FIU and UM collect data to make housing affordable

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Two Florida universities have come together to provide guidance on affordable housing in South Florida.

The partnership between FIU and the University of Miami resulted in the South Florida Housing Studies Consortium, an organization dedicated to promoting data and objective analysis-driven strategies to support research and recommendations on affordable housing.

According to Ned Murry, associate director of the University’s Metropolitan Center, affordable housing is the number one public policy issue in South Florida.

Murry said that if the issue isn’t addressed, it will begin to lose many young professionals.

“The creation of the South Florida Housing Studies Consortium was the result of a series of conversations I had with Ned Murry at the Metropolitan Center at FIU,” said Robin Bachin, assistant provost for civic and community engagement at UM.

Both offices have been involved in research and analysis on affordable housing in South Florida.

According to Bachin, her office hosted a series of public programs based on affordable housing and created a program called the Community Scholars and Affordable Housing, a spring semester course for professionals working in affordable housing and community development.

The course gives the office background and research on several housing-related issues, like financing affordable housing, designing for a diverse population, advocacy for housing affordability and more.

The Metropolitan Center at the University has also been involved in reports for Broward, Popeyes and Miami-Dade counties, based on housing and economic development.

The original “housing bubble”, an economic issue impacting parts of the United States housing market in over half the American states, began in 2004, when housing costs started increasing.

According to Murry, after the bubble burst and economic recession, the numbers decreased slightly.

Today, Miami-Dade and South Florida are comprised of service spectrum employees, who offer professional support for businesses, who earn less than 80 percent of the area median income.

The service spectrum is also made up of students and graduates who are living in places that are considered unaffordable.

The state government just don’t have the resources and funding priorities for affordable housing,” said Murry. “We’re hoping that they understand.” He said that the South Florida housing affordability is an inconvenience to the state government.

“The housing affordability can neither depend on the federal or state government

CALSA hosts second annual school supplies drive

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FIU College of Law and the Catholic Law Student Association are hosting their second annual Back-to-School Supplies Drive for underprivileged children.

Students are encouraged to participate by donating school supplies, and to drop them off at the FIU Law Library. The library is located across the Wellness and Recreation Center in the College of Law Rafael Diaz Ballart Hall.

The student association has partnered with New Life Transitional Housing, a Catholic charity that provides services to homeless families with children 18 and under. School supplies collected will be donated to kids in a homeless shelter, according to Reginald Guillaume, CALSA community outreach officer.

Children who benefit from the drive are elementary school, middle school and high school students. School supplies needed include, but are not limited to: crayons, pencil crayons, glue, erasers, sharpeners, scissors, markers, highlighters, rulers and calculators.

Donating to people in need through the supplies drive should be a good enough reason for the FIU community to participate, said Guillaume.

Communities have the responsibility to help each other and to lend a hand to the underprivileged, he said.

Guillaume said the students do not have materials to work properly at school and that that can be stressful for them.

“Those children deserve to at least be able to go to school and have the resources that they need to work successfully,” Guillaume said. “With the school supplies drive, CALSA is hoping to take this burden off their shoulders.”

CALSA is a student organization that provides College of Law students networking opportunities with Catholic professionals in the legal field. The organization encourages dialogue on legal issues in the context of the Catholic faith, and it emphasizes the existence of Catholic law students and faculty in the College of Law.

Students should participate in the drive because it is a great cause, said Marlon Velez, secretary of CALSA. Velez said that collecting school supplies will help students at the University to make a difference in the life of many homeless children.

He also said that the drive is also a great opportunity for students to familiarize themselves with the FIU Law Library. The library is open to any student with a Panther ID. When dropping off school supplies, students can see the setting of the library. Velez encourages students who have ideas, questions or comments to contact CALSA. The drive will end Friday, Oct. 9, and it will be open during library operating hours, which are Monday to Thursday from 7:30 a.m. to 11 p.m. and Friday from 7:30 a.m. to 8 p.m.
UTC orders EPA to revise ship ballast discharge regulations

Russian warplanes on bombing runs over Syria twice entered Turkish airspace over the weekend, causing “extreme dangers through irresponsible behavior,” NATO said Monday. Turkish fighter planes scrambled both times and identified the intruding aircraft, which then returned to Syria. The North Atlantic Council.

