A U.S. Department of Transportation discretionary grant program, called Transportation Investment Generating Economic Recovery 2013, appropriated $11.4 million to the University on Sept. 5. These funds will develop the pedestrian bridge that will connect the University with Sweetwater, and street improvements two blocks north of the University. These funds will also fund the pedestrian bridge and how it will support the economic growth of a major public research university and an adjacent small city [Sweetwater].

However, Robert Griffith, director of Facilities Planning, asserts that the DOT’s official project description, found online, states that, “The scope of the projects funded by the TIGER Grant transcends financial outcomes.”

“I think maybe that’s pushing it a little too far, to see grants, the specificity behind the grant’s funding, meaning how much will fund the pedestrian bridge and how much will fund the street improvements, are still in discussion. The only approved figure is the total amount of the grant.”

The Herbert Wertheim College of Medicine will be joined by the Nicole Wertheim College of Nursing and Health Sciences after Herbert Wertheim donates $10 million to expand the program in honor of his wife.

A few years after Wertheim’s $20 million donation to the University’s College of Medicine, the latest gift will fund student scholarships at the graduate level, as well as faculty development and research.

The Herbert Wertheim College of Medicine, the Nicole Wertheim Nursing and Health Sciences Scholarship Endowment will help support graduate students who are working on clinical doctorates in physical therapy and master’s level nursing students who are studying to become registered nurse practitioners, according to Ora Strickland, dean of the College of Nursing and Health Sciences.

The Endowment for Nursing and Health Sciences Education and Research will go to faculty development and research. These endowments were set up to support faculty research and enhancement and to support faculty collaboration in the development program and research,

“FIU is outreaching to help the community of Sweetwater as well, it’s not just creating a market for economic development,” said Griffith.

“FIU is outreaching to help the community of Sweetwater as well, it’s not just creating a market for economic development,” said Griffith.

“The same endowment fund established three faculty chairs, which was done as a means to mentor students to develop research, they will also mentor junior faculty members.”

“Of the three faculty chairs, one focuses on prevention and family health, another focuses on pain management and disease prevention while the third, community mental health, according to Strickland.

“Junior nursing student, Valerie Ratmiroff believes that the donation will do wonderful things for the nursing school. “I don’t think the nursing field is often given much credit, but I think that this donation will enhance learning and education and attract more students to the field,” said Ratmiroff.

“I also think the graduate scholarships are very important, because graduate students are not often given much financial aid, it is something that could greatly benefit me in the future if I decide to go to graduate school.”

While the college will be named after Wertheim’s wife, his donation comes as a sign of his commitment and confidence in the college, said Strickland.

“He saw our five-year strategic and business plan and after he read those, he wanted to fund the plan,” said Strickland. “In essence the gift was given to demonstrate his commitment and confidence in the direction the college is going, and he did this by commemorating his wife’s birthday and their 44th wedding anniversary.”

According to Strickland, the donation will be paid over a five-year period in $2 million increments.

“This endowment has been designed to boost the college in moving forward to really become worlds ahead,” Strickland said.

“IT THINK MAYBE THAT’S PUSHING IT A LITTLE TOO FAR, TO CHECK PEOPLE’S PHONE RECORDS.

Camille Rosa
Junior
Social Work

He later clarified that it would reduce amounts of texting while driving, but that this would only be among those who care about losing money.

“Those who don’t care about the ticket, they don’t care about the money because their parents will pay for the ticket, or whatever. They will still do it,” said Pinares, “They will find ways around it.”

Camille Rosa, junior social work student, agrees with the ban.

“I actually think it’s great. Anytime that I’ve tried to text and drive, I can’t. It’s really difficult to really pay attention to the road and text at the same time,” said Rosa, who pointed out that such a practice is dangerous.

When it came to the efficacy of the law, Rosa said she believes that it will work.

“I think a lot of accidents happen because people are not paying attention. I don’t know the statistics to accidents, but I know [...] a lot them had not been paying attention,” said Rosa.

