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New partnership opens doors at two schools

MARIA SOLEDAD LORENZINO & SOPHIE HERBUT
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The FIU Herbert Wertheim College of Medicine’s adult autism program is expanding its reach with a new partnership at the University of Miami. The new partnership opens doors at two schools.

Health, has a child enrolled

Medical Education at the associate dean for Graduate originally scouted the Kendall, but with plans to in the Hammocks in West Kendall, but with plans to move to a new location.

Their new partner Villa Lyan is a nonprofit school for children with special needs, currently located in the Harnock’s in West Kendall, but with plans to move to a new location.

The University originally scouted the school because Yolangel Hernandez, former associate dean for Graduate Medical Education at the Herbert Wertheim College of Medicine and chief executive officer for FIU Health, has a child enrolled in the school.

Because of this connection, the University visited the school and observed how they operated before offering a deal.

Villa Lyan’s system is designed on separating by age and need. During the school year, they have five teachers, all certified in special needs training.

They provide outpatient rehab, behavioral, physical, speech and behavior therapy.

But it was their adult program that caught the eye of EMBRACE.

The adult day training program focuses on finding the niche of each individual and develop micro-businesses. The care for about 20 adults with various needs.

It’s an option for the students who graduate to learn applicable techniques for self-support.

Villa Lyan has an art program where some of the adults make art, different trinkets decorated by hand, or design t-shirts and other things.

Garcia said that some of the things that can be improved are the uniforms and the ability to have a second opinion, especially to make decisions, it’s good to get a second opinion, especially before a major operation.

An operation such as the University’s merger of the clinical components of Student Health Services with FIU Health. If successful, SHS’ new model could maintain healthier students while simultaneously reducing the uninsured rate among them.

However, it could require using student-health dollars and referring students who need ongoing care to FIU Health or off-campus providers to get it done.

Primary care will remain

Health economists from the University’s Collaborative for Health Economics and Strategic Solutions created a model. The first piece includes treatment of minor conditions and its second includes referrals for more serious conditions. SHS managed the community’s health care as part of its normal operations.

According to Oscar Loynaz, director of SHS, the Board of Trustees have approved the model, and integration began on July 1.

Vice President of Student Affairs Larry Lansford said that as of July 1, FIU Health manages the clinical aspects of SHS.

But students can still visit SHS to receive basic services - vaccinations, screenings or physical examinations - and for treatment of minor conditions, illnesses and injuries.

“Even though charges are occurring as integration moves forward, right now nothing specifically has changed and those with chronic conditions can still visit and will be seen,” Loynaz said.

For conditions that require ongoing care of more than 30 days, healthcare navigators will refer students to providers in the community, and FIU Health is an option.

A healthcare navigator - one at the Modesto Maidique Campus and one at the Biscayne Bay Campus – is a new position the University created for the integration. They will connect students who visit SHS and lack health insurance to healthcare providers in the community.

“They would be treated regardless but the navigators will connect them to the appropriate level of healthcare,” Metula said.

Amy Metula, former director of quality management for FIU Health, assured students in an interview with Student Media that the people who will vaccinate or test them for a minor illnesses will still be there even as the University merges its on-campus health providers.

“It will be the same people with the same uniforms providing care,” Metula said.

That model is designed to be self-funded with the same uniforms providing care, Metula said. Metula resigned from the University for unspecified reasons; Student Media interviewed her prior to her resignation and before receiving the reports associated with the integration plan.

However, her comments give context to the information the reports provide in lieu of an interview with Eneida Roldan, interim chief executive officer of FIU Health. Roldan was not available as of press time.

The University’s clinical facility, from its health-related colleges, provide medical services to the community and will, under the plan, see students as well.

“Student Health will share efficiencies and resources and work with FIU Health,” Metula said.

Insurance enrollment and population health

The model separates student health into one piece for individuals and another for the population.

Promoting health insurance enrollment and managing student health on a large scale are a part of the population aspect.

