University moves forward with expansion despite veto from governor for more money

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Although the people who voted in Miami-Dade County’s referendum said yes to the idea of FIU expanding onto Tamiami Park, a governor’s veto and terms in a lease agreement are essentially telling the University, not so fast.

University President Mark B. Rosenberg said in a May 2015 interview with Student Media that FIU administrators had “aggressive conversations” with the State Legislature for more money that would help secure a suitable alternative site.

The influx of money was among 88.7 million Gov. Rick Scott denied from the University; $5 million of that amount would have been put into a reserve account to help move the Miami-Dade County Youth Fair, according to spokeswoman Maydel Santana-Braun.

However, the organization that runs the Fair has a 90-year lease agreement with Miami-Dade County that still has 75 years left.

Robert Hohenstein, president and chief executive officer of the Miami-Dade County Fair & Exposition, Inc., said in a June 2015 interview with Student Media they are willing to move, but what has caused the relationship between the two neighbors to be “somewhat contentious” can be found in the terms of the lease that address relocation.

The Fair has to be reimbursed for money it spent to create the infrastructure to run and operate the Fair - buildings and underground electrical work. Hohenstein said a February 2012 appraisal valued their investments at $95 million.

“We expect to be compensated for that,” Hohenstein said.

Another relocation term is that the Fair has to be presented with a site that must be equal to or better than its current one at Tamiami Park.

Hohenstein after five years worth of conversations with FIU, reviews of 25 sites and a 2013 consultant report that reviewed three of those, the Fair’s board of directors are still waiting to be presented a site that meets their needs, which includes parking for 14,000 cars.

“We are very much going to abide by that lease,” he said.

Hohenstein said the board rejected possible sites near Sun Life Stadium and the Homestead Air Reserve Base. The former was considered too small and broken up, and the latter would otherwise be overlook.

In fall 2015, there will be roughly 32 upper-level English courses offered face-to-face and 7 online courses. While the online number seems small in comparison, the face-to-face classes are dispersed between campuses and may not coincide with each other to fit into a manageable schedule.

With about 30 professors, each offering about 2 sessions, and 800 majors, there’s little room for leverage and experimenting.

“Online classes are beneficial because they allow me to take in person because of time and scheduling conflicts,” says Jani Medina, a junior who’s majoring in English and hoping to pursue a career in speech pathology.

“FIU going digital is a step in the right direction, we’re moving with the times and providing ease and accessibility,” Medina said.

In the past year, the English department has suffered two deaths and three retirements of upper-level professors, yet only one new full-time professor has been hired, but not in the same specialty as the ones who left.
College sees opportunity in US-Cuba opening

EMMA BACCELLIERI
This Staff

As Cuba and the United States begin to normalize relations, interest is keen on both sides to strike academic partnerships as well. But amid the sensitive politics of the U.S-Cuba breakthrough and the gulf between the countries over questions of academic freedom, American colleges and universities must tread carefully.

“Anything with Cuba can be controversial,” said Jorge Duany, director of Florida International University’s Cuban Research Institute.

The interest, however, is clearly there. Some 375 American students were in Cuba during the 2010-11 school year when President Barack Obama eased travel restrictions to allow academic work. Between 2012-13, there were 1,633, according to the Institute of International Education.

Obama further loosened the rules earlier this year, allowing more expansive work, and several universities have begun formal research and teaching partnerships with their Cuban counterparts.

Florida International University in Miami is among the schools that would like to establish a strong Cuban presence. Less than 250 miles from Havana, the university hosts one of the nation’s leading centers for Cuban studies, and academic work there on the island has long been an attractive prospect.

It’s ultimate goal is to build a campus there, although FIU President Mark Rosenberg told the Miami Chamber of Commerce last week that a Cuban branch is “a long way off.”

For now, the school is focusing on technical education, and students there face the same environment.

NATION & WORLD BRIEFS

European leaders in a stalemate over Greece’s bailout request

European finance chiefs deadlocked Saturday’s Greek request for another big bailout, leaving the newly bankrupt nation’s fate as a Eurozone member hanging by a thread and highlighting growing divisions among its neighbors over how to deal with the biggest crisis ever to confront the euro.

