and not well known enough. “I honestly don’t know who Mike Posner is,” said Nunez via email.

Mendez however, is looking forward to the event, as she is familiar with both artists who will be playing.

“I like both of the artists playing, although I’ve listened to more songs from Niykee Heaton,” said Mendez.

The UPROAR Concert will be held on Wednesday, April 12 at the FIU Arena. Doors will be opening at 7 p.m.

Guest Tickets for non-FIU students are now being sold online for $20, while entrance is free for FIU students, according to Munoz.

Students will have to bring their FIU one card to enter free, according SPC’s Facebook event page, and tickets for non-students can be bought online via a link on the SPC social media page.

Emily Ervolino, sophomore management information systems major and a member of SPC council has students in an UPROAR after announcing the artists that will be headlining their yearly concert.

Juan Munoz, VP of Marketing for SPC is excited to announce the performers who will be featured at this year’s event.

When you’re a student, you pay fees through your tuition, so with these fees we’re able to... have events for students to come and enjoy, like having this concert which is totally free.

“UPROAR’ is one of SPC’s biggest events during the Spring Semester, alongside other events like their Valentine’s Day Build-A-Bear event, and their weekly movie nights.

Featured artists from past UPROAR concerts include Jessie J, MKTO, T-Pain, Timeflies, Trey Songz, and Mike Posner.

FIU’s students are somewhat divided when it comes to their opinion on the artists performing at SPC’s UPROAR concert, partially senior psychology major Anthony Nunez and sophomore nutrition major Jocelyne Mendez.

Nunez feels that it is important for FIU to put on different events during the Spring Semester, alongside other events like their Valentine’s Day Build-A-Bear event, and their weekly movie nights.

Mendez however, is looking forward to the event, as she is familiar with both artists who will be playing.

“I like both of the artists playing, although I’ve listened to more songs from Niykee Heaton,” said Mendez.

Nunez feels that it is important for FIU to put on different events for its students.

“So we put these events on for students so they can have something else to do while they’re on campus. When you’re a student, you pay fees through your tuition, so with these fees we’re able to go ahead and have events for students to come and enjoy, like having this concert which is totally free,” said Ervolino.
Program educates students

The Dean of Students’ Office has implemented mandatory training to address sexual assault and harassment.

The office uses Haven, an online sexual assault awareness program, to teach students about the University’s codes concerning sexual assault, as well as related terminology and state laws. The topics covered in the hour-long session include stalking, harassment, rape and other topics under the same umbrella.

Khatkhate, the administrative coordinator for the Dean of Students’ Office, says the program was implemented online to get more students to be able to take the training at once and to allow online students to take it when out of the state.

“Last spring, we made it a requirement for all incoming students from now on. So, any incoming student will have it as a requirement on their to-do list and if they don’t complete it by a certain date they’ll have a hold on their account and not be able to register for classes,” she says.

Part of the training includes bystander intervention techniques, which inform students of ways to step in and help out when necessary.

“Bystander intervention] creates a community with students who kind of look out for each other and help out. So, if they see something at a party or anything like that, how to step in and stop a situation that could get more rough down the line,” Khatkhate says.

According to the Student Affairs website, Haven seeks to educate about these issues “during college and beyond.” This, Khatkhate says, is because the training can be utilized at any point in life.

“The average age of the one in five statistic is 18 to 24, so sometimes those women may be out of college. These situations can happen outside of college. In most cases, the perpetrator is someone that you know, so you can be in many different situations where someone you know can have that kind of affect on you.”

Khatkhate says that students who wish to get involved in educating about sexual harassment, relationship violence or stalking should seek to get involved with Counseling and Psychological Services, located in SHC 270.

MOVE-OUT, PAGE 4

Up your decorations and fluff until the last day, but make sure not to forget them. Although I’m sure your RA wouldn’t mind getting a free band poster or bobble head.

By the last few days leading up to your assigned move-out date (which should be scheduled with your RA or at the front desk of your building), the only things not in boxes should be your last essential outfits, toiletries and sleeping essentials. These things probably won’t matter though, because with finals going on we’re all likely not sleeping or changing clothes very much.

Once your finals are done and the clock has struck, it’s time to actually move-out of your room. Your RA will come to your dorm to inspect it to make sure that everything is prepared for you to leave and for the building to get ready for the next round of students.