In a previous report, Student Media pointed to how the law allows authorities the option of using phone bill records to determine whether or not an individual was texting at the time of a road-related infraction. This has caused some students to ponder the role of the right to privacy in the matter.

$11.4 million grant first steps to UniversityCity

$129 fee.

“Another reason have stopped an individual.

Current, means that it can only be applied if the police for

texting and driving banned, secondary offense

ALYSSA ELSO
Staff Writer

The controversy over the practice of texting while driving has not disappeared; even after a Florida law was passed.

On Oct. 1, Florida’s ban on typing in a wireless device and drive, I can’t. It’s really difficult to really pay attention to

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Texting and driving banned, secondary offense

RAUL HERRERA
Staff Writer

The controversy over the practice of texting while driving has not disappeared; even after a Florida law was passed.

On Oct. 1, Florida’s ban on typing in a wireless device while driving, also known as Senate Bill 52, will go into effect. Refusing to comply with the law is considered as a secondary offense, which, according to Tampa Bay’s The Current, means that it can only be applied if the police for another reason have stopped an individual.

According to the Florida Senate website, the first violation of the law is punishable as a nonmoving violation, with a $30 fine, plus additional county court costs. The Miami-Dade Clerk of Courts site refers to nonmoving violations as having a $129 fee.

The second violation of the law is punishable as a moving violation, with a $60 fine plus additional court costs.

The nature of the law, as well as its method of punishment, is a source of debate amongst students.

“Texting and driving is not something that you should do,” said Carlos Gutierrez De Pineres, a junior mechanical engineering student.

Despite this, De Pineres says that the law will not be as effective.

“There are...”
Experts report that the law’s goals were important, the method of acquisition in this matter is questionable. “I think maybe that’s pushing it a little too far, to check people’s phone records,” said Edwards. “This is a good idea because it will benefits those of us who don’t live on or near campus,” said Joe Chavez, psychologist, speech pathology. The garage is a commitment by the University to receive the $1.4 million grant and will be funded by revenue bonds. The transit hub to be built in conjuction with Miami-Dade Transit. "We, through University City, are trying to be a catalyst for an urban place," said Sauls. "We are trying to leverage good academic thinking, transportation and urban design. It will be a work in progress for many years."
There was a time, long ago it seems, when robotic programs were not an issue. These programs were irritating at best and spam-fall at worst. But at the time, they could easily be identified for what they were: fake.

To this day, they still clog emails through their spam-centric communications or attempts thereof. However, thanks to advances in technology, the artificial intelligence in these programs has soared. With these advances, bots have gained the ability to become human-like, and not many people seem to be making a big deal out of it.

Today’s sophisticated robotic programs, otherwise known as bots, are difficult to distinguish. They act like real human beings, communicate through the online channels we all use and are programmed to have sleep-wake cycles.

According to The New York Times, “Many of them have built-in databases of current events, so they can piece together phrases that seem relevant to their target audience.”

Left unchecked, these bots will inevitably destroy online communications.

MOISES FUERTES Staff Writer

Young female role models today

ASHLEY VIERA Contributing Writer

Feminism and women’s rights are trending topics that seem to be prevalent nowadays. This brings up the issue of women in the media or spotlight today and just how well of an example female celebrities in particular are setting for young teenage girls.

As an older teenager who is soon to be 20-year-old, I know just how important it can be to have strong female role models in the media as well as the immense impact they make on a young girl’s life.

Lately, it seems as if the amount of young female role models is nearly nonexistent with only a few truly commendable celebrities in the forefront.

With young female stars such as Miley Cyrus and Taylor Swift, there is not much mentoring going on but the exact opposite. I would suggest we are sending a message to young teenage girls, saying that “twerking” and dating countless men to no avail is acceptable as long as you have the money and glamour, madonna got away with.

To bluntly put it, this is a confusing and outright bad example to be endorsing to young girls.

Some stars, however, have outspokenly made a positive impact, one of the relatively younger ones being Demi Lovato.