NATO’s decision-making body, said the Russian aircraft entered Turkish airspace in the southern Hatay province, despite “clear, timely and repeated warnings.” Turkish warplanes, in accord with NATO practice, responded to the incursions by closing in on them to identify the intruders, it said.

Twitter CEO Jack Dorsey joins rare breed of leaders running two companies

Twitter transformed the way people shared stories, providing a glimpse into the world through 140-character bursts. Square made it easier for businesses to accept credit card payments through the tap of a mobile app. On Monday, the fate of both companies became more closely intertwined when Twitter named Jack Dorsey — co-founder of both tech firms and Square CEO — its permanent chief executive. Now Dorsey, who took over as Twitter’s interim leader in July, is juggling both jobs.

National Coming Out Day is around the corner, and the University celebrates by hosting an event to bring awareness, to educate students and to embrace diversity.

The annual civil awareness day, which takes place Sunday, Oct. 11, recognizes members from the lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and queer community.

“The University event will not be held exclusively to the LGBT community, however. It will be open to anyone who wants to show support through flowers and cheers,” said Jazmine Clifton, multicultural programs graduate assistant.

Participants at the event will visualize the process of the LGBT community sharing their sexual orientation. A physical door will be strategically placed, which people can walk through to get their pictures taken.

The idea is to bring light to the importance of accepting sexual orientations and gender identity and to spread the message to other people through different channels of social media, said Clifton, coordinator of the event.

“The door sketch is both humorous and serious,” Clifton said. “We want to empower people by making fun of the stereotype.”

Students will have access to campus resources to educate themselves on the LGBT community or to seek counseling.

“Sometimes students don’t know who to talk to or where to go. This is an opportunity for them,” Jazmine Clifton said.

“Sometimes students don’t know who to talk to or where to go. This is an opportunity for them.”

Jazmine Clifton

Multicultural programs

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FIU and UM preserve housing affordability

According to Bachin, a good portion of those units are no longer going to be considered affordable within the next 10 years. Bachin and Murray’s goal is to preserve the affordable housing that is present now, and aid the sections of South Florida where there are severe needs.

They will approach the situation by gathering the attention of high-performing economies in the country who recognize the importance of housing workers, according to Murray.

He hopes to figure out a way to come up with local financing and local land use strategies that can increase opportunities for affordable housing.

“We need to think about how we strategically use resources in order to meet the needs of our different neighborhoods and communities,” said Bachin.
**LEAD THE TRIBE**

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As a child, coloring was my favorite hobby because it was fun and relaxing to use different colors on black and white pictures. Coloring is always a great activity for children to express themselves as it allows them to color in images the way they want to based on their imagination.

Coloring is also a consoling method parents use to calm down their children if they are hyperactive or if the child is feeling impatient. However, whoever said that coloring was just for children? Even when we have all grown into adults, coloring is a creative activity we can still do to relieve stress.

Life isn’t easy when you’re an adult as we all have responsibilities such as school or work. Having a strict work schedule can lead towards stress, which can lead to a lack of sleep, an unhealthy diet and anxiety towards completing tasks immediately.

Nevertheless, many methods have been suggested by experts to help people in managing their stress and to relax when completing important tasks. Some of the most popular methods are exercising, doing creative activities and yoga. However, many would be surprised that coloring is also suggested as a way for adults to relieve stress.

Coloring helps to soothe the mind by stimulating areas of the brain linked to motor skills, the senses and creativity.

He came to this conclusion by experimenting with mandalas - decorative concentric circles originating from India which takes great focus in designing as they are meant to be intricately detailed. According to psychologist Gloria Martinez Ayala, coloring activates diverse areas of the brain’s cerebral hemispheres by assimilating areas of the cerebral cortex relating to vision and fine motor skills. She also stated that coloring assists in lowering the activity of the amygdala, the part of the brain tasked with the purpose of controlling our emotion - it’s this part of the brain that becomes affected by stress.

The amygdala is calm when we when we focus on coloring because it keeps us from thinking about our worries. Coloring has also become popular in different countries as well - becoming bestsellers the U.S., France and the United Kingdom.

Coloring books also have trended in Spain as the Spanish cartoonist, Antonio Fragas, published his called Coloring.