Each building has a set of carts that resident students can rent out to transport their boxes and bags to their cars, Zack and Cody style. During the move-out period, each building will have ten carts color coded for the building, and students can rent them out at their respective front desks for 30 minutes, according to Goodman.

For students who are moving to new housing over the summer, housing has special accommodations. “We have that awkward transition phase in Lakeview North. So there’ll be rooms that we’ll move you to, where I would recommend keeping your stuff kind of close together, maybe having a suitcase of essentials because it’ll be about... two or four days that you might be living in there and then you will move to your space for the summer,” said Goodman.

For students who cannot leave by April 29 because of graduation or employment with housing can register for pre-approved housing extensions until Wednesday, May 3, according to information from University Housing.

I would recommend you to stay in your housing for extra time without one of the pre-approved reasons, the rate is $100 per night past the closing date.
University researches alternative therapies

If we keep advocating at different facilities about the robot and educating the positive significant changes it entails, we can recruit more individuals each year. In the near future, we can see our graduate program [having] real patients come into FIU. This will give us more hands on experience, increases research, and gives FIU a better name.

Alexa Vaddes
Graduate Student
College of Nursing and Health Sciences

Understanding your fears can help you overcome it

If you feel more like a work in progress than a completed production ready to take the stage, this Tuesday the Wertheim Performing Arts Center debuted “A Sea Change: A Multi-Disciplinary Collaboration in Response to a Global Threat.”

As the name might suggest the performance was a collaboration between various departments within FIU intended to raise awareness for a global threat -- rising sea levels -- through use of different mediums, like song and dance.

Though its mission was an unquestionably worthwhile one, the production fell short of engaging this audience member the way it should have throughout its ninety minute run.

Its message was clear enough -- rising sea levels are contributing to climate change and threatening our environment, particularly for those of us who live in South Florida, and we alone can put a stop to it if we put our heads together and commit ourselves to making a change.

This message was conveyed to us in a myriad of different ways, from monologues, to dance numbers, to brief lectures. But in an effort to combine one too many creative efforts for the sake of this one big collaboration, “A Sea Change” seemed to stumble under the weight of its creators' resulting in performances that felt out of place instead of ones that were seamlessly woven into the fabric of the show’s community statement.

Despite its floundering progression from one scene to another, the production did have its fair share of highlights. The theme of rising sea levels was consistently reinforced throughout the show with beautiful imagery, blue and white lighting, and classical music compositions that enveloped the theatre in a tranquil aura reminiscent of ocean water.

“Mara Cambient,” was danced by theatre student Jeremy Eiizen, composed by Professor Orlando Garcia and Mari Kimura, and choreographed by Professor Crystal Patient, reflected this theme wonderfully, as did the University Choir when performing “Alleluia,” composed by Virgil Thompson of its help.

Other highlights included “Mining Darkness,” “Good” and “We Can Save the World.”

“A Sea Change” is a great step towards bringing awareness for a global threat -- climate change -- to the FIU community. This production has managed to get across some of the Inmotion2 Robot and is determined to increase awareness of its success.

“I think we’re on a mission statement. Despite its floundering progression from one scene to another, the production did have its fair share of highlights. The theme of rising sea levels was consistently reinforced throughout the show with beautiful imagery, blue and white lighting, and classical music compositions that enveloped the theatre in a tranquil aura reminiscent of ocean water.”

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Other highlights included “Mining Darkness,” “Good” and “We Can Save the World.”
Panthers rule Senior Day with 4-0 victory

WOMEN'S TENNIS

STEVEN MELENDEZ
Contributing Writer

Senior day was a success as the No. 30-ranked FIU women’s tennis team (18-1) extended its winning streak to 16 by defeating the UCF Knights (12-7), on April 1 at the FIU Tennis Courts. This victory marks the Panthers’ 11th home win of the season.

“We play as a team. Everybody fights for everybody, that’s the key. I didn’t think we played that well today, but as long as everyone plays for each other that’s the key,” said Coach Katarina Petrovic.

The doubles portion of the competition was extremely competitive with FIU earning the needed point. It started with Natalie Serrano and Emilia Granstrom of UCF defeating Maryna Veksler and Ulyana Grib 6-1, and then Mina Markovic and Gabriela Ferreira of FIU defeating Nicole Jimenez and Elizabeth Bagerbakes 6-0, bringing it to 1-1.