Demi Lovato has made an astounding as well as surprising impact on young girls with her past history with bullying and eating disorders. The 21-year-old has become very vocal about her challenges in coping with these issues and how she has been able to overcome them. She has been very open about her struggles and she has encouraged others just like her to speak up and get help for their issues.

As a brief background, it all reached a terrible turning point for Lovato when she violently struck and hit one of the crew members while on tour with the Jonas Brothers. At the advise of close friends and family, Lovato decided to seek help in a rehab facility in which she was diagnosed with bipolar disorder.

Lovato has undoubtedly and impressively turned her life around since then with much success, including releasing two albums as well as starting in X-Factor and now Glee.

Since her recovery, Lovato has done numerous interviews speaking about her experience with childhood bullying and eating disorders, advising those currently dealing with them to tell someone and seek help as soon as possible.

Due to her positive mental health message, Lovato won the Mental Health Award in the 2013 National Children’s Mental Health Awareness Day on May 7 in Washington, D.C.

There needs to be more inspiring and gutsy role models just like her out there for young, maturing women to aspire to and learn from.

We are sending a message to young teenage girls, saying that “twerking” and dating countless men to no avail is acceptable.

Young female role models today

CHERYL BEAN Contributing Writer

October marks National Breast Cancer Awareness Month, and thanks to Obamacare, young women like me have access to preventive care and checkups that can help us identify abnormalities and potential cancer early, when they are most treatable.

We, the students, are all too aware of the rising cost of tuition, textbooks, living expenses, and school fees.

These things, on top of the cost of health care, can be expensive. Now, thanks to the Affordable Care Act, we don’t have to delay checkups and preventive care because of the cost.

Twenty-seven million currently insured women have already benefited from access to fully covered women’s preventive services, including breast exams and mammograms — 1.47 million of them in Florida.

When the law goes into full effect, 47 million women nationally — 2.48 million women in Florida — will benefit from this provision. Additionally, people under the age of 26 can now stay on their parents’ health plan, thanks to Obamacare. This is especially important to my peers and myself, since buying health insurance often does not take priority when things like exams, grades, graduation and finding jobs in our fields are occupying our time and energy.

The law also means that health insurance plans will no longer be able to deny anyone coverage based on pre-existing conditions like breast cancer.

This will help women who have overcome breast cancer continue medical care for a more healthy future without fear of losing insurance coverage or going bankrupt.

On Oct. 1, an estimated 3.5 million uninsured Florida residents will become eligible to enroll for more affordable insurance, many for the first time, under the new law. This includes the thousands of recent FIU graduates who are just starting out with their careers and families, and an important need of this service.

Every woman deserves access to lifesaving breast cancer screenings from trusted health care providers, and thanks to Obamacare, they’ll do so without fear of losing debent.

That’s why I’m standing with Planned Parenthood for National Breast Cancer Awareness month to say: Obamacare works.

It works for young women like me and we’re not going to let anyone take it away.

The best way to fight this development, as always, is to make people aware. Champions of freedom of speech should be scared of this technological development. For as great the potential of this technology in other areas, such as autonomous cars, there is little point in freedom of speech if the speech itself is never heard or seen.

The technology isn’t the problem. The problem is how certain companies and governments are using it.

Every major shift in the way we communicate has been life-changing. But we need to understand them properly. Deliberately lying to people is against the public interest.

Limits on the usage of robot software in communications need to be placed.

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Valve goes full “Steam” ahead

The future of gaming is near with the upcoming launches of the next-gen consoles. It just got even more complex with the announcement of Valve’s SteamOS (Steam Operating System) and Steam Machines.

With staggered announcements this past week detailing Steam’s new SteamOS, Steam Machines and Steam controller, Valve just put its card in the battle for the living (or dorm) room.

Gaming has changed in the past couple of years, thanks in part to the rise of Steam and mobile games. People can play video games on their smart phones, or they can play on high end machines. However, the most popular option to experience franchises like “Call of Duty,” “Assassin’s Creed” and “Madden” are typically experienced on video game consoles like the Xbox 360 and PlayStation 3.

