$11.4 million grant first steps to UniversityCity

CARLOS COBA
Asst. News Director

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 and south of Southwest Eighth Street, on 109th Avenue.

“We didn’t get all the money we requested, but basically we are trying to develop street improvements from the Green Library to the Sweetwater City Hall,” said Steve Sauls, vice president of Governmental Relations.

According to Facilities Planning, the specific 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 DOT’s official project description, found online, states that, “These infrastructure improvements 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 scope of the projects funded by the TIGER Grant transcends financial outcomes.

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

Stuart Grant, coordinator of Facilities, added, “The Herbert Wertheim Grant transcends financial outcomes.”

ALYSSA ELSO
Staff Writer

The Herbert Wertheim College of Medicine will be joined by the Nicole Wertheim College of Nursing and Health Sciences after 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 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 developmental program and research,” said Strickland.

“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 Ratmioff 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 Ratmioff.

“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.

Wertheim gifts $10 million to Nursing and Health Sciences

SEE GRANT, PAGE 2

RAIL 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 Times, carries a $30 fine, plus additional court costs.

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

“There are DUs for people that drink and drive, and people still drink,” said De Pineres.

I 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 De Pinares. “They will find ways around it.”

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

“I actually think its 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.

SEE DRIVING, PAGE 2

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Staff Writer

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SEE DRIVING, PAGE 2
University using $11.4 million grant for construction projects

GRANT, PAGE 1

Professor Garcia, a leader in the area of climate change, told the Beacon that climate change is a serious problem that requires immediate action. She explained that the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change has warned that the world is facing a climate crisis, and that it is necessary to take steps to prevent further warming.

Scientists now believe it’s “extremely likely” that human activity is causing warming, particularly the CO2 emissions from the burning of fossil fuels. In its previous report, the panel said it was “very likely” that global warming was due to human activity, particularly the CO2 emissions resulting from the burning of coal, oil, and gas. The change means that scientists have moved from being 90 percent sure to 95 percent sure—about the same degree of certainty they have that smoking kills.

Cuba lets athletes compete in foreign leagues

Cuba announced Friday that its athletes will be allowed to sign contracts to compete in foreign leagues, it said it is a move to allow for the development of the national sports program, and it is geared toward stemming a continuing wave of defections by athletes who are lured abroad by the possibility of lucrative contracts, sapping talent from national squads.

Experts fear Dominican ruling could cause crisis

Experts warned Friday that a Dominican court ruling is likely to cause a crisis among the Dominican Republic, particularly among the Dominican League, and it could have the potential to cause a human rights crisis, potentially leaving tens of thousands of Haitian migrants to suffer the consequences of a lack of representation. The new ruling could cause crisis and discrimination.

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DRIVING, PAGE 1

Rosa claimed that while she believed 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. But I guess I don’t see another way of them proving [it], so that might be the difficult part,” said Rosa.

Assistant University Police Chief Carlos De Pinares explained that since it is a new law, the penalty is fine the way it is for now. “I think for now it’s a good penalty. I actually think it should be kept the same for now. That way, she claimed, citizens can be brought into the law and policymakers can see how the populace reacts to the current price of texting while driving. “It’s not the correct way of teaching someone something,” said De Pinares, in contrast to Rosa.

De Pinares compared the ban on texting to grounding and speeding, which he believes are questionable methods of punishment. He emphasized education of individuals at an early level as an alternative approach to texting while driving.

Lecture focuses on Alzheimer’s diets

Elenor Edwards, a senior psychology major, learned about the hardships of Alzheimer’s disease when her great grandmother began showing symptoms of the disease just a year ago and now does not remember her.

“One minute she makes progress, the next she backslids,” said Edwards. “This started a year ago, but the good thing is that she remembers my grandfather — her son.”

The Herbert Wertheim College of Medicine will host Neal Barnard, a physician, an author and a health advocate, in an event titled, “A Nutritional Strategy for Preventing Alzheimer’s Disease,” on Oct. 18 at 11:30 a.m. in the MARC Pavilion.