The most popular coloring book in the U.S. is Secret Garden: An Inky Treasure Hunt and Coloring Book by Johanna Basford and has made top-selling lists, leading the author to produce two more books for her fans to enjoy. There are many different coloring books published by other authors or as magazine issues that you can find at your local Barnes and Noble Bookstore, Michaels Arts & Crafts or Hobby Lobby. The internet is another way to find pictures for you to further research as well.

If you ever feel stressed out over completing assignments for school or tasks for your job, try coloring to relieve yourself of any pressures.

A drawing does not have to be complex to color away your stress; a simple drawing can act as a flowered trick in helping you to feel more relaxed.

The main purpose of coloring is to unwind and organize your thoughts by focusing on a design instead of constant worries.

Let your imagination run wild by using various kinds of media such as markers, crayons or colored pencils. Be unique as you color your stress away and begin to feel at ease while coloring a picture or a pattern with intricate designs the way you like.

**It’s in our DNA: social circles ‘genetically similar’**

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How boring would life be if friends didn’t exist? They’re like your unofficial family who happen to share your exact same interests and even if they don’t, it doesn’t matter because for some strange reason you just click.

It’s almost automatic how you become friends with certain people - like it’s just natural to be friends with them, but haven’t you ever wondered why? Well it turns out, it’s not just experiences and laugh worthy moments that you share with them but also DNA.

According to a new study that was published in Proceedings of the National Academy of Science by Nicholas Christakis of Yale University and James Fowler of the University of California, San Diego during July 2014, friends are often genetically similar and can share as much as one percent of the same gene variants.

Genetically speaking, this means that our friends share as much DNA strands with us as our fourth cousins do.

Researchers aren’t exactly sure why our social circles tend to be genetically similar people but they believe it has something to do with human kind’s survival instinct.

During the study, researchers were able to discover that the common genes shared between friends were the genes that evolved the most rapidly over the past 30,000 years. This led Christakis to conclude that “it seems that our fitness depends not only on our own genetic constitutions, but also on the genetic constitution of our friends.”

Further research proved that our friendships might indeed stem from a primitive survival instinct since the people we choose to surround ourselves with have vastly different immune systems.

This offers us extra “immunological protection” by helping our immune system build defenses against diseases that could potentially harm us.

While genetic makeup may be part of the reason why we’re friends with someone it can’t be the only reason.

Researchers believe that DNA is a strong influence when it comes to our interests, and it probably is, but there are other outside forces to consider such as your environment and culture.

Besides, thinking that the only reason you’re friends with someone is because you share similar genetic characteristics makes it sound too robotic, too predetermined, like we don’t have a say in the matter.

Not to mention that the sole reason for friendships comes from survival in terms of genetics and that’s the reason why we’re friends with people that are just like us, in the purest sense of the word.

When it comes to the nature of friendships, even if science is right, it seems that we have a choice and not just a necessity to make friends with people that are just like you, in the parent sense of the word.

When it comes to the nature of friendships, even if science is right, it seems that we have a choice and not just a necessity to make friends with people that are just like you, in the parent sense of the word.

It seems like further research on this topic will be needed before it can be officially stated that you can only be friends with people that are just like you, in the parent sense of the word.

When it comes to the nature of friendships, even if science is right, it seems that we have a choice and not just a necessity to make friends with people that are just like you, in the parent sense of the word.
PHI DELTA THETA HOSTS SPECIAL OLYMPICS

On Tuesday, Oct. 6, 2015 at 9:00 a.m., Phi Delta Theta’s first Special Olympics was announced at the softball fields of Tamiami Park. Phi Delta Theta teamed up with the Florida Special Olympics Miami-Dade branch to host a “Skills Drills” activity day for the participants. This event had a turnout of approximately 46 volunteers and over 200 athletes.

Athletes were bouncing around from station to station and learned the essentials of softball. These essentials include throwing, pitching, hitting, baserunning and catching. Phi Delta Theta paid for all the arrangements from the Florida Special Olympics budget.

Our goal was to provide special needs kids an opportunity to be an athlete and show their potential. Therefore, it is a welcome addition to the Madden family.