In Japan it soon will be illegal to possess child porn — almost

In Japan, selling or producing child pornography has been illegal for 16 years. Possession of it has not. That’s about to change. Starting July 15, anyone in possession of any form of child pornography featuring a young real person will face fines and imprisonment for the first time.

Israel seeks release of 2 held in Gaza by Hamas

Israel’s decision to publicize Hamas’ detention of two Israeli citizens who crossed separately into the Gaza Strip in the past year is likely a step toward negotiating their release. Israel’s defense minister confirmed Thursday that the two men were being held after authorities lifted a gag order at the request of new organizations.

Story of Chinese ‘princeling’ shows limits of corruption campaign

When Guo Li sued the developer of her apartment complex for real estate fraud in 2010, she said she had no idea he was a “princeling” — the offspring of a Communist Party official.

By the time she learned it, it was too late. After she filed her suit, according to Guo and her family, her apartment repeatedly was vandalized. She lost her job.

University needs money to expand

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Biodimensional Engineering department and its new physician assistant program among other departments.

“It will need a heck of a lot more space and more laboratory and clinical capability than we currently have,” Rosenberg said.

Rosenberg said he and University administrators foresee the AHC being an enterprise for FUI over the next 20 years. It will cost $900 million to operate, generate the same amount in revenue, it’s continuing economic impact will be $900 million and it will hire an additional $1,000 people.

Included in the University’s long-term plans, however, is the continued growth of online and hybrid courses. Between fall 2014 and fall 2018 the University has set a goal of increasing online courses by 25 percent and 22 percent for hybrid.

Rosenberg said because the University is national in scope of its operation at the Modesto Maidique campus, it’s either has to secure the extra land immediately or in the future.

He said even if the University offers fewer face-to-face courses, the extra space will be used for faculty research labs for faculty, meetings areas and space for students who want to be on campus to either live or who do want to take in-person classes.

He mentioned tentative plans from the County that include a multi-purpose running track on the FIU property.

The Beacon will gladly change any errors. Call our MMC office at 305-348-2709 or BCB at 305-919-4722.

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Trump runs his campaign into the ground, gains support

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On June 16, 2015 Donald Trump announced his presidential candidacy for the 2016 elections. If the fact that Trump wants to run the U.S. as a business rather than a country when he’s filed for corporate bankruptcy four times didn’t turn you off, his nумbling announcement speech should have.

However, as we move ever closer to an election year, Trump’s support has not waned. The recent national GOP poll placed him in the No. 1 spot for potential nomination.

Up until now, not only have Trump’s statements been vacant of all meaning, but many of them were outright offensive. This varies from flaunting his wealth to hypocritically defending “traditional” marriage when he has been divorced three times, claiming he was “in competition for the crown” as he never said he was. The hypocrisy is even more obvious when Trump sounds off on social programs like social security, claiming he was “in competition” for the money, acting like he was going to give it to the next person in line.

For Paulina Vega, the Colombian winner of Trump’s Miss Universe pageant at FIU, these remarks were “unjust and hurtful.” Since her comments, Trump has called Vega a hypocrite because she has made no moves to give up her crown. Though it might be a strategic move for Trump to renovate her title, it hardly qualifies as hypocrisy to criticize race statements made by the owner of the competition she was in - and won. What’s more, it’s hardly worth it for Trump to accuse anyone of hypocrisy, especially when he had said capping enrollment at a university with a 70 percent Hispanic and Latino population.

With a generation more and more war-weary, Trump’s belligerent attitude, especially toward the Middle East and his war-weary, Trump’s belligerent attitude, especially toward the Middle East and his war-weary, Trump’s belligerent attitude, especially toward the Middle East, has not waned. Trump has called those on social programs “people with no heart,” and not only has Trump’s support not waned, it has increased.

As expected from any Republican candidate, Trump has called for the repeals of Obamacare. Of course, the irony of this disiss is that Mitt Romney’s plan for health care in Maryland was the model for The Affordable Healthcare Act as implemented by our current president.

After he finally cut to the chase, Trump called those on social programs “people with no incentive to work,” and just a few moments later said he would be “the greatest jobs president God ever created.”