While not a next-gen console like the Microsoft and Sony counterparts, the Steam Machines will have more in common with a PC, thanks to SteamOS. But why go with a Steam Machine when you can invest in a PC that has a SteamOS install (or Windows and Linux installs)? Time will tell as Valve will reveal more details behind the new SteamOS (Steam Operating System) and Steam Machines.

iOS 7: New software review

Fiusm Staff

Now that mania and hysteria over the new iOS from Apple has subsided, we’ve had over a week to sit down and play with our phones. The reaction has been varied, from those who welcomed the new mobile operating system with open arms, and those who rejected it outright, preferring the skeuomorphic feel of iOS 6. There have been countless of previews, and reviews of iOS 7, so we’ll keep this short and sweet, bringing to you the good, the bad, and pointless of iOS 7.

The Good

Right off the bat, iOS 7 just looks sleeker. Continuing a trend we’ve seen on other operating systems, most notably Microsoft 8, we see iOS 7 is more colorful than its predecessor. Gone are the drop shadows, and in comes the “flat look”, which is supposed to be cleaner and easier on the eyes than previous iterations of iOS. While I was skeptical of this complete redesign initially (I mean, I do miss my electronic yellow legal pad), I’ve adjusted quite quickly and have grown used to the new look. Photos are now easily grouped by date and place taken, making individual photos easier to locate or delete. My personal favorite upgrade is likely the most practical, the new Control Center, which is accessible by a simple upswipe from the bottom of your screen. With one simple swipe, you can now quickly change settings such as Wi-Fi, Bluetooth, and phone brightness. There is also a bar at the bottom of the Control Center which gives you quick access to the phone’s camera, calculator, and now settings.

SEE GAMES, PAGE 5

SEE IOS7, PAGE 5

Recruitment week continues

Aulis Toledo

My thoughts as I was pulling into FIU early that Saturday morning were scattered with ideas of what was to come. As I tried to mentally go over the list of things my Rho Gamma advised us to do for preparation, my thoughts drifted into what I would see. Today was the first day of “real” recruitment—today is when we would get to meet the seven organizations at FIU.

Making my way to the meeting spot, I was quickly reminded of how I felt when I was making the line the day we met our groups. Every girl looked something they were appraising my outfit, or if it was something deeper than that—did they consider me their competition or something? As the parties continued, I learned to get used to the attention and realized it was better to ignore it.

I was reunited with my group. Small talk was going around the table, so I reintroduced myself and joined in the light conversation. My group members were abuzz with excitement and nerves. Some girls already knew which organization they wanted to affiliate with, while others were in the same clueless boat I was in. Today would be the only day when we would attend all seven parties together, as a group.

SEE SORORITY, PAGE 5
**Sorority 101: Recruitment week, day two**

For the rest of the week, we would be attending only the parties of the organizations we were invited back to, as independent potential new members.

I had decided early on, before this process even began, that I wanted to make meaningful friendships from the beginning. Regardless of if some of these women would end up in different sororities than me, I wanted to get to know them for who they are. What I didn’t expect was that some of these girls would go on to be a source of encouragement, support and wisdom during some of the most personal, hardest moments of the recruitment process.

One of these women in particular was Josie. From the get go, this tall, curvy ray of sunshine and I made a connection. She was witty, encouraging and an endless source of character and optimism for me. We bonded as we waited in line to get into the parties that first day. She would fix my makeup and I would help her with her hair. At the course of the process, we shared our true motives for going through recruitment and what we were hoping for. During some of my most insecure moments—like when I decided to drop a particular sorority that I had my heart set on—she was the one who pulled me going and comforted me.

In order to understand why going through recruitment becomes such a personal experience, one has to understand what happens behind the scenes. If you’re like me, who went into having no inclinations or background information about certain organizations, then you start off with a clean slate. You go into the parties being open and willing to listen. But if you have certain opinions about an organization based on another’s words, stereotypes, it is impossible to go into the meetings with genuine openness.