Asif Khan
GamerHub.tv
TNS

‘Madden NFL 16’ review: Roughing the passer

The exclusive deal between Electronic Arts and the NFL can be a double-edged sword. The lack of a viable competitor to the Madden franchise can sometimes yield a mediocre annual release, but the exclusivity can create amazing experiences when the full force of the NFL is put behind one game. Unfortunately, despite a wealth of new ideas and some that even push the franchise forward, a series of bugs made “Madden 16” a disappointment.

One of its most notable new ideas is Draft Champions, an inventive take on the popular phenomenon of a fantasy football draft. There is definitely an element of randomness to what players pop up each round, and players may end up passing up on a perfect fit because there are too many good options in any given round. With only 15 rounds to draft, it is impossible to make upgrades at every position.

In my experience with Draft Champions, I found it best to draft to fit a playbook. You better draft some offensive linemen if you plan on running the ball, but at the same time you have to balance your offensive and defensive pick. This draft is aided by the inclusion of Legends, like Christian Okoye, Herman Moore and Rod Woodson. The new mode can be a bit of a mind trap, but once you learn the game and you are out, albeit with some Ultimate Team cards as your reward. I wish there was a way to save the teams you have drafted to play with them later, but its novelty makes it a welcome addition to the Madden family.

Other modes have received some tweaks. Connected Franchise Mode has added some in-game drive goals that dynamically update every time you take the field. This is just another way for players to increase their XP as well as show the franchise their confidence boost. Other changes, like additional management tools, a refined scouting system and a “To Do” tab, are definitely improvements over prior years. Ultimate Team received quite a few changes of its own. It’s not my favorite mode, since I find the XP-to-currency exchange grindy, but as a popular mode I can recognize that it’s made some smart improvements.

The core gameplay has undergone revisions of its own. The quarter-for-quarter play has more passing options with the addition of a touch-pass and additional control over passes. Wide receivers can select how to catch, giving an extra layer of strategy on the offensive side. Defensive players now have the option to play the ball or the receiver and minor changes for rushing the quarterback.

Despite all this, I found myself enjoying “Madden 16” much less than “Madden 15.” Sometimes it takes a year to shake out the bugs when EA makes meaningful changes to gameplay in their games, and this year’s entry is a perfect example of that. The new receiver/defender gameplay features lead to more dropped passes, tipped balls and interceptions than in previous years, the improved collision detection has some bugs when it comes to players tripping over their own teammates, and the improved graphics seem to actually slow the game at times.

Although this was the first Special Olympics the fraternity has hosted, they were in close ties with the Florida Special Olympics before this event. The group volunteered at a Florida Special Olympics soccer event last spring. They performed this activity by participating in the sign-up stations, the activity stations, and much that they reached out to the Florida Special Olympics and asked if they could host an event with them.

Florida Special Olympics replicated an email that went through the Honor College to Nick Kinslow. They accepted the offer and scheduled the event for Oct. 6, 2015.

“We have over 3,500 athletes in the Miami-Dade county area and changing objectives of the Special Olympics so maintenance. According to Kinslow, the fraternity loved a brotherhood and a brotherhood of Phi Delta Theta in 1939.”

“Asif Khan
GamerHub.tv
TNS

‘The Martian’ is expected to win weekend’s box office

“The Martian” is poised to dominate the first weekend of October at the box office with very little competition in the way.

The Ridley Scott-directed film, released by Twentieth Century Fox, could debut with between $45 million to $55 million, according to people familiar with pre-release audience-tracking surveys. Fox has a more modest forecast of about $40 million.

Such a strong opening would help Fox with a much-needed boost at the box office. Last year, the studio finished on top with a domestic total of $1.79 billion. Though not a good year, it was Fox’s best-ever tally in the U.S. and Canada, not adjusted for inflation.

This year, however, Fox is currently in fourth place, according to film research firm Rentrak. Though it has released 31 titles — the most out of any other studio — those films have grossed $926 million, or 11.32 percent of the 2015 market share to date.

“How can you be up one year and down the next, all it takes is a couple of movies to change your fortune,” said Paul Dergarabedian, senior analyst at Rentrak. In Fox’s case, there were some hits, such as the Melissa McCarthy comedy “Spy,” and some massive flops, such as the reboot of “Fantastic Four.”

Universal Pictures has made roughly $2.26 billion, or 27.67 percent of the market share, putting it to make the studio top with about 16 titles. Disney and Warner Bros. are in second and third with $1.4 billion and $1.3 billion to date, respectively.