In the model, CHESS proposed SHS will have an active role in getting students health insurance.

“SHS should set explicit targets for insurance coverage” and “evaluate, after one year of operations, options for subsidized coverage for students not qualified for Medicaid or other health care insurance.”

CHESS proposed using the student health fee to reduce the cost of healthcare coverage, “subsidies should be self-funded by student health fee dollars.”

The health fee is one of several mandatory fees charged to all students as part of their tuition each semester.

Every student pays $93.69 as part of the health fee regardless of the number of credits taken.

An aspect of the integration plan is to divvy up the money generated from the health fee, so that a portion remains with

Photo courtesy of Mercedes Sinnott
China’s crackdown on lawyers sparks debate on Communist Party’s strength

Chinese police have detained more than 220 lawyers and human rights activists during the last three weeks, one of the widest suppressions of dissent since Xi Jinping came to power in late 2012. Authorities have forced public confessions from some of those detained. Some media have labeled China’s crackdown on lawyers as “an attempt to move more forcefully to end corruption and economic crime.”

Obama bâtiment on Kenya with U.S. focus on corruption and embrace democracy.

President Uhuru Kenyatta to discuss enhanced cooperation even as Obama acknowledged that a violent 2007 election and allegations against Kenyatta likely contributed to delaying the much-anticipated trip to his father’s homeland until the second to last year of his presidency.

Iran in for a contentious debate on the nuclear accord

As the U.S. Congress kicks off a contentious debate over the Iran nuclear accord, hard-liners in the Iranian political system are gearing up for a battle of their own, targeting a key verification provision that they hope to defeat in an open parliamentary vote.

Florida has more species than anywhere else in the U.S. outside Hawaii or Puerto Rico. Poslesky said of those 48 grow in Miami-Dade County. More than half, 26, are imperiled or in danger of going extinct. Fourteen have already disappeared.

The need to have space for green lawns, houses and a Wal-Mart at every corner are destroying natural areas. Even the need to have charming ornamental plants from exotic countries plays a role in the destruction.

While some in the southern reaches of Miami-Dade County, the only fern of its kind known to grow wild in the continental U.S. survives under a thicket of Brazilian pepper. Biologists have long worried that the fern, discovered in 2006 near Florida City, could be just one hurricane, plant poacher or misfired shot of herbicide away from disappearing forever.

So two years ago a team led by Fairchild Tropical Botanic Garden launched a rescue mission, ultimately collecting more drudging than gripping, to collect and propagate species no bigger than the period at the end of this sentence.

Fairchild botanist Jennifer Poslesky is doing her best to grow the endangered Caribbean maidenhair fern. Despite the success, the maiden hair could be the poster plant for a fern crisis playing out across Miami-Dade.

With 124 native ferns, Florida has more species than anywhere else in the U.S. outside Hawaii or Puerto Rico. Poslesky said of those 48 grow in Miami-Dade County. More than half, 26, are imperiled or in danger of going extinct. Fourteen have already disappeared.

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Anti-GMO labeling bill favors food manufacturers, not consumers

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We all have a right to know what goes into our food and how it’s been produced, and though there is no solid proof saying Genetically Modified Organisms have any harmful effects on human health, there isn’t solid proof that GMOs are better for us than unadulterated foods, either.

The House of Representatives passed a bill Thursday, July 23, that bans state laws which require food producers to label products that contain GMOs. This gives the federal government more power to dictate which foods are worthy of labeling. The vote was 275 to 100. This is clearly a victory for food and chemical industries that lobbied for the ban, but it’s a blow to consumer choice and a seizure of states’ rights. Before the bill can become law though, it will be need to be approved by the Senate and signed by President Barack Obama. So far, the White House has not taken a stance.

Those in favor of the bill say that GMO labels will only cause an increase in food prices and confusion about the safety of genetically engineered food. Gregory Jaffe, Biotechnology Project Director with the Center for Science in the Public Interest, stated at a recent House committee hearing, that there were no known nutritional or safety issues linked to GE food, so labels would be unnecessary.