This man has no humility, no platform other than prejudice and no place in the White House.

Trump also told a number of outright lies in his announcement speech, claiming that the country’s GDP was at zero and that the unemployment rate was at 18 to 20 percent. According to the World Bank, the GDP of the U.S. was over $16 trillion, and the Bureau of Labor Statistics reported that our unemployment rate was at 5.6 percent in May 2015. You can find these numbers with a simple Google search.

Vitamins: Healthier or a hoax?

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Derived from the word “vita,” meaning “life” in Latin, vitamins are necessary to convert food to energy. Certain vitamin deficiencies can cause diseases such as scurvy, anemia and rickets. Vitamins are essential, but the real question lies in how much people need, and whether they are getting enough of them in food. One important thing to remember before deciding to buy bottles of everything from vitamin A to zinc is that we are not meant to eat health foods. Vitamins simply can’t compensate for poor diet.

Nutrition experts argue that one diet is key to getting the best vitamins and minerals naturally, and that people only need the recommended daily allowance found in a routine diet. However, vitamin manufacturers argue that a regular diet would not suffice, and the higher the vitamin dosage, the better. Most people assume that vitamins are healthy and any extra can do no harm, but as it turns out, large quantities of supplemental vitamins can actually be quite damaging.

As of 2015, Americans will spend $21 billion on vitamins and herbal supplements. This is probably because many of the shortcomings in the U.S. diet are linked to economics. First food is a cheap and quick food option, and processed foods are preferred over fruits and vegetables because packaged goods cost less and don’t spoil as quickly. It’s strangely contradicting that many of us gripe about the cost of organic foods, then spend billions on products vitamins and supplements in hopes of countering the damage protection damage. Often times, people opt for vitamin overdose can occur for others.

So why is it we take our diet with supplements vitamin? Often, people can’t find the time or money to eat more vegetables, fruits and other healthy foods. We can admit that, at one point or another, we either haven’t wanted to or had the motivation, so in order to feel better, we take a vitamin in the morning and go on our way. For too long, we’ve been suffering from too much of a good thing. Ingesting large quantities of vitamins is unnatural and unhealthy, so we should examine our food choices and make changes before resorting to vitamins and supplements.

Frank and Irene: Stuff to do

SEVERAL WEEKS LATER...

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The Beacon – 3
huism.com
Wednesday, July 15, 2015

President Obama recently announced a new policy allowing transgender students to use gender-neutral restrooms, a goal that many have been waiting for years. Whether the user wishes to keep true their gender identity, avoid potential danger by staying away from gendered bathrooms, change their child’s diaper in private or simplify the process of getting a wheelchair into the bathroom, the benefits of this new addition go far beyond one might think.

Whether the user wishes to keep true their gender identity, avoid potential danger by staying away from gendered bathrooms, change their child’s diaper in private or simplify the process of getting a wheelchair into the bathroom, the benefits of the new addition go far beyond one might think.

FIU housing has already implemented changes to their bathrooms to make them gender neutral. However, on-campus buildings are not available to those who do not live there or are guests of those who do. With the first gender-neutral bathroom on FIU’s campus open to the public, few people have to wonder if they are safe going to the restroom.

The University’s moves toward inclusivity are not without controversy.

However, FIU has been rather slow on the uptake regarding the implementation of gender-neutral restrooms. Other universities in Florida, over the past few years, have increased the availability of gender-neutral bathrooms much more quickly. According to an article published in the Miami Herald December 2014, University of Florida has about 25; University of South Florida has 56; University of Central Florida has 17; Florida State University has four; and Florida Atlantic University has 22.

Despite the time it has taken for FIU to provide gender-neutral bathrooms, the University is one of the first in the state to provide open housing. For those students in need of a safe place to express their gender identity with what difficulties or dangers of unfamiliar roommates who may or may not understand what they are going through, FIU plans to provide dorms in existing residence halls that will be open to house all gender identities in fall 2016.