The problem with that inevitably, people will start to talk and get into your head. You are no longer just listening and forming your own thoughts about a certain organization, but you are listening to others who think too. A toxic group starts to form, singling out a few who are formed weird or “awkward.” Even some who had initially been considered “elite” had bad conversations tied to it. It takes a strong mind to not be influenced by this kind of hateful talk, and an even stronger character to be bothered as you walked into the very party people are just bashing.

I understand that willingness judgment goes hand in hand with recruitment. As easily as you are judging an organization, they are judging you. What I find completely disrespectful is showing a lack of respect for the organization that welcomed you with open arms. Tapping your nails on the table is meant to be a signal not to give the sister a chance. She speaks from her heart not only, but maybe also下达s offensive or any other way. So, no matter what stigma is attached to their name, has something unique and special to offer you.

By the end of the night, we were instructed to narrow our top five picks. My strategy was to focus simply on the organizations that I wanted to talk to again. I tried not to get too high of myself in trying to imagine which one I would see myself in because that wouldn’t be realistic. I can’t make a decision like that based on a 40-minute conversation.

After testing strategies on the different sororities with whom you were in the mix, I decided to reject any organization just yet. The point is to optimize your chances of getting an invitation back, so “rejecting” a sorority means that under no circumstances do you want to have a call back from them.

I went home that night feeling confident from my choices, but worried on the possibility of being dropped from every single sorority. I also worried that I wouldn’t get an invitation back from the ones I did choose.

I remember joking with my Rho Gamma that I would definitely have to take a sleeping pill that night in order to calm my anxiety. Then I thought about it and realized that the last thing I wanted to do was show up loopy and disjointed the next day—what kind of impression would I be giving? I couldn’t wait for Philanthropy Night the next day. More than that, I couldn’t wait to find out which sororities liked me.

Little did I know, the first of many hardships to come was quietly underway as I went to sleep that night.

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**iOS 7: The good, the bad and the pointless**

iOS 7 gives you quick access to the phone’s camera, calculator, and now flashlight. No more third party always-changing-when-you-need-it flashlight apps!

**The Bad**

Hope you have your charger with you everywhere you go. You’re going to need it. The new iOS 7 drains battery life so quickly; it’s almost nostalgic to those of us who played battery vacuumed known as the Sega Game Gear. While the iPhone isn’t as terrible as aforementioned portable gaming consoles, users will quickly discover their battery life draining faster than usual. The quickest fix and most likely suspect for this is the background app refresh, which could be deactivated in your settings. While it’s nice that your Facebook app is already updated when you bring it back up, it isn’t worth the drain on your phone’s battery. I also have a bone to pick with the inability to close all apps at once. You’d think Apple would have addressed this by now through seven iterations of its mobile operating system, but alas, we’re still stuck closing them one at a time.

**The Verdict**

With Apple’s bold redesign since the introduction of iOS, we see that iOS 7 holds up quite well in the early stages of other mobile operating systems and is definitely worth upgrading to...even without our sorely missed yellow legal pad.

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**From the mind of Neil Young comes PONO Music**

Have you ever thought about the way you listen to music? I don’t mean about how miraculous it is to carry thousands of songs or albums in the palm of your hand. I mean to ask about the difference between listening to a band’s album on the bus with your over the ear, surround sound headphones and seeing that band perform live in front of you while standing dead center and only five feet away.

Neil Young, the founder and leader of PONO Music, is working to bridge that gap. Coming to launch in early 2014 is PONO Music, an initiative which promotes new digital-to-analog conversion technology, a line of type specific portable music players, as well as an extensive re-mastered cloud based music library.

The basis of PONO Music is that MP3’s, and their predecessor, CDs, are actually an inadequate substitute for the real thing. According to Young, the compression of data which makes an MP3 format possible only retains about five percent of the data contained within a studio quality audio file. To download such a file would take up to thirty minutes. But not so with PONO.