So far, three states – Vermont, Connecticut and Maine – have passed mandatory GMO labeling laws, however, in both Connecticut, they will not go into effect unless their surrounding neighbor states also pass similar laws. Vermont’s law, who has survived legal challenges so far, is set to take effect in 2016. The labeling requirement will be voided though, if the Senate passes the bill.

Currently, companies can choose to voluntarily label their products “GE Free” or “GMO Free” and can also seek third-party verification. If the bill becomes law, those wanting to label their food “GMO Free” and can also seek third-party verification. If the bill becomes law, those wanting to label their food “GMO Free” will have to apply and be certified for that status by the Department of Agriculture.

The biggest issue is whether GMOs are safe or healthy, but how the bill denies Americans the right to know what is in their food and how it’s grown. Moreover, it gives more power to a corrupt government and its corporate partners.

As Scott Faber, senior vice president of government affairs for EWG said, “This House was bought and paid for by corporate interests, so it’s no surprise that it passed a bill to block states and the FDA from giving consumers basic information about their food.”

More than 300 organizations, companies, and leaders in the food industry and of social justice oppose the bill, saying that labeling laws allow consumers the right to know if their food is genetically engineered. It was found that nine out of 10 Americans support GMO labeling, and with the recent passing of this bill, interest seems unlikely to set among House lawmakers who are willing to ignore the wishes of the people.

Proposing a new solution to this issue, we should look more to our communities and ourselves. It’s not old news that we should strive to support and save more farmers markets and community gardens and farms. Rather than depending on the government, we should use our power as consumers to only support businesses and scientists who have morals and principles similar to our own. It’s up to us, individually and collectively, to stay healthy. True power always lies in the hands of the people.
"Paper Towns" inspires a generation of teens

JOEY CARDENAS
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Every generation has a "Breakfast Club," a "Clueless" and an "Easy A" - a teen-driven movie that defines what it means to be young, discovering who you are, and where you fit in the camp and in the audience, proving that with enough dedication, they too can be rockstars.

"Paper Towns," is rightfully, borderline existential. While last year's "Paper Towns," is nothing short of brilliant, when it comes to making a dream and chasing a fantasy, there's something almost oversimplified. This isn't "The Fault In Our Stars" and don't expect to learn.

The movie came out this weekend and stands tall with generally glowing reviews. If you’re looking for a good movie to fill the gap between summer blockbusters and upcoming fall releases, John Green’s “Paper Towns” is a great place to start.

The session was followed by "Night On The Towns," which featured a live Q&A screening with John Green, producer Wyck Godfrey, director Jake Schreier and four actors of the main cast - including Nat Wolff and Cara Delevingne. If you took to Twitter and did a #NightOnTheTowns, you could ask the cast and crew questions about the movie.

"[It’s about] how important your friends are," Delevingne said. "Grab life and realize how lucky you are.

Jean Marques /The Beacon

Shout outs of excitement from the Miami Girls Rock Campers and four actors of the main cast - including Nat Wolff and Cara Delevingne. If you took to Twitter and did a #NightOnTheTowns, you could ask the cast and crew questions about the movie.

The Miami Girls Rock Camp is a program which encourages girls ages 8-17 to make music.

Miami Girls Rock Camp at Grand Central

JEAN MARQUES
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Miami Girls Rock Camp at Grand Central

The Miami Girls Rock Camp is a program for girls and young women aged 8-17. The camp is mostly run by volunteer women and serves the community by encouraging self-esteem, artistic expression and friendship among its participants.

The girls were given a single week to work on their songs. Playing on the wonderful stage of Grand Central was the culmination of their combined efforts.

The event fostered a welcoming and family-oriented atmosphere. Many parents and relatives went in support of their children.

The most inspiring thing was witnessing the amount of encouragement coming from the audience. The crowd consistently clapped, jumped, and cheered with intense fervor for the young women and girls.