The changes being made to FIU are no, by means, meant to exclude cisgendered or straight students, or to jeopardize anyone’s safety. Arguments are often made against gender-neutral bathrooms due to the potential for their abuse - that men might take advantage of women in bathrooms all genders are able to access. However, the point of opening gender-neutral bathrooms, or dorms for that matter, is to ensure safety - the facilities will be separate from the original ones, or only available to those of certain identities or accepting of those identities. What’s more, if allowed to happen in gendered bathrooms and dorms by users of the same or other genders.

To say that this would be the only result of a gender-neutral bathroom on FIU’s campus open to the public, few people have to wonder if they are safe going to the restroom.

This editorial board commends the University for its strides toward LGBTQA inclusivity, and hopes that steps continue to be taken to keep FIU world’s ahead.
MakerBot Innovation Lab just one of CARTA’s many innovations

A $185,000 grant from the John S. and James L. Knight Foundation and a $150,000 loan from Miami’s Beach Urban Studios (MBUS) will enable students to get hands-on experience with FIU’s College of Architecture and the Arts (CARTA) to create a 3,000 square foot MakerBot Innovation Lab. The lab, a collaboration between FIU’s College of Architecture and the Arts (CARTA) and Miami’s Beach Urban Studios (MBUS), will be the first of its kind in South Florida.

The lab will provide students with access to 3D printers, laser cutters, CNC machines, and other MakerBot-related equipment, allowing students to bring their ideas to life in a hands-on, experimental environment.

Secret Walls full of creativity

Secret Walls is an annual event that brings together artists from around the world to create murals on the walls of Miami’s Arts + Entertainment District. The event is a celebration of art and community, with artists from all over the world coming together to create murals on the side of buildings in the district.

This year’s event was a huge success, with over 50 artists participating and creating stunning murals on the walls of the district. The event was open to the public, and art lovers from all over the world came to see the murals being created.

Summer Fest: foam and philanthropy

On July 16, FIU’s Campus Life is teaming up with Light Up the Night to host its fourth annual Summer Fest – a glow foam party thrown right at home between the Blue and Gold parking garages as part of Miami’s Modesto Maidique campus.

“Summer Fest was made to engage all the incoming freshmen between summer and fall as their first real college event,” said John Parmenter, the Publications Supervisor at Campus Life.

The event was made complete with DJs and DJS that kept the roof with the hottest beats, Ms. Cheezious and Purple People Eattery food trucks provided grub, and the audience got their fill on free beers provided by Beck’s.

The event was created as a means to improve engagement and retention by mixing good times with involvement, as many of FIU’s organizations will be tabling at the event. Past Summer Fests have seen FIU Athletics, the Center for Leadership & Service, the Multicultural Greek Council, ShopFIU and many more organizations all come out to support the event and recruit incoming students.

Recreation may prove difficult however as there will be plenty of distractions courtesy of a stacked line-up of DJs including Miami’s own Andres Fresko, Konflic & Obscene, as well as the internationally-known DJ Mag Top 100 ranked electro-house duo, Bassjackers – not to mention all the neon foam.

The event, located between the Blue and Gold garages at MMC, begins at 5:30 p.m. on July 16 and is free for FIU students. Guests can purchase tickets for $30 online at summerfest.fiu.edu or $35 at the door.
Warped Tour 2015

a sunny success

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Aside from the heat and dirt, this year’s Warped Tour in West Palm Beach on July 4 was one of the best yet. With talented and energetic headliners such as We Came as Romans, Attila, Blesthefall and Memphis May Fire it came as no surprise.

There seemed to be an unspoken sense of unity among the bands as they delivered emotional lyrics, covering heavy topics like depression, suicide and addiction. Hearing these lyrics screamed out by hundreds of die-hard fans with teary eyes and smiles made it an unforgettable experience.

Warped Tour also provided fans with a means of meeting their idols and hearing them perform acoustically. Almost every band had autograph-signing sessions. Some memorable signings this year were Pierce The Veil, Neck Deep, Beartooth and Black Veil Brides.

Neck Deep, known for their raw and hard-hitting lyrics, made sure to take photos with any fan that asked, assuring them it was okay if they began to get emotional.

There was also an acoustic lounge which provided shade to fans as they listened to their favorite songs unplugged.

