Anonymous donor offers $5 million

Christina Veiga, News Director

The terms may be unclear, but FIU’s Board of Directors accepted on July 25 an anonymous potential donation of $5 million for its new medical school.

Presented with only an oral statement from University President Modesto Maidique, the board not only accepted the cash donation, but according to The Miami Herald, it also assumed a “lifetime liability on two insurance claims” as a term for the gift.

It is not fully understood what this could mean for FIU, and Director of Media Relations Maydel Santana-Bravo said that she was not in the position to describe this special condition to The Beacon.

The Miami Herald also reported that Maidique reviewed the offer with attorneys, determining that the only risk associated with this donation is a $10,000 administrative fee.

Santana-Bravo could not comment as to what the fee would pay for, or where the funds would come from.

Though unconfirmed, Maidique also said the donor may have an endowed professorship named, which would allo-

cate funds to help recruit top professors to FIU.

“Endowed professorships give the University a chance to attract a star in a field,” Santana-Bravo said.

Currently, Santana-Braavo said that the donor is in the process of making a final decision. If the gift is made, FIU will qualify for a matching gift from the state.

When the gift is complete, the donor’s identity may be revealed.

“I don’t know why the donor has remained anonymous, but I do believe he will eventually be identified,” Santana-Braavo said.

SOUTH POLE

Dean explores sound art in South Pole

Nicole Acosta, News Director

When Lesley A. Northup became the interim dean of The Honors College a year ago, she needed to find someone to replace her as associate dean. Eventually, Juan Carlos Espinosa was hired for the position in the fall of 2006. His qualifications: his previous experience at Miami-Duke College’s Office of the President and being a “Renaissance Man” involved with politics and sound art.

“We want people [on the faculty] who are in themselves what honors students in the Honors College should be,” [Espinosa] is a very good model for that,” Northup said. “He’s a very conscientious mentor who works closely with his students one on one to get job interviews and scholarships. Teachers who love teaching are usually the best teachers.”

Espinosa said he has two passions, one of them being his academic political science background and his teaching, the other being his sound art.

Born in Cuba in 1959, he migrated to Miami when he was six-years-old. After years of public schooling in Miami, Espinosa went on to earn a bachelor of arts degree in international relations from Florida State University in 1981.

After coming back to the United States to live in San Francisco for some time, Espinosa came back to Miami to teach in the mid 1980’s and went on to earn his masters degree at the University of Miami in 1995 and then his doctorate in international relations and comparative politics at the University of Miami.

Throughout this time, Espinosa was involved in Cuban and Cuban American studies, eventually becoming one of the founders of the Institute for Cuban and Cuban-American Studies at UM and going on to give political commentary on the subject.

“I was not particularly interested in Cuban history and culture until I went to college. Later, I became obsessed with the history and culture of Republican Cuba. My passion seems non-traditional and is of great importance and great influence today and the fascinating thing is that we’re seeing in this new media the same symbols, imagery, archetype and iconic images [used throughout history],” Espinosa said.

It was his background in international relations that has prompted Espinosa to teach the overall theme of “Aesthetics, Values and Authority: The Art of War” for his third year Honors College students last year.

“Aesthetics, Values and Authority: The Art of War” is a course that looks at war through a cultural lens by studying war and its themes through television, film, video games, music videos and national anthems. One example of a medium used to juxtapose theCool Art?

Jean Carlos Espinosa, associate dean of The Honors College, stands in front of “The longitudinal Installation,” an art piece by Xavier Cortada that represents global climate change. Espinosa provided the sound art for the piece.

PHOTO COURTESY JUAN CARLOS ESPINOSA

COOL ART? Juan Carlos Espinosa, associate dean of The Honors College, stands in front of “The longitudinal Installation,” an art piece by Xavier Cortada that represents global climate change. Espinosa provided the sound art for the piece.
Senior loses life before graduation

Pre-physics therapy senior Daniel A. Matos, 22, died July 18 at his home in Doral. His family has ruled out suicide as a possible cause of death.

"There were a lot of things going on in his life that he was looking forward to. I don’t think he would be capable of committing suicide," said his sister Lissette Matos, 30, a graduate of Southwest Miami High, who would have graduated next fall with a pre-physics therapy bachelor’s degree.

He wanted to get into FIU’s physical therapy master’s degree program but was not accepted into it. He was considering taking a year off and reapplying next year, his sister said.