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Playing alongside the bands from the camp were local musicians Sharlyn Evertz and The State Of. Evertz excited the crowd with her energetic blend of IDM and Noise while The State Of played a very emotional and nostalgic set.

These women served as fantastic role-models for all the girls in the camp and in the audience, proving that with enough dedication, they too can be rockstars.

The Miami Girls Rock Camp at Grand Central

Jean Marques /The Beacon

The Ragdoll Kittens play an upbeat song they wrote at the Miami Girls Rock Camp Finale Show on July 26, along with Scorched Earth Policy, The Overacheeverz, Fate Squared and Playing with Gum.

Jean Marques /The Beacon

Summer Castro, 15, plays keyboard for her band Scorched Earth Policy as part of the Miami Girls Rock Camp program which encourages girls ages 8-17 to make music.
Slipknot puts the Metal back in South Florida

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Corey Taylor, frontman of Slipknot, made it clear Friday night that West Palm Beach and Slipknot have a very special relationship. Unlike other cities that the eccentric metal band is going to stop at on their “Summer’s Last Stand Tour,” Taylor explained that West Palm Beach was the first location where Slipknot ever performed professionally nearly 16 years ago during the infamous rock festival, Ozzfest. Now, Slipknot is headlining their own tour, with thousands of fans attending the first date.

One of the many reasons that Slipknot is dearly loved by the metal community is because of their own alternative lifestyle. Taylor is continuously thanked fans throughout the set, referring to them as his “brothers and sisters.”

During one specific break in between songs, Taylor exclaimed, “Look around you, this is your metal community. You guys are alive and strong as ever.”

Almost immediately after his statement, the crowd erupted into a giant ovation. The set was on fire.

Another reason that Friday’s show was memorable was the actual set design of Slipknot used. Unlike the other bands that are currently touring with them (Lamb of God, Bullet For My Valentine, Motley Crue), Slipknot displayed the heaviness and darkness their lyrics portray via props.

As each component were their own mask, which were recently upgraded for their latest album, “The Devil In I.” The stage had two floors, with a winding walkway on either side of the main drum set. Two other drum sets were on either side of the stage on top of rotating and rising platforms.

As if actual moving drums and a large stage wasn’t enough, pyrotechnics and horns were also used extensively throughout their songs. But what made the entire set complete was the music and the concert the classic, hellish Slipknot aesthetic, was a giant crowd-pleaser, the gothic king Marilyn Manson was first part of Manson’s performance: his puppet from Pink Floyd’s “The Wall,” donning four foot stilts and wearing an old-fashioned astronaut costume - as a cross between “The Robot” and “Pink Floyd’s The Wall.”

During the entire set, they opted to close with a song or two from their first album, “1979,” are still a joy to hear, and even more so live where you could appreciate Corgan’s impressive guitar skills and the flurry of filled provided by original Pumpkins drummer, Jimmy Chamberlain, signaling arguably one of the most underrated drummers of all time. It’s tough to get back into the habit of having healthier food. Just how your body got used to distorted meal times and high-calorie indulgences, you can get back on track to balanced meals and healthy choices. It’s not going to be easy, but it’s not impossible.

Quench your thirst

A lot of times hunger can be confused with thirst. Eliminate sodas and other sugary drinks at all costs. Stock up on water bottles or buy a non-disposable water bottle and carry it with you. This will make it easier for you to remember to drink water.

Cook more meals at home

When you’re on vacation, eating out is part of the itinerary every day. Even if you’re enjoying your time off in your hometown you are still driven to eat out. Choices that are not cooked at home because of social outings. The more meals you eat at home the better your health will be. Try to eat out one or two days a week and make it easier for you to follow these new changes.

Here’s mine: The holidays are just a few months away. I want to end the year on a healthy note and although it’s been a great summer of indulgence, my body needs me to get back on track.