Though Fox may not join No. 1 in the first months of the year, “The Martian” gives the studio a strong foot forward going into the holiday season.

“The Martian,” “Dergarabedian said. “It’s getting phenomenal reviews and it’s on top of everyone’s must-see list for the fall. Beyond that, they have a furious marketing and distribution team who have put together a strong effort to raise the visibility of the film.”

Ahead of Thanksgiving, Fox will bring Charles M. Schulz’s beloved cartoons to the big screen with the “The Peanuts Movie.”

The movie, which will be released Nov. 25, and “Alien and the Chipmunks: The Road Chip,” will be released Dec. 25. While no other films will open in wide release this weekend, Sony’s Tristar label will release “The Walk” in Imax and other select large-format theaters only beginning on Wednesday.

The movie, which cost $43 million to make, starring an astronaut Mark Watney (Matt Damon). After a mission to Mars, Watney is assumed to be dead, but he has survived and finds himself stranded alone on the hostile planet. The film also stars Jessica Chastain, Kristen Wiig, Kate Mara, Michael Pena, Jeff Daniels, Chiwetel Ejiofor and Donald Glover.

“Fox is in a wonderful position right now because everyone is talking about ‘The Martian,’ “ Dergarabedian said. “It’s getting phenomenal reviews and it’s on top of everyone’s must-see list for the fall. Beyond that, they have a furious marketing and distribution team who have put together a strong effort to raise the visibility of the film.”

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**Page, 28, has recently become acutely aware how she carries her body. In the year and a half since she publicly came out as a lesbian, her posture has morphed. There’s the way she balances on her hips, now less looking at the ground. “People close to me keep remarking how different I am now,” she said. “And honestly, my body was different. I think I had just really become closed off. It’s a feeling that existed within me. Shame, I think. The word would be ‘shame.’”

Getting lost to the only feeling that has proved transformative for the actress, who rose to fame in 2007 as the fast-talking pregnant cop in “ Juno,” does not feel the need to hide who she is any longer. “I look back now, and I’m glad I talked about it the time of day. As a gay person living in Los Angeles, I get to do what I love and then have the freedom to say how I feel, which was sad.”

“I think a big part of why I wanted to come out was I did feel guilt. I feel guilt about not being open about being gay for many years within the LGBT community and feeling actually quite disconnected from LGBT friends and colleagues, not wanting to feel that way anymore. Not wanting to feel how I felt, which was sad.”

Page has been attached to “Freeheld” for nearly six years, ever since the project was the goal of Angelina Jolie. The original screenplay was written byessian Kent, the film’s director. “But she was with us from the very beginning,” he said. “She was our go-to.”

“Page had an attachment to it from the time who was attached to the project, the role of Andre Cloth. Coming out has clearly liberated Page, but she was also an advocate for pipeline to the LGBT community. Her activism was a passion. That passion continued to develop not only in the world of film and TV, but also in academia. Page is now a visiting assistant professor at the University of Pennsylvania. She has lectured on the subject of identity and representation in media, and her work has been published in academic journals.

“Freeheld” is a true story about the struggle to obtain pension benefits for police officers killed in the line of duty. The film stars Julianne Moore and Portia de Rossi as two lesbian police officers whose relationship became public when one of them was killed in the line of duty. Page plays an officer who was wronged by the system and who later becomes a advocate for LGBT rights.

“I think that the season we’re doing this year harkens back to the first season, then you get those fans,” Murphy says. “I think that’s the logical next step. I want my friends to be near me. I love them. Also, I’ve directed all of these actors in some other movies, and from that comes this great shorthand. And I think they know that we are safe together, we work well, they feel protected, and they are able to go to a certain place.”
**Volleyball**

**KEEP ‘EM COMING**

Panthers host FGCU and UNCC to finish homestand

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The women’s volleyball team is coming off consecutive home victories for the second time this season, improving its record to 6-3 at Lime Court. The Panthers have done this by defeating Marshall University 3-1 on Friday, Oct. 2 and University of Texas at El Paso on Sunday, Oct. 4 with a combined set score of 6-1.

Up next for the Panthers is a meeting with non-conference, in-state foe, Florida Gulf Coast University on Tuesday, Oct. 6