Barnard studies the effect of diet on health and has worked to reform federal dietary guidelines. “According to the Karen Wilkening, major gift officer in the Office of Medical Development, the 14th Annual Joan and Harry B. Smith Lecture Series is funded by private donors and grants. Barnard says that the college of medicine has a lot to prove because it’s new and that they want to continue to bring in new individuals that will benefit the college on the map, benefitting the community.”

“The lecture will be very beneficial because our generation is quick to go under the knife instead of dealing with natural remedies to better ourselves,” Edwards said.

Jamilah Ruiz, a junior biology major, said her friend’s grandmother suffers from the disease and she plans to attend. “I’m glad that the College of Medicine is spreading the word out and they’re educating people,” said Ruiz. “This is a big step for them because they’re new and this is a big event, I’m sure. I think it will bring a lot of people out.”

This lecture will cover new research that shows how diet and lifestyle can prevent Alzheimer’s to a certain degree. Neal Barnard will be explaining the steps surrounding what everyone can do to help minimize their risk in developing this disease.

Vice Dosene, a senior and biology major, feels like diet can change a lot but can’t completely stop someone from getting a disease. “I feel like changing your diet can change a lot, I even heard that avocado can prevent cancer. I don’t really think that diet can fully prevent disease though, just I think that it can lower chances,” Dosene said.

Due to the large amount of RSVP attendees, this event is not sold out; however, the College of Medicine is looking to find a larger venue so more people can attend.

“We are booked to capacity and are actually looking for possibilities for a larger venue on campus. It may end up not hosting the Marci Pavilion,” said Edwards. “One of the ways that we can assist students is by offering hands-on learning experiences that are appropriate for the curriculum.”

Lecture on Alzheimer’s disease will be presented by Dr. Neal Barnard, a physician, an author and health advocate, in an event titled, “A Nutritional Strategy for Preventing Alzheimer’s Disease.” The lecture will be presented in the MARC Pavilion on Oct. 18 at 11:30 a.m. Dr. Barnard is a major gift officer at the Herbert Wertheim College of Medicine and is known for his work in the field of nutrition and its impact on health.

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MOISES FUERTES
Staff Writer

There was a time, long ago, 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.

Left unchecked, these bots will inevitably destroy online communications.

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. Companies and politicians are using bots to flood social media sites like Twitter with the messages they wish the public to see, thereby injecting the stream with fake support for their products or policies. The Syrian government has used similar tactics to silence any opposing group. This technology certainly gives a whole new level of control to dictatorships that employ this it to silence what little opposition exists by literally flooding online communications.

The same Times article mentions that 20,000 tweets were sent out by two accounts in 2010 to promote the Website of John A. Boehner, the House minority leader at the time.

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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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 celebs 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 what young girls are supposed to be. Women are sending a message to young teenage girls, saying that “twerking” and dating countless men to no avail is what young girls are supposed to be.

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 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.

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Obama’s provisions for young women

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 food, and 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 are in desperate 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 their debt. 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.

-send.opinion@fiusm.com

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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 in 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.

With the introduction of Steam Machines, Valve is vying for the attention of those gamers that enjoy console gaming.

While not a next-gen console like the Microsoft and Sony counterpart, 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 and Steam Machines.

SEE GAMING, PAGE 5

iOS 7: New software review

Now that mania and hysteria over the new iOS 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 skeumorphic feel of iOS 6. There have been countless of previews, and reviews of iOS 7, so we’ll keep this short and sweet, bringing 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 electronic yellow legal pad.

SEE iO57, PAGE 5

Recruitment week continues

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 clueless, and yet nervous. 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

FREE HUGS

The ladies from Paul Mitchell gave out their annual free hugs to students in GC Tuesday, Sept 24.
The Beacon – Monday, September 30, 2013

**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 whether 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, curly 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 fix her hair. Throughout the course of the process, we shared our true motives and what we hoped for. During some of my most insecure moments—like when I got dropped from a sorority—Josie became a particular sorority that I had my heart set on—she was the one who pushed me to keep going and finish the week.

In order to understand why through recruitment becomes such a personal experience, one has to understand what happens behind the scenes. If you’re like me, who went into it having no experience, one has to understand the process and what the sororities are like. 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 we work with and showing that the members of the organization only care about their own things. Your friend speaks from her heart is not only made, but also downright offensive. Any sorority, 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 down 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 or myself in trying to imagine which one the invites themselves in because that wouldn’t be realistic. I can’t make a decision like that based on a 40-minute conversation.

After the decisions were made, I found myself thinking about the things I did choose. I went home that night and felt confident from my choices, but knowing the possibility of being dropped from every single sorority, I also worried that I wouldn’t get an invitation back from the ones I didn’t choose. I remember joining with my Rho Gamma that I would definitely have to take a sleeping pill that night in order to call my calm down.

I thought about it and realized that the last thing I wanted to do was go to sleep the next day—what kind of impression could I make? 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, without a doubt, is the little zooming animation after you unlock your phone, as if your applications are returning following a double-tap. The controller uses -life@fiusm.com

As of now, I’ll be happy with my PC so I can play PC titles. Because SteamOS will run games that can be run only with Linux, which SteamOS is based on, the Steam Machine will be able to run titles like “Battlefield 4” or any Blizzard title due to their respective exclusivity to EA’S Origin service and Blizzard hardware and operating system.

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Galaxy – Monday, September 30, 2013

**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 upon thousands of songs or albums in the palm of your hand. I mean about the way you listen to music? I don’t mean about how miraculous it is to carry thousands upon thousands of songs or albums in the palm of your hand. I mean about the way you listen to music? I don’t mean about how miraculous it is to carry thousands upon thousands of songs or albums in the palm of your hand. I mean about the way you listen to music? I don’t mean about how miraculous it is to carry thousands upon thousands of songs or albums in the palm of your hand. I mean about the way you listen to music? I don’t mean about how miraculous it is to carry thousands upon thousands of songs or albums in the palm of your hand. I mean about the way you listen to music? I don’t mean about how miraculous it is to carry thousands upon thousands of songs or albums in the palm of your hand. 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SPORTS

Panthers, Russo look ahead to new season

PATRICK CHALVIRE
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.

Evans, a Brooklyn native, has great respect for the Cardinals leading man and doesn’t take the game lightly. “It’s an honor to compete against them,” Evans said. “Rick Pitino is someone who I’ve watched throughout my career, obviously growing up he’s from New York, he’s someone who’s been very successful with pressure defenses. I think a lot of people try to model that, I did as well. Its 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 10. The team will hit the road against South Carolina, on Nov. 14

FIU alum Frank Martin.

Despite facing the National Champion and the infamous Dunk City team in Florida Gulf Coast University, Senior forward Tymell Murphy weighs each game equally. “I’m focused on every game the same,” Murphy said. “As much as I’m looking forward to Louisville and as much as I’m looking forward to Texas Southern and Kennesaw State, I’m looking forward to every single game the same way and that’s just to win. I think I’m looking forward to every single game on the schedule the same way.”

In December the Panthers will play teams who were in the national spotlight last season: the FGCU Eagles on Dec. 7, who were the Cinderella story of the tournament, exceeded expectations and made it to the Sweet Sixteen; the Cardinals, the first team FIU will host a national champion, on Dec. 21; and at Georgetown, who were upset by FGCU in the second round of the South Regional last year, on Dec. 28.

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 against Old Dominion, but Evans feels the long wait before their first conference game should help. “I think it’s good. I don’t know 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.
Women's basketball embraces new conference challenge

Viola introduced as owner of the Florida Panthers

Viola introduced as owner of the Florida Panthers

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**Alys Toledo**
**Staff Writer**

History for the School of Journalism and Mass Communication has been made with the induction of a new scholarship for Latino/Hispanic students in the community.

"I said the word "Latino" a few times, but he certainly didn’t hear me," said Reis. 

For over 20 years, Ferreira has been working in collaboration with the Association of Hispanic Journalists to expand their knowledge.

This scholarship is specifically for Latino/Hispanic students.

"Latino/Hispanic students are prevalent in the community for over 30 years. I was always asking myself why we don’t have a special program recognizing the Latino community," Ferreira said.

The scholarship was proposed to the AEJMC in 2012 during the celebration of the association’s bicentennial year. Ferreira and Reis proposed the first draft of the award in Chicago, while searching for funding and proper approval by the board of the SJMC. After a year, the award was received approval in Washington D.C.

"I feel very proud because it’s the first time we have this award in over 100 years and it is perhaps the most reputable," said Reis.

The award is a research award in which under-graduates, graduates and professors of Hispanic heritage may apply for. In order to apply for the award, applicants must consider themselves part of the Latino American community.

This includes Cuban-Americans, Mexican-Americans and African Americans of the Caribbean. Filipinos-Americans can claim Hispanic heritage, but since they are not a primarily Spanish-speaking country, they would not be eligible. Applicants do not have to be directly associated with the SJMC or FIU.

"The implementation of this award is one of the criteria that helped us in the development of the program that they should have it.

"They probably thought it wasn’t the right environment for it. But now, they realize how important the community of Latinos is, and that it was no longer possible for the media not to think about it," said Ferreira.

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"We want to increase the visibility of this kind of research in Latin America and Hispanic audiences in the U.S. And because FIU is located in Miami and we have so much history in Hispanic media, we thought we would be ideal for hosting the award," said Reis.

Reis also said that this would be an international conference with people all around the world, which is a good way to put FIU on the map.

"I think this will bring a lot of attention because there is no award like this nationally. It will bring great attention to FIU and the work we are doing," said Reis. "My hope is that this will increase the visibility of the school and create a large, traditional presence in the Communications world."

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**LifeLong program expands residents’ knowledge**

**Clayton Gutmore**

**Contributing Writer**

The phrase “You are never too old to learn something new” applies to us.

For the individuals that have experience, but are still curious of what else life has to offer, FIU offers them a chance to expand their knowledge with the Osher Lifelong Learning Institute.

"This is a program for what we call seasoned adults. We cater to people who want to continue their education long after they have completed their degrees," said Jan Solomon, development officer of the Office of the Vice Provost.

OLLI is a program FIU offers to people 50 and older who wish to enrich their knowledge.

Classes for the program are located on the Biscayne Bay Campus and according to the OLLI site, these classes will help members in the program stay engaged both mentally and socially while developing personal growth.

FIU started this program in 15 years ago, according to Solomon. They have received large grants from The Bernard Osher Foundation to create a curriculum for the current members of the Miami community.

There was a grant given of $1 million from the Bernard Osher foundation to OLLI FIU to expand the program to offer more classes and invite more people to become our students," said Solomon.

Bernard Osher is an American businessman who is known for his work as a philanthropist.

He started the foundation in 1977 with the mission to improve quality of life through support for higher education and arts.

According to their website, the foundation did not expand the program nationally until 2002.

Currently, the program is present at 117 colleges and universities across the nation which means there is at least one in every state.

The schedule for the OLLI catalog is similar to a regional FIU student’s schedule. Sessions for the semester run about 16 weeks: in fall, from September to December, and in spring from January to April.

The classes that are offered for members of OLLI vary from just math and English. Their catalog consists of art history, Cinema without Borders and even a class for Adobe Photoshop.

"These are non-degree courses so the students of the program have the personal satisfaction of continuing their education and meeting new people. We feel for us to provide that opportunity and art classes go into the $150 range. What’s on the horizon for OLLI is their open house on Oct. 10 at the Wolfsonian University Center.

Interested candidates for the program can get their chance to meet the teachers and learn more about OLLI.

Another goal the staff of the program is working toward is earning a second grant from the Bernard Osher Foundation that they are eligible for.

Solomon and the other members of the department are happy to provide opportunity to seasoned adults to become a part of the FIU community.

"OLLI has become an important part of the University. This is one of those if you build it, they will come and in the last five years we have built the program up to where it is constant and stable," said Solomon.

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