Take control of your sleep schedule

When we’re on vacation, our sleep schedule tends to suffer and vary, not to mention we get to bed late and wake up early, other days we sleep for twelve hours. Sound sleep is very important. Start making it a habit to go to bed and wake up at the same time every day. Creating a new goal can make it easier for you to follow these new changes. Self motivation is not always possible. We are all guilty of waking up before our alarm and eating something unhealthy. Take control and put well being back into your life.

How to bounce back to a healthy diet

A summer vacation starts quickly down for most of us and we wonder how it was. Perhaps it was those late night meals after party? It may have been too hot to run outside or do physical activity. Whatever it was, you’re snapping back into reality and after indulging for the past three months, you’ve noticed your jeans a little tight and there’s no room for your shirt. It’s not going to be easy, but it’s not impossible.

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Try to stay away from fast food and fast-food places. When you’re on vacation eating out is part of the itinerary every day. Even if you’re enjoying your time off in your hometown you are still driven to eat out. Choices that are not cooked at home because of social outings. The more meals you eat at home the better your health will be. Try to eat out one or two days a week and make it easier for you to follow these new changes.

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Brian Hartline and Brandon Gibson, they trading away Mike Wallace and cutting both new and improved wide receiving corp will be this offense vs defense event.

headline in the NFL Ndamukong Suh, being fully of the blockbuster signing of the best defensive while and Sun Life Stadium is currently under season. they are looking forward to this up to Boca Raton and showed their Panthers pride to the media and got to know the two players about what they are looking forward to this season.

Leonard was not afraid to show his sentimental side when he had a discussion on welcoming his newly born son last month. That’s right Panther fans, the senior graduate is now a father of a healthy boy named Chase Alijah Leonard. Now that he’s a dad, he already learned the sleepless nights of fatherhood. I get one hour of sleep and then I get up and try to get in the best shape I can,” Leonard said according to FIUSports.com.

Now, football wise, Leonard also felt that despite the breakout year he had last season, he still believes there’s some room for improvement. “I’m constantly working on my craft and trying to get faster in my workouts,” said the player with a 4.4 speed who scored three different ways.

Before making his decision, Leonard reached out to fellow alumni and current NFL players, T.Y. Hilton and Jonathan Cyprien, and Ron Turner as well, about his decision about going to the NFL, or staying for his senior season.

Coach Turner would get phone calls from NFL scouts and General Managers about his critique on Leonard. “I get one hour of sleep and then I get up and try to get faster in my workouts,” said the player with a 4.4 speed who scored three different ways.

Looking back at C-USA Media Day

Jadarius Byrd from Jacksonville, FL., who has played all for the young receivers.

Leonard, when asked about Smith, showed high praises to the Ocala native. “Jonnas is a headache defenses,” Leonard said. “He’s a physical, big body with great hands, but I got him on the speed.”

Leonard would know since they both go one-on-one against each other everyday during practice. When Smith heard that, he couldn’t help but laugh. For Smith, he also wants to improve his speed now that he gained nine pounds and is currently weighed in at 6’2” 241 lbs. “I feel faster despite gaining six or seven pounds of muscle,” Smith said. “I never get lackadaisical. I am always looking to improve and part of that is my route running, catching the ball and my speed. I don’t feel I’ve lost a step.”

Leonard and Smith believed that they are ready to put the Panthers team on a new level this season and not finishing below 500. Last season, the Panthers finished the season losing four games by three points or less, finishing the season 4-8. “This year is about finish.” Smith said. “Finishing games, not leaving anything on the field. We can all get better as a team. That’s been the attitude all off-season and that’s for everyone including Richard and I, who have dedicated ourselves like the rest of our team to getting better.”

The Panthers start training camp on Tuesday, Aug. 4. They kick off their first season at Orlando against University of Central Florida on Thursday, Sept. 3. Their first home game is on Saturday, Sept. 19 against North Carolina Central.