As the energetic band finished their set, they provided a heartfelt thank you.

“Thank you on behalf of all the bands that have played Warped Tour so far,” frontman Cody Carson exclaimed, “This tour was created because of what we and you guys love: music.”

Attendees shared similar feelings. “I go to Warped every year even if it does have bands I don’t know. I love the atmosphere of it and the collective adrenaline of the people. It gives me the opportunity to discover new bands,” said Emily Wong, an Environmental Science and Sustainability Junior at FIU.

After the show, as Set it Off walked off to backstage and the fans began to disperse, fireworks from nearby Fourth of July celebrations began to explode in the sky.

Everything together emitted an excellent, fulfilled summer evening feeling.

FIU DJs featured at LMNT’s Pancakes and Booze event

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Located in Midtown Miami, LMNT is strictly 21 plus with a $5 cover. On Friday, July 17, The Pancake and Booze Art Show will touch down in our very own backyard at LMNT, a venue that comfortably fits 3,000 attendees; doors opening at 8 p.m. and continuing until 2 a.m.

Founded in 2009, The Pancakes and Booze Art Show has become one the largest underground art shows featuring 50 local, emerging artists, musicians and major, as anonymity is part of his collective adrenaline of the people. It gives me the opportunity to discover new bands,” said Emily Wong, an Environmental Science and Sustainability Junior at FIU.

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WOMEN’S VOLLEYBALL

Women’s volleyball season preview

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The two leading scorers of last year’s women’s volleyball team will don the blue and gold for the last time when this season comes to a close, and we can only hope that is during the C-USA Championships.

Yes, Lucia Castro and Gloria Levortin can score, averaging 3.26 and 2.84 kills per set last year, respectively. Castro, in fact, ranked in the top 10 in kills in the C-USA as a junior last year.

With a full year under their belts, what was once youth that set Castro and Levortin back, is now experience that gives our women’s volleyball teams an advantage heading into this season.

With the new season’s schedule released, there are three key dates for our Golden Panthers to demonstrate this.

Aug. 28: Opening day against the University of North Florida, a young team that only went 13-18 last season and an opportunity to prove that this year’s Women’s Volleyball Team is going to be a threat. This is the day the Golden Panthers must start their season strong.

Sept. 27: West Kentucky University. Need I say more? This team battled the rest of the C-USA last year by going 15-1, on route to becoming Conference Champions. These Hilltoppers are aptly named. But this day, win or lose, will be a great measuring stick to see how far the Golden Panthers have grown.

We might even be able to kick those women off their pedestal for the rest of the Conference. Yes, it seems difficult, but crazier things have happened in sports.

Friday, Nov. 20: This is day one of the C-USA Championships. This is the most important day for the Golden Panthers. It does not matter what colors are being worn on one side of the net, as long as blue and gold are on the other.

Although Nov. 20 is the end goal, the uphill battle starts Aug. 28. This is going to be a team that can go down one of two paths: the same path treaded the last three years, ending with mediocrity and a long offseason, or the path Castro and Levortin have forged, the path Head Coach Rita Buck-Crockett has set for her team, the path that leads to a new decoration for the FIU Women’s Volleyball Team’s trophy case.

FOOTBALL

Florida native becomes ninth verbal commit

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The verbal commitments keep on coming even though this football season has not yet begun.

This will be FIU’s ninth verbal commit in the recruitment class of 2016 and it is an interesting one. Judah Byrd from Jacksonville, FL, who has played all three years at Ed H. White High School, will be playing his final season at Cedar Creek Christian a starting cornerback.

Byrd originally committed to Oregon State until a recent switch to FIU. On his twitter page, Byrd confirmed his change of heart to the Pac-12 school.

Byrd said, “I would like thank Oregon State’s coaches and fans for all the love, but I will be de-committing and committing to Florida International University. #GoPanthers.”

It won’t be surprising if Smith eventually starts games in a defensive role but Byrd also, as a defensive back, will refuse to let any receiver pass or go over him. He is the type of corner that does not need safety help during a pass.

He is also someone to watch on special teams because he is not afraid to take out a player that stands in his way by laying them out. This head-hunting turn is known as a “crack back.”