According to Physical Therapy Associate Professor Avilda Haskins, the program is very selective, admitting only 48 students per year. Haskins remembers Matos from a class last spring.

“He really wanted to get into the program and become a physical therapist," Haskins said. "He was an outgoing and diligent student, and a warm and caring person.”

Matos’ family is now trying to get a post-mortem degree from FIU.

“He was about to graduate and it’s a shame. He did so much work for it," Lissette Matos said.

According to FIU student Derek Sorare, who knew him since elementary school, Matos enjoyed the outdoors and nature. Both joined the Boy Scouts in elementary school. While Sorare quit a few years later, Matos continued in the program as long as he could until, according to Sorare, "he was basically kicked out of it because of his age.

Last June, Matos joined Sorare and other friends on a sailing and snorkeling trip through the Florida Keys.

“It was one of the last exciting things he did,” Sorare said.

While taking classes, Matos also worked at TGI Friday’s at the Dolphin Mall, where he is remembered as a caring person who would always stop working to help everyone else.

Coworker Nile Titat remembers one day when Matos sang Tainted Love in front of everyone else at the restaurant.

“He didn’t care what people thought of him,” Titat said.

His sister describes him as an intellectual who enjoyed gadgets, books and games. She remembers going to concerts together, taking hikes in the woods, and going to the movies.

"It was a little thing we had. If he couldn’t pay for the ticket, I would get him and he would get me next time," Lissette Matos said.

"His friends were his passion," said Blaya, and added that the funeral procession was so long he had to get extra police forces.

“There might have been over a thousand people there,” Blaya said.

Matos was buried Saturday July 21 at the Our Lady of Mercy cemetery in the City of Doral.

In addition to his mother and sister, Matos is survived by a brother, his father, a stepfather, and two grandmothers.


designed university, including FIU. According to Robertson, after receiving DRU designation, the next step is to look into academic areas and identify the most pressing needs.

“We worked very hard on this,” Robertson said. “Now comes the real hard work.”

For more information on FIU’s DRU status visit http://dru.fiu.edu.

Associate dean uses modern media to explain war topics

Associate dean uses modern media to explain war topics

"By having a board-sound and someone you can talk to and look at an issue together, it enhances the art because it is greater than the sum of its parts," Cortada said. "There was a great synergy when both of us were working together and I look forward to working with him at our next installation at the North Pole."
Drama club lets students explore their artistic sides

Stephan Neal, FIU theater professor, sought to give the Biscayne Bay Campus students the opportunity to hone their social skills through the performing arts with the BBC Dramatics club.

The reason Neal was driven to help form the club was not only because there were no drama or theater classes being offered at BBC, but also because he remembers how acting changed his life for the better.

"I was able to overcome my shyness and by the time I graduated, I was one of the most popular and respected kids in the class. I was involved in almost everything and made a lot of friends," he said. Neal was soon determined to pass on the gift his teacher had given him by agreeing to drive the performing arts club into existence.

"It has been very good for the kids [at BBC] to exercise their passions for theater. [The club] has provided people who need a creative outlet or a social outlet a way to be seen and to feel important," he added.

"It was my dream to one day have a theater program here," said Neal, who grew up in Miami’s Little Havana neighborhood.

Drama club members get their chance to participate in large-scale productions and activities such as Open-Mic Night, which occurs once every semester and gives members the chance to sing, act and recite poetry. They also participate in a mini-FILM Festival last Spring.

"For the last show we had, my parents came and recognized half the set," he said. "They kept on telling themselves ‘Ooh, I recognize that table cloth, I recognize that chair.’“

Dramatics no experience is required. The only requirement is creativity.

"Acting does not have to be the only interest. Some people come to us and say ‘I want to join but I can’t act and that is okay because there’s a job for anyone who wants to get involved. People can participate in the areas of production, makeup, and even stage,” Morris said.

On the other side, Morris at mjr02@fiu.edu.

Dr. Forrest Pearson

The only requirement is creativity.

"Librarians are well placed to keep up with what is happening worldwide and to help make the BBC Library more accessible to students.

"I have to know what they are talking about and what information sources would best fit their needs. In a sense, it’s a bit like selling the product, and you have to know what the customer wants and needs,” Pearson said.

"Librarians need people with needed resources has always professionally interested Pearson, who graduated from Montclair Saint University in New Jersey in 1977. What is new is what he now calls Macy’s at the Westland Mall in Hialeah selling television sets.

"Serving as a salesman helped [me] develop [my] psychological and communication skills. In retail, it’s called body language. You go through a similar process when you help people,” he said.