The Miami Dolphins begin their training camp this Thursday, July 30 as we are reaching closer to the opening day of the first game of the 2015 season. We are just eleven days away until the Miami Dolphins take their talents to Tampa Bay for a football scrimmage at FIU Stadium.

After having the most active off season in a while and Sun Life Stadium is currently under construction, Dolphin fans have nothing but high hopes for this season. Either it’s because of the shareholders signing of the best defensive tackle in the NFL Ndamukong Suh, being fully committed to starting QB Ryan Tannehill for the next 5 years, or drafting a Miami native in DeVante Parker in the 1st round, it’s playoffs or bust for this season.

For people in attendance to the scrimmage coming up, here is what we look forward to for this offense vs defense event.

Wide Receivers

There is no question that the Dolphins’ new and improved wide receiving corp will be the strength of the Dolphin’s offense. Despite trading away Mike Wallace and cutting both Brian Hartline and Brandon Gibson, they

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 from Oregon State and committing to Florida International University, GoPanthers.”

It is safe to say that Byrd probably wanted to stay closer to home, since FIU is only five hours from Jacksonville.

Byrd, at 5’8” and 155 lbs, is a pragmatic athlete on and off the field. His press coverage skills are top-notch and he can intercept a receiver’s route before they make their first step, catching them off guard and off balance.

Byrd also, as a defensive back, will refuse to let any receiver pass or go over him. He is the type of corner who 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 term is known as a “crack back.”

Byrd will be the third commitment to come out of the Ocala native. With Doug and Dallas Connell. He will be making his on-campus visit July 25.
Welcome to the Space Jam... again, maybe

The song “Welcome to the Space Jam!” is most probably recognized by the sound of children’s feet sprinting towards a television following those first lyrics. A movie that saw one of the greatest performances by one of the greatest of all time, “Space Jam” showcased the world famous Bugs Bunny alongside basketball player Michael Jordan.

Space Jam is one of those films that most ’90s kids brag to their little brothers and sisters about. But after a new partnership was created, today’s elementary school kids have something to look forward to as well.

With young basketball fans looking at LeBron James the way their older counterparts saw Michael Jordan, fans started running out of things to separate the two. James got his MVP awards, his NBA Championship rings, but with all that, the older kids still cling onto “Space Jam” as the one feat James could never achieve. Seriously, what mortal man could even fathom stretching their arm the length of a basketball court to beat the “Monstars” on a game winning dunk?

Although there are no scripts and no official announcements that a “Space Jam 2” is in the works, it doesn’t take Sherlock Holmes to realize what Warner Bros. has planned.

On Wednesday, July 22, LeBron James and his entertainment company SpringHill Entertainment partnered up with Warner Bros., the company that created the Looney Tunes and the original “Space Jam.”

And yes, it could be just another partnership like SpringHill Entertainment made with Disney XD and Starz but there was another piece of evidence that rang loud and clear in the hearts of all of the ’90s kids around the world.

On that same day, Warner Bros. renewed their trademark of the phrase “Space Jam.” The entertainment company renewed their rights as being the sole beneficiary of putting those words on lunchboxes, backpacks and maybe, even movie posters.

While all of this still remains speculation, and maybe Warner Bros. and LeBron James could just be getting our hopes up, the idea of this being a possibility, which it is, should bring excitement and some anxiety in the homes of every fan of the first film.

And just a reminder to all of those still debating to which basketball player is better and which movie will be better, nothing beats the original.

He’s worked his way to an impressive 1.65 ERA while holding his opposing batters to a miniscule .223.

Michael James Franco has been a nightmare on the mound for whatever team is attempting to make contact against him, striking out 55 batters in only 49 innings pitched.

Yes, his name is similar to Hollywood star Franco Franco, but if that actor wants to put on a Miami uniform, he better keep his bat for the stone Crab fans because, he’s going to have to be a little more like Mike.

The 52 overall pick of the 2014 MLB Draft, 2014 Conference USA Player of the Year and a 2014 All-American is none other than former Panther Aramis Garcia.