Byrd will be the third commit to come out of Jacksonville, after Doug and DallasConnell. He will be making his on-campus visit Saturday, July 25.

FOOTBALL

Make or break season for starting tight end

It was last season on Friday, Nov. 14 when the Golden Panthers faced Middle Tennessee Blue Raiders, and starting tight end Peter Holland, Jr. Josua Smith had his senior moment of the year, finishing the game with eight catches for 140 yards and three touchdowns.

That game alone not only showed how great the junior is, but it is also his signature game of being voted honorable mention All-American from different sporting networks such as ESPN, CBS Sports and Sports Illustrated.

It’s easy and safe to look at other good tight ends from elite football programs like University of Miami, Florida State University, University of Florida, University of Alabama, University of Southern California, just to name a few; however, there are some players who could be a great NFL prospect from a diamond in the rough like FIU. It worked out for T.Y. Hilton and Jonathan Cyprien, who both were drafted high in the 2nd round to NFL teams. Is Smith next in line?

Smith finished the season with 61 catches, 710 yards and eight touchdowns. He led the nation for most catches, receiving yards and touchdowns as a tight end. He also broke the school record for most receiving yards, touchdowns and catches as a tight end.

His eighth receiving touchdown broke the school record for the most touchdowns that was held by Hilton in 2008 and Corey McKinnon in 2002. He was selected first team All-Conference USA and was selected Honorable Mention All-American from both CBSSports.com and Sportsticker.com. Recently he was selected for Pre-Season First Team All-Conference USA and is on the John Mackey Award watch list for best tight ends.

So why not Smith? What’s keeping him from being a great tight end? He has the size at 6’5 255lbs, he’s a defensive mismatch because you can line him up anywhere from his tight end spot, at slot or outside as a wideout. Either or he’s very effective; not to mention he is Alex McGough’s security blanket that bails him out when he needs him. Better competition could elevate his NFL draft stocks, and he’s in luck because the punter’s first two games are away at UCF and at Indiana. The team really needs him to be at his best if they want to attempt to start the season 2-0 before the first four years before playing their first home game against North Carolina Central. Consistency’s also important. Every player has a bad game most of the time, however if it happens often, then that might be a problem for the Golden native. At least he managed to score touchdowns at least once a game. He may not get the most yards or catches every game, but he always makes plays when it counts, and that should be good enough for panther nation.

It won’t be surprising if Smith forgets his senior season to enter in the NFL Draft. Some sons say he could be projected to go second to third round if he has a productive junior season. Some compare him to Jimmy Graham from the Seattle Seahawks in Mattel Liam Bennett from the Chicago Bears or Antonio Gates from the San Diego Chargers. It doesn’t matter at this point because how good Smith could be this season, this is a make or break year for FIU as they are still searching for a winning season under Head Coach Ron Turner.

Smith may be a sleeper now for some football critics, but if he stays fully healthy like last season, consistent and have another productive year with a winning record, then critics should wake up and put him under the radar.
FIU baseball club looks to rebound, build a winning team

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After a challenging past year, the Baseball Club is determined to improve, strengthen their team and create a winning culture. Club President and senior David Weiss joined the team for the same reason many do: love of the sport.

“I joined the Baseball Club two years ago, during my sophomore year at FIU. I joined because I love baseball. I love everything about it. All the guys on the team were friendly and provided great positive energy,” Weiss said.

Now, his love of the game has put him in a position to lead and coach the club for the upcoming year. He wants to see the players and club grow next season and believes it can happen.

So what does the club do?

Weiss said, “We participate in two different leagues, the NCBA and the AUBL. The NCBA is where we play three game series every weekend against different universities. The NCBA and AUBL is a local and very competitive league that we participate in. We try to play year-round. We also do a lot of fundraisers, such as car washes and baked goods sales. They are a lot of fun when everyone participates.”

Next season Weiss looks forward to increased membership, loyalty and passion.

“We need more guys to commit to the team and guys that we can rely on. We are looking for people who are dedicated and love playing baseball. Anyone is welcome to join and we will work with you on improving your skills no matter what level you are at.”