In April of last year Rolling Stone magazine reported that Neil Young had filed documents to trademark “a new audio format. A September 2011 press release by Blue Rider Press, an imprint of Penguin Group, described PONO Music as “...a revolutionary new audio music system presenting the highest digital resolution audio within the proffer of the possibility that artists and producers heard when they created their original recordings...” The difference in quality that PONO promises is due to the Young’s trademarked technology which loses none of its original quality and is yet “a convenient music listening experience that is superior in sound quality to anything ever presented.” A recent Facebook post by Young posted to the PONO Music page details the PONO Music process. “PONO starts at the source: artist-approved studio masters...we’ve been given special access to...Then we work with our brilliant partners at Meridian to unlock the richness of the artist’s music to you.”

Young promises that 2014 will bring the launch of both the PONO portable player and an online cloud based library containing download-able music in PONO Music quality.
Evans ready to lead Panthers forward

PANACEH CHALLENGE
Staff Writer

Panthers Head Coach Anthony Evans' first year at FIU comes to shape with the release of the men's basketball schedule.

The Panthers will face off against 11 teams that finished last year in the NCAA tournament.

The most formidable opponent on the Panthers schedule, the National Champion Louisville Cardinals, will visit the new Lime Court at the U.S. Century Bank Arena for a matchup on Dec. 21.

“Rick Pitino is someone I’ve watched through my career, obviously growing up he’s from New York,” Evans said. “It’s an honor to play against them, to compete against him, he’s a hall of fame coach and it’ll be good for us all around.”

The Panthers will start the season at the four-team Kennesaw State Tournament on Nov. 8 through the 12 in Georgia, which will pit the Panthers against Eastern Kentucky, Texas Southern and Kennesaw State.

FIU's first three home games will pit them against Florida College, Texas Southern and Seton, Nov. 14, 16 and 18, respectively.

The Panthers will be on the road against South Carolina, on Nov. 24, for the second time in the program’s history.

The Gamecocks are coached by Evans, a Brooklyn native, who has great respect for the Cardinals leading man and doesn’t take the game lightly.

“I think it’s good. I don’t know so much of an advantage or disadvantage, but I think it’s good,” Evans said. “It gives you time to kind of build on chemistry. The guys get used to the system and all of that stuff before we go into conference play and that’s part of the preparation.”

The most formidable opponent on the Panthers schedule, the National Champion Louisville Cardinals, will visit the new Lime Court at the U.S. Century Bank Arena for a matchup on Dec. 21.

“We chose to pick South Carolina and Georgetown,” Evans said. “I want the team to be prepared when we go into conference play and that’s part of the preparation.”

Two months into the season will have passed before the Panthers first Conference USA home game on Jan. 16 and Old Dominion, but Evans feels the long wait before their first conference game should help.

“I think it’s good. I don’t know so much of an advantage or disadvantage, but I think it’s good,” Evans said. “It gives you time to kind of build on chemistry. The guys get used to the system and all of that stuff before we go into conference play.”

FIU will also take on in-state and conference rivals FAU at home Jan. 25, as well as their season closer Mar. 6 in Boca Raton.

Panthers, Russo look ahead to new season

STEVEN ROWELL
Contributing Writer

After capping last season with a 19-13 record and a loss to Florida in the Women’s National Invitational Tournament, this year the Panthers will have a tough road ahead during the regular season.

“It’s probably our toughest schedule in the last 10 years, but we are going to compete and hopefully we pull out more wins this year,” Head Coach Cindy Russo said.

In their 29 game schedule, FIU will face 12 teams that made it to the postseason a year ago. Four of those teams made the NCAA tournament and eight reached the WNIT. The Panthers will match up against Villanova and Prairie View A&M Dec. 6, last season’s Sun Belt Conference Tournament champion Middle Tennessee and the reigning Conference USA Tournament champion Tulsa.

Another obstacle for the Panthers will be their transition into Conference USA.

“Surely when you play a team a lot, you know all their strengths and weaknesses and you can combat them, but this season it will be new, and it will be like a new breath of fresh air,” Russo said.