Catcher for the Augusta GreenJackets, Class-A affiliate of the San Francisco Giants, Garcia has definitively given FIU a good name. Batting .279 with nine home runs and 33 RBIs, Garcia has definitely managed to trot the bases quite a bit this year with his 10 home runs while also driving in 58 RBIs.

The 6’2” Hialeah native has been playing good old fashioned baseball not only his “abuela” can be proud of, but his entire alma mater can be proud of.

The players that were just mentioned are only a fraction of the outstanding products FIU has been gracing the MLB with in recent years. And with the talent level only increasing, there are sure to be more names to add on to this list of eye popping performances in professional baseball.

It’s about time the FIU community puts their Lowell 19 jersey back in their closet and starts buying some new ones, because in a few years, everyone else will already be rockin’ them.

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MINOR LEAGUE BASEBALL

Panthers creating a buzz in the minor leagues

The University is no stranger to success on the clay diamond. At the collegiate level, the Blue and Gold currently wear the belt as Conference USA Baseball Champions.

At the professional level, FIU created a hero to any Miami baseball fan and MVP of the 2007 World Series, Mike Lowell.

However, much like any middle-aged Dolphin fan sleeping in his Dan Marino jersey bragging about the 1972 perfect season, clinching onto the past can get embarrassing.

Thankfully, for all of the Panther baseball fans, there are a few alumnus making their way through their respective farm systems on their way towards giving FIU one more name to be proud of.

After a stint with the Texas Rangers’ farm system and utter domination of the Australian Baseball League (yes that’s a thing) pitcher Joree Marban signed with the Boston Red Sox and is tearing it up for their Double-A affiliate, the Portland Sea Dogs.

Marban has a 4-1 record in addition to his five saves, while maintaining an ERA of 0.81 after 44.2 innings pitched.

His time in Australia has definitely paid off because he’s working his way to the top, shutting things down while he’s on the mound.

Another pitcher creating a buzz is Mike Franco, seventh round pick in the 2014 draft by the Tampa Bay Rays.

Franco has been one of the Charlotte Stone Crabs’ more reliable relievers by cashing in on four of his five save attempts.

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SPORTS ENTERTAINMENT

Kickabout coed soccer game deemed a ‘success’

MICHAEL JUMENEZ
Contributing Writer

On July 24, more than 25 FIU students came together to participate in a “Kickabout” coed soccer game on the recreation field at MMC.

The players came from different FIU campuses and were divided into two teams that competed in the heat for 90 minutes in a game that began at 5:30 p.m. At the end of regulation, the final score was 5-1, but what mattered more than the score to the players, was the opportunity to meet new people and have fun.

The match was organized by University student Drew Branch. For Branch, this event stems from a class assignment he was given that allowed him to lead various constructive projects.

That involvement resulted in him creating this coed soccer game. He believes that a coed soccer game is the perfect environment for student participants to learn about “mutual respect” through teamwork.

By all accounts, the “Kickabout” game was a success.

What made this event so successful for Branch was that players felt it to be a relaxing environment where any student who wanted to play could.

It was a game where past experience wasn’t necessary and the score didn’t matter in the end. What mattered was that students were able to come together.

Many of those students said they haven’t had the opportunity to play a soccer game for years and that this event allowed them to do so while meeting new people at FIU.

On July 24, more than 25 FIU students participate in the “Kickabout” coed soccer game on July 24 at the Modesto Maidique Campus Intramural Fields, where Drew Branch, a senior recreation and sports management major led his team to a 5-1 victory. Branch plans on hosting this event again later this summer.

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Minor League Baseball

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Kayaking after sunset at The Bay

LESJIE ANGELA BLANCO
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It’s the middle of summer and water activities are high in demand—at least for students based at the Biscayne Bay Campus. However, this wasn’t always the case.

“Kayaking has always been here at BBC campus. A lot of people just didn’t know about it. Participation has picked up where we only had about 30 people in the past, but now, the numbers are usually around 60 students,” said Jonathan Torrey, department coordinator and recreation specialist.