"I enjoyed exploring new and better ways to teach and supply information to students. Everything [librarians] do is make students have a great experience,” said Brenenson, a Library Instruction Coordinator at University Park’s Green Library.

Pearson has worked at the BBC Library since 1990. He has said he has seen it change from having print-based resources to currently having a large number of available databases and Internet access.

"I’ve enjoyed seeing the changes," Pearson said. "For the library to stay a central part of FIU, it has to meet the changing needs of students, faculty, and staff.”

Some of Pearson’s goals are to keep up with what is happening worldwide and to help make the BBC Library more accessible to students.

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What is the impact of television on your life as an American? The important thing to understand is that the primary purpose of television is to advertise to the public, not to entertain, to inspire, to enrich, or to empower. The big screen at the focus of the entertainment center, which increased exposure and awareness is becoming ever more significant not only to reveal the ordinary. The administration should be more forthcoming in elaborating on the details of this donation, as it is within the interest of the general public and the student body to know. This public university that is funded by public dollars and is subject to Florida’s Sunshine Laws, as such, anyone so inclined to inquire has the right to know the details of this information.

Eight months later, FIU has yet to find an individual or corporation interested in purchasing the naming rights to the College of Medicine. In what seems to be an attempt to make amends for past mishaps, Maidique has accepted an anonymous donation, which apparently carries terms just as cryptic as the donor. While it is alarming that the fact a public institution adamantly refuses to disclose the source of these funds, and that the acceptance of the funds is entirely dependent on an assurance of anonymity.

The necessity of public awareness is becoming even more necessary, now that the state is going to utilize public funds, contributed by the taxpayers of Florida, to match the donation, which could have come from anywhere.

The sheer fact that the University agreed to undergo a lifetime liability for two insurance claims, only serves to raise even more red flags. It leads to speculation on the part of the general public, who are left to ask many questions.

Administration is making no effort to assuage such suspicions, with the Office of Media Relations refusing to comment on the specifics of the donation.

Adding to the uncertainty is the fact that Maidique did not share transcripts of the legal analyses he allegedly received with the Board of Trustees. To the uniformed observer, these would appear to be efforts to conceal the truth.

The administration should be more forthcoming in elaborating on the details of this donation, as it is within the interest of the general public and the student body to know. This is a public university that is funded by public dollars and is subject to Florida’s Sunshine Laws, as such, anyone so inclined to inquire has the right to know the details of this information.

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...[Television] is a constant manipulation of your emotions by so much more than just a stream of commercials.
Managing stress levels begins with managing one's life

As we all have experienced, some more than others, the side effects of stress can be worse for the body than the causes of stress to the mind. Continuous headaches, lower back and neck pains, insatiable hunger or uncontrollable weight loss are some of those tricky results of poor stress management. What would our lives be like without these annoying pains and symptoms?

According to Dr. Melissa Conrad Stöppler, a U.S. board-certified Anatomic Pathologist, on MedicineNet.com, “Elimination of stress is unrealistic, since stress is a part of normal life. It’s impossible to completely eliminate stress and it would be advisable to do so. Instead, we can learn to manage stress so that we have control over our stress and its effects on our physical and mental health.”

Now that a semester is over, you may be suiting up as your favorite character from the anime series, but don’t forget to manage your stress so that you can focus on what you enjoy and have fun.

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After more than 10 years of adventure and mystery, the story of Harry Potter, the Boy Who Lived, is finally over with the release of “Harry Potter and the Deathly Hallows.”

In this last adventure, it’s up to Harry and his two sidekicks Ron and Hermione to stop Voldemort once and for all by taking command of an entire nation in 4000 B.C., expanding your boundaries through peace or war.

Now, the second expansion pack to the Civilization franchise, Beyond the Sword, has been released and offers an overwhelming amount of content, including new units, technologies and buildings.

There are 11 new scenarios for gamers to experience such as Final Frontier, Fall from Heaven, and Next War – three of the most eagerly awaited scenarios. Final Frontier takes place in space and Next War introduces powerful units and new technologies.

With 11 new scenarios come 16 new leaders and 10 new civilizations that allow greater freedom, especially when you’re choosing leaders based on their traits and characteristics that give in-game bonuses.

If you want gold, BTS’s new corporation feature allows you to form a major corporation to make some money. To create one of these money-making machines, you must meet the required technologies and resources. As you spread the corporation, your opponents’ cities pay the costs and you receive the gold.