Weiss is confident that if new members are willing to put in the effort, their skills will improve, regardless of previous experience.

“I want people to know that the club is really for anyone. A lot of our players have played college baseball somewhere at least have high school experience. We have learned a lot from each other. We all bring different experiences to the table and teach each other.”

Weiss is optimistic about the team’s upcoming season and plans to initiate incentives to lure or retain members.

“So many goals for next year include playing more games and having more fundraisers to reduce costs per player. We want to provide the best experience the NCBA and AUBL playoffs. I believe we have a great shot. Our players are more experienced and know what the competition is.”

Weiss emphasised the social aspect of playing for the team as well.

“Baseball Club is like a family. You make friends for life with everyone. We are almost like our own baseball. It’s great!”

Those who want to join the team can email David Weiss at dweis039@fiu.edu or text/call him at 786-422-2481. He encourages others to support the club and follow them on Instagram @fiuchlobaseball.

FIU Equestrian club aims to grow and compete

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FIU offers a large variety of clubs for students looking for productive and engaging activities to take part in. One such club that students may not be too familiar with is the Equestrian Club or Equestrian Team, despite their founding in 2010.

While knowledge of the sport is a plus, President and Team Captain, Courtney Frost, insists that anyone can join.

Frost said, “The Equestrian Club’s main goal is to share our passion for horses with the FIU community. I was a freshman when I joined and, to be honest, I knew almost nothing about horses or horse riding competitions, but you don’t have to know a lot about the sport to join.”

“So what are the differences between the team and the club? Simple: The Equestrian Team competes in various Intercollegiate Horse Shows Association events throughout Florida and Georgia, whereas the Equestrian Club offers “a more relaxed approach” for beginning riders to learn about horses and the sport in general. For those beginning riders, lessons are offered twice a week.

The Equestrian Team is led by Head Coach Daniela Roy, Frost called Swiss-born Roy a “world-class rider” who has trained and competed in Europe, South America, the Caribbean and the United States.

The team and club regularly train on Roy’s 10-acre facility in Broward County’s Southwest Ranches. This training helps the riders get used to the ropes and ready to compete at a high level.

Frost treasures the amazing relationships she has made - not only with the other riders - but with the horses themselves.

Frost said, “After a while, you start to look at the horses as your equal,” noting the emotional bond that grows through taking care of the horses.

Once in the club, new members will learn how to ride a horse, compete in collegiate equestrian sports and form friendships with other riders that extend well beyond the club.

While the club and team are looking to boost their numbers fall semester, Frost encourages potential members to get a head start.

“It’s good for people to start joining during the summer so they can learn how to ride and get a head start for the fall,” Frost said.

Anyone interested in joining the FIU Equestrian Club or Team should email them at fiequestrian@gmail.com.

Boxing Club’s biggest fight is out of the ring

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The FIU Boxing Club is known for having the NCAA recognize boxing as a sport.

Kitty Harris, president of the Boxing Club, is leading this expansion with the help of other boxers getting involved with activities on and off campus. You are likely to find the Boxing Club tabling and fundraising in GC or hosting boxing demonstrations in the pit.

This program has also joined forces with RHA to stop domestic violence and sexual assault on campus by becoming advocates of the “It’s On Us” campaign. But to truly see what it means, you have what it takes.

Harris has extended an invitation to join the Boxing Club in their training, as they offer classes three times a week to learn how to box and get in shape.

Why are our Golden Panther Boxers doing so much?

“We are trying to become recognized again by the NCAA and revue college boxing,” Harris said.

What would this recognition mean for our university and the schools around the nation?

Such acknowledgment would mean schools can grant scholarships and the proper attention to the sport of boxing. The goal seems enormous, the journey appears long, but for the team that produced national champions without a coach this past April, it is definitely not impossible.

Weiss emphasised the social aspect of playing for the team as well.

“Baseball Club is like a family. You make friends for life with everyone. We are almost like our own baseball. It’s great!”