Kayaking at the bay has become a more popular activity in recent years at FIU.

The day kayaking trip last Saturday, July 25, the night kayaking trip, July 16, and the upcoming night trip, August 13, are all vastly different.

During the day trips, which begin at 10 a.m. and usually end around 3 p.m., the kayakers go out onto the kayaks with their life vests and brought over to the Oleta River State Park trail that is already in place. They follow the mangrove trails and reach the sand bar where other boats are usually docked. The students then tie up their kayaks and can hang out there for about 15 to 20 minutes and even have the option of swimming around the nearby area. After this, they are taken back onto the kayaks and kayak back to campus.

With the night time trips, in addition to kayaking through the mangrove trails of Oleta River State Park, the guests are also taken to an island. The island is called Sandspur Island. It’s a tiny island where boats can set up and where a cluster of people are already relaxing and enjoying the water. There is also a forest of palm trees and you can also view an abundance of coconuts on the ground as well as on the trees.

In regards to kayaking, if it would be your first time, a little patience and practice is needed, at least in my case, when I went on the night trip. However, soon I was able to kayak effortlessly once we headed out into the open water. You tie up your kayak and are given leave to explore the territory, hang out around the area, and swim in the newfound waters which are about two feet deep. Once everyone gets settled on the island, normally a camp fire is set up and a cooler is also brought that has marshmallows, chocolate, and graham crackers where you have the option of making s’mores around the fire.

This is done depending on how many people would prefer to stay on the island, and if there aren’t enough people to stay on the island, the fire is then set up when the kayakers return back to campus. In that regard, you have the option of leaving whenever you want. Most of the night time trips are usually sold out within a week to two weeks of when registration opens. The feedback has been positive and it’s no wonder these trips are always sold out. The next night time trip will be on the 13th of August; registration just opened up this past Thursday.

“When I have people screaming at me, ‘hey I have been trying to get on this night time kayak and I’m about to graduate and I can’t go. What can you do for me?’” said Torrey.

The last kayaking trips—both day and night will end by this October and start up again in Spring. The night time kayaking trips take place only once a month.

“My goal is to get everybody who hasn’t had a chance to get out here to come and at least experience the trips once before they graduate. My hope is that next year we get more days for the night time trips—because it seems to be the feedback that I’m getting,” said Torrey.

If you’re looking to go on a kayaking adventure, the price is five dollars for FIU students and ten dollars for faculty, staff, guests, and alumni. Registration is at active.com and closes as soon as the 20 seats are full. If they are full, you can always still try to get a seat if you arrive on site at least 15 minutes beforehand in the case that there is a no show.

If plan has no changes, health services will be referred out

PHILIPPE BUTEAU
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The University’s plan to merge clinical operations of Student Health Services into FIU Health could spell bad news for students who use Student Health Services at the Biscayne Bay Campus.

An aspect of the plan is to refer students who need ongoing care to FIU Health or off-campus providers.

While students at the Modesto Maidique Campus have access to FIU Health clinics, BBC students would have to leave campus for their chronic medical conditions if the plan, approved by the Board of Trustees, moves forward without any changes.

But the BBC Health Care Center could remain open, according to Larry Lunsford, Vice President for Student Affairs.

Therese Boyd, Director of Student Health Services at BBC, is on medical leave and directed Student Media to Assistant Director, Kathleen Adams, who was unavailable for comment.

Interim CEO of FIU Health Eneida Roldan was also unavailable for comment. Lunsford said that the model that the University’s Collaborative for Health Economics and Strategic Solutions created is under evaluation and a decision will be made at a future date.

“She told me that if more than 50 people joins the staff, we will have to open a new clinic on campus and the remaining 100 will be referred to an off-campus clinic.”

Studies have shown that lack of access to care affects health outcomes among low-income and underserved populations, particularly in communities of color.

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