The final doubles match to decide who receives the important point was between senior Nina Nagode and Andrea Lazar of FIU and Cortney Cesarini and Monica Matias of UCF. Nagode and Lazar started off inconsistent, losing 1-4 in the early part of the match, but with their teammates backing them up and Nina’s energy in full display, they mounted an incredible comeback with a 7-6, (7-2) in order to earn their team the doubles point.

“We started really tight and it was tough with the ceremony and all the emotions. I’m glad we won,” added Nagode.

After obtaining a 1-0 advantage heading into the singles portion the Panthers wanted to make sure they left nothing to chance by claiming three straight points. It started with Ferreira defeating Jimenez 6-1, 6-0 followed by Grib earning her 21st singles victory of the season, which ties Veksler for most on the team this season, defeating Elizabeth Bagerbakes 6-1, 6-0.

The Panthers’ next game is the last of the season, they will be taking on Florida Atlantic University Saturday, April 15 in Boca Raton. First serve is set for 10 a.m.

WOMEN'S GOLF

NICHOLAS POBLETE
Staff Writer

Junior golfer Katerina Krasova has the second-best stroke average this season for the women's golf team at 75.52. The Ricany, Czech Republic, native majoring in business management, had offers from various universities, but none of them, she said, met her criteria. Through “Athletes USA,” she got in touch with FIU.

She said she chose the University because “the location is in Miami,” and, “you can play the whole year.” The transition, however, from Ricany to Miami was difficult for Krasova. The predominantly Hispanic culture in Miami made it difficult for her to accommodate, she said, as a non-spanish speaker.

“You have to deal with it by yourself, which is challenging,” she said, “but it’s going to make you stronger in the future.” Although her stroke average is the team’s second best average, Krasova said there is still room for improvement.

“After a tournament, I check what I did wrong, and I try and analyze what went wrong,” she said. “Sometimes in golf you need a little click, and then you start shooting better.”

With WEB.com and Conference USA coming up, Krasova hopes she and her team will end the season playing at a high level. This will be the first season she plays in Jacksonville’s WEB.com tournament.

In addition, Krasova will be a senior next year, with the responsibility of leading the women’s golf team next season. Juggling all the responsibilities that come with being a student-athlete throughout her first three years at FIU has prepared the junior for her senior year. She said she is ready to take on the challenge of leading her younger teammates.

“It is the year when you can give it everything,” she said. “I want to really focus on my game.”
Athletics department names stadium after donor

PETER HOLLAND JR.
Staff Writer

The FIU Athletics department has revealed that the football stadium will now be named Riccardo Silva Stadium for four years. The decision was made after Silva was recognized for his $3.7 million donation to the department since 2015.

“I want to personally thank Riccardo Silva for his generous gift and his belief in FIU Athletics,” said FIU Executive Director of Sports and Entertainment Pete Garcia.

“It means a great deal to the department and illustrates the relationship we have built with Riccardo Silva. These are the type of gifts that help achieve our goal toward building world-class facilities for our student-athletes and our community.”

Silva is the president and co-owner of the Miami FC soccer team, which started its first season in 2016 in the North American Soccer League (NASL). Silva, an Italian businessman and entrepreneur is also an owner of the Silva International Investments. With his love for soccer and almost two decades of running team organizations, the Milan native is looking forward to the partnership with FIU.

The donation and renovations of the Silva Stadium included the installment of a new jumbotron, which is measured over 1800 square feet. The upgraded video board will feature a 13HD pixel layout, the premier technology used for outdoor applications within the sports industry, according to the Athletics Department. It will have live video and instant-replay capabilities, along with multiple zones of content, including statistics and graphics.

“FIU has been an amazing partner since we began working together with Miami FC,” said Silva. “When I brought professional soccer to Miami last year, I never dreamed that the Miami FC would be playing in a stadium named after me. It’s a huge honor of which I’m very proud and grateful.”

Along with the new jumbotron, Silva Stadium has also installed a new surface for the football field from FieldTurf’s Revolution 360. The new turf field features fibers that provide longevity and resilience, and is used by many of the country’s top venue, according to the Athletics department.

“I’m proud of the partnership with Riccardo Silva that speaks to our win-win commitment to our community,” said President Mark B. Rosenberg.

Miami FC is in the beginning of its season, and the team will play its next two matches at Silva Stadium starting on April 22 against the Carolina RailHawks at 7:30 p.m. and FC Edmonton on April 29 at 7:30 p.m.