In the original Civilization 4, espionage was disregarded and underrated. In BTS, espionage has been completely overhauled. You can now accumulate espionage points and perform espionage missions that involve poisoning your enemies’ water supply or even starting a city revolt.

In real life, a nation isn’t always stable, but BTS presents random events that occur throughout the game, ranging from a wedding between two members of a nation or a volcanic eruption. If you happen to hate having to end a seemingly everlasting game, then just buy everything you would have had through the advanced start feature. This allows you to skip 6000 years while having a powerful empire.

The visual graphics and sound in this latest expansion have been extraordinarily updated and deserve recognition. Civilization 4 was and still is a great game, and this expansion pack makes it even greater with loads of new content and features to play around with. Because of the innovative new features as well as the introduction of fun novel scenarios, Civilization 4: Beyond the Sword truly is the largest Civilization expansion in the franchise’s history.

After playing through all of the 30 tracks in this game, the quality of some cover songs were not so accurate. Some of the fret (note) patterns were fun to play, but the songs can be a headache to hear. Although some characters and venue graphics were given the ’80s makeover, everything else remained the same.

A $55 price tag for 30 songs and few unlockables is too pricey – this game should have been sold for less. Guitar Hero Encore: Rocks the 80s will keep you playing for a while, but you want to go back to Guitar Hero II eventually.

Stress linked to low sex drive

Stress is a threat to health, page 5

connections and work with the problem. By not doing anything, the problem gets bigger and you feel guiltier.

WHY MANAGE STRESS?
Stress has to be taken care of in its early stages because it can have dangerous consequences on, for example, your immune system.

When you are weak, you become more vulnerable for diseases and less productive, which will cause you more stress.

According to the A1S, “there are numerous emotional and physical disorders that have been linked to stress including depression, anxiety, heart attacks, stroke, hypertension and immune system disturbances ...”

To get your mind off of stress, Stöppel recommends exercise, relaxation, meditation and yoga.

The A1S also recommends activities such as jogging and aromatherapy.

From all these recommendations, you need to apply the ones that work for you because each person is different and consequently reacts differently.

In all, for stress to be managed, you have to actively seek activities and the motivation to help yourself.

Check back for the next Model of Health column.

Take Advantage of Life!

Visit beaconnewspaper.com for additional content, including video game reviews and concert reviews.
Cristobal and staff plan to change attitude of team

FOOTBALL, page 8

scores, FIU will lose nine scholarships in football, two in men’s basketball and one in baseball.

Baseball scored the worst, with 850, and was placed in the top 10 percentile nationally, which means that 90 percent of Division I schools were better at graduating players.

“Receiving help graduating players was a long time coming,” said former FIU baseball head coach Danny Price. “This past year was the best year academically. Help was being given away like Kool-Aid.”

The baseball team scored 870, and the football team scored 889.

The NCAA currently has retrieved nine scholarships from FIU. The remaining three scholarships will be lost in the fall.

The Athletic Administration has made decisions to make sure that its athletes do not lose any more scholarships in upcoming years.

The Athletic Department hired a consultant firm, Bond Schoeneck King. Garcia says they reviewed all of FIU’s academic systems including personnel and our resources.

Legal Counsel Christina Mendoza is the architect of a plan approved by President Modesto A. Maidique. Mendoza was not available to comment on the plan due to a visit to Tallahassee, but Garcia says the plan is one of the measures the administration is taking in order to amend the past administration’s errors.

“We’ve made a commitment for student-athletes to be able to take financially 15 credits instead of 12 during their regular terms,” Garcia said. “We’ve also made a commitment for student-athletes to be able to take summer classes.”

Price states that in past years, it was difficult for student-athletes to take summer classes, but that this year summer classes were offered to those athletes whether they needed it or not.

Former golden panther baseball infielder Brian Pullin said that the coaches and administration stressed academics equally every year at FIU.

However, the last few years he says he saw administration help students more.

“My last year, the academic center had so many resources,” said Pullin. “At that point I already knew what I was doing, but that extra help would’ve helped me out when I was younger.”

The amount of services available to students dictated how athletes would perform in the classroom more than the coaches according to Pullin.

In addition to the APR, the NCAA is taking note of what type of initiatives schools are taking to losing scholarships.

It is possible to appeal past APR scores, but Garcia stresses the importance of looking ahead.

“We could appeal, but we’re looking toward the future,” he said.