Despite a majority of new conference opponents, FIU will still come across some familiar faces as Middle Tennessee, North Texas and Florida Atlantic also faces as Middle Tennessee, North Texas and Florida Atlantic also.

For FIU, they will get their shot at making a strong opening statement as the season opener will be against in-state opponent Florida Gulf Coast University on Oct. 8. FGCU, a WNIT team last season, has beaten the Panthers in each of the past four seasons, with last year ending in a 69-45 win in Fort Meyers. FGCU was one of the few teams to hold senior All-American Jerica Coley in check. Coley, last year’s leading scorer in the nation, was held to a season-low nine points in that contest.

“They have been our worst nightmare; we just have a hard time matching up with this group,” Russo said. “They play an entirely different type of basketball than we do, they are a great team.”

After the season opener against the Eagles, the Panthers hit the road for the next three games; which is the most consecutive road games the Panthers will play all season. In contrast, the Panthers largest home stand of the season will be five games.

Two games in the Fun and Sun Classic that takes place at the end
Has the men’s soccer team found its goalie?

Viola introduced as owner of the Florida Panthers

Vincent Viola’s first event as owner of the Florida Panthers opened in dramatic fashion: Via Twitter, Viola announced that he had graduated from West Point, and then he followed that with three home games — all of which (1-4-1) Jacksonville Dolphins. However, when asked if he experienced any pre-game jitters, “No, Not really,” Mion said. “I prepared really well for the game that Mushm and I were going to do.” Mion said. “I had some saves, the chemistry could transfer to better play.”

Loyola Tech with the C-U.S.A Tournament beginning on March 11. This season is the most road games we will play out of conference,” Russo said. “I like to stay home as much as we can. If I could play all the games at home I would be happy, I would like to be the first coach to figure out how to do that. Miami was the first start of the season, it’s warm down here during the Christmas time especially for schools up north, so it’s a great tool to get talent and schools to come down here.”

In addition to hosting the Fun and Sun Classic, the Panthers will host the 19th annual FIU Thanksgiving Classic in November. The Panthers will also travel to Gainesville, Fla. on Dec. 20 and 21 for the Gator Holiday Classic, with a possible matchup with Florida, the team that eliminated the Panthers from the WNIT last season.

Viola said he has a long hockey background, as a fan. The Brooklyn native was a New York Rangers fan growing up back to the early 1960s, when he couldn’t afford a good seat at their games, or really one that allowed him any decent view of the ice.

Eventually, his seat kept getting better. And he said watching the Panthers at the end of last season provided him with the intuition that the time was right to call Bettman and start thinking about getting a view from an owner’s suite.

Viola was formally introduced as the Panthers’ principal owner, chairman and governor on Friday, after spending $250 million for the team and the operating rights to the BB&T Center, where Florida plays its home games.

“We understand the privilege of the stewardship that ownership of a sports franchise really means,” Viola said. “We don’t really own anything.

The players sweat,edic that he’s going to be strongly considered.

As part of the deal, Douglas Cifu takes over as the Panthers’ vice chairman, partner and alternate governor. Team president Michael Yormark was promoted, now getting chief executive officer as part of his title.

“When you think back at the 20-year history of this team ... there has been one constant,” Bettman said. “South Florida has always been an important, terrific hockey market for us and we’ve had passionate, loyal fans for the Florida Panthers.”

With Vinnie as the principal owner, we are going to be looking at an era where I think there will be unprecedented commitment,” Bettman said. “Vinnie represents a true and a determination to bring out excellence, commitment, hard work, teamwork, and he’ll make sure that the resources that this club needs — not only to be competitive, but to be a winning, successful team — will be available to the club and to the players.”

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Eventually, his seat kept getting better. And he said watching the Panthers at the end of last season provided him with the intuition that the time was right to call Bettman and start thinking about getting a view from an owner’s suite.
OLLI is a program FIU offers to people 50 and older who wish to enrich their knowledge.

For more information, students can go to OLLI.fiu.edu.

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