Those who want to join the team can email David Weiss at dweis039@fiu.edu or text/call him at 786-422-2481. He encourages others to support the club and follow them on Instagram @fiuchlobaseball.
ALLSTAR idea could ‘bridge the gap’ for alternate street challenges

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While students who commute to BBC wonder if they will ever be able to use Northeast 135th Street, and as the game of politics is played throughout Miami-Dade County, one man decided to help answer an age old question of the human race when it comes to road making: how do we get across?

Mechanical engineering adjunct professor Dr. Claudius Carnegie, proposed an alternative to building a bridge.

Carnegie has suggested a culvert, a large wrinkled-looking steel pipe, to span a gap on Northeast 135th Street.

Rather than a bridge, Carnegie said in a recent interview on WRGP, FIU’s student-run radio station, a culvert is viable, durable and only 30 percent of whatever it would cost to build a bridge.

“The other thing is bridges can be washed out,” Carnegie said. “A culvert can never be washed out.”

Before he can put on his hard hat on, others must suit up to resolve the politics that usually come with planned construction.

Around the time University President Mark Rosenberg began his presidency at the University, administrators decided it was time to revisit the idea of another access road for BBC, which Rosenberg described as a “major challenge” for FIU as it attempts to expand its northern campus.

“We’ve already received complaints from our students, our faculty and our professional staff that you can’t get out of that campus,” Rosenberg said in a May interview with Student Media.

He suggested it would be irresponsible of the University to expand BBC without also addressing the issue of a second access road.

Rosenberg also said it would be a misuse of University money to add or move programs that exist at MMC to BBC, or vice versa.

“We don’t have the facilities, we don’t have the wetlands, we don’t have the space,” Rosenberg said. He added that the three programs at BBC Rosenberg says are “thriving.”

University expects BBC’s enrollment to double by 2020 - from 7,500 to 15,000 - because of the Chapman School of Hospitality & Tourism Management, the School of Environment Arts & Society and the School of Journalism & Mass Communication.

Before any expansion can take place, the University faces many roadblocks, each with bases of operation scattered across the county.

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Offensive explosion gives USA Women’s World Cup victory

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You couldn’t step away from the action packed first sixteen minutes of this Women’s World Cup Final in Vancouver. If you did, you might’ve missed the first four goals of the game, three of which were from USA’s Carli Lloyd who never held back and ended with a hat trick.

Team USA came out of the gates firing on all cylinders with an offensive explosion. Lloyd scored the fastest goal in Women’s World Cup Final history at around the three-minute mark, striking in a goal from a corner kick. The next goal came at the five-minute mark, Lloyd once again scoring after hitting the ball perfectly between the legs of a Japanese defender.

And so the euphoria began from American fans in Vancouver all across the nation. But the early onslaught wasn’t over. On a poor decision by a Japanese defender who tried to head a low ball, the ball ricocheted into the air and gave Lauren Holiday a clear shot from close range. Just like that it was 3-0 after four minutes.

In an attempt that was both daring but done with such perfection that one can’t be frustrated with the decision, Lloyd launched a shot from midfield. It was such an audacious goal that couldn’t have been able to go in. But the Japanese goalie Ayumi Kaihori wasn’t able to react in time to stop the ball as it sailed over her head for the fourth goal in sixteen minutes. Lloyd’s hat trick was also the quickest hat trick in the history of the Women’s World Cup.

But Japan was in the Final for a reason. They are a proud team who never gives up. At 27 minute mark, the perseverance of the Japanese showed. After a show of craftiness, Yuki Ogimi scored Japan’s first goal. Team USA had a comfortable lead of seven, which Lloyd and her teammates decided to keep going.

After halftime at the 52nd minute, Team USA accidentally scored in it’s own goal. Then it was just a two-goal lead against a Japan team that can score quickly. As close as it became, Team USA were just the better team on both sides and they still weren’t done scoring. In the 54th minute Tobin Heath dissected the defense with a good move and scored once again.

The victory was for the taking for Team USA. Japan may have won possession but barely did a percentage comparison of 48 to 52. Team USA’s shutout of opponents ended with those two goals in the final but Hope Solo had been the best goalkeeper of the entire tournament. She ended up winning the Golden Gloves, which is awarded to the best goalkeeper.

The final score was 5-2. This is Team USA’s third World Cup victory, the first two in 1991 and 1999.