Setup of sporting events a crucial, overlooked process

CHEERLEADING: Golden Panther fans support their team at the Orange Bowl during the 2006 football season. FIU will play all its 2007 home games at the Orange Bowl.

This coming Fall, FIU Athletics will embark on another season of Division I NCAA sports. What many may not be aware of is the amount of preparation involved that allows all the teams to play throughout the season.

The Facilities Department is in charge of setting up sporting events. It handles everything from basketball at the Pharmed Arena to setting up outdoor sports including baseball, soccer, track and even swim meets at the Biscayne Bay Campus.

Setting up the Pharmed Arena for a baseball game will normally take a crew of two to three workers about three hours.

“When we do graduations it’s more of a full day setup. We start in the morning and put the carpets down. Then we go to the stage to get the drapes that go all the way around – it’s quite an extensive setup,” said John Eckart, assistant director for Facilities.

This football season is going to be played in the Orange Bowl due to the ongoing construction of the FIU stadium and the Golden Panthers will play University of Miami on Sept. 15.

Working with the Orange Bowl staff will bring some changes since its own staff will do most of the setup.

According to Robert McDaniel, assistant athletic director for Facilities, “When we do the events at the Orange Bowl we’re responsible for setting up sponsors signs and the instant replay set-up.

We set up the instant replay equipment and they have officials that in and run it.”

Event setup is not all moving basketball hoops and preparing bleachers, though. The ticket office takes part in an essential part of setup.

The office handles sales and fans wanting to buy seats for events, it is also in charge of the giant inflatable Roary that football players run out through during the beginning of each game.

“It will take us about 10 to 15 minutes to inflate it then it takes a good 20 minutes to deflate and wrap it up,” said Drew Agueste, the FIU ticket office manager.

“Sometimes it takes a half hour just to push all the air out.”

The ticket office will also setup tables and attend to the needs of visiting teams.

It also tries to get more people to the games by offering deals like two sets of season tickets for $100 for students and $50 for faculty.

The offer will be in effect this season at the Orange Bowl and for the 2008 season when the new stadium is complete.

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Sponsorship Ad
Football looks ahead despite brawl, poor leadership

As the ever exciting time of year that is college football approaches, many questions need to be answered for your very own Golden Panthers if they wish to exit the basement of Division I-A football.

Currently ranked 117 out of 119, according to a poll on ESPN.com, and winless since the 2002 inception. Another commitment to keep in mind is the refurbishing of the new stadium, which is on track to graduate 50 percent of its athletes.

Cristobal was hired to flush out old mentalities and habits in what were the past few years of this already young program. FIU football has posted an 8-25 record since its 2002 inception. Another commitment to keep in mind is the refurbishing of the new stadium, which is expected to be completed in time for the 2008 season.

Cristobal’s hiring and the new stadium clearly show the desire the Athletic Department has to improve the football program. Even though certain games on this year’s schedule may look daunting (see Penn State, Maryland, UM and Kansas), these games against upper tier teams will only benefit the team in the long run due to the exposure they will be receiving.

As so this exciting time of year approaches, FIU football fans can only hope that these questions are answered by opening kickoff.

The Academic Progress Rate is a fixed standard. The Academic Progress Rate is a system that is calculated by giving points to each team based on the number of players in respectable academic standing and on the number of players who remain in the institution.

The minimum score a team can record without losing any scholarships is 925, which indicates that the team's athletes earned 92.5 percent of all possible points and that the team is on track to graduate 50 percent of its athletes. If a team scores less than 900, it cannot replace scholarships even if an academically ineligible player leaves the team.

“Unfortunately, the way the APR is it keeps holding that data,” Garcia said. “It takes a number of years to dig yourself out of that hole, but this administration has made a commitment to not let that happen again.”

This year, three FIU teams scored less than 900: baseball, football and men's basketball. Due to the low APR is a system that is calculated by giving points to each team based on the number of players who remain in the institution.

He is currently the leader in receptions for a returning receiver as he had 23 last season and will be counted on heavily to produce after the losses of wide receivers Chandler Williams and tight end Samuel Smith.

To compensate for the loss of former defensive end Antwan Barnes, strong defensive line play will be counted on as well. Juniors Jarvis Penerton and Jonathan Betancourt impressed in the Spring Game and strong play will help make up for the loss.

With all these unanswered questions in the next few weeks, a knowledgeable fan of college football must be extremely patient as a supporter of this program. This is quite evident with the current commitments and actions that have recently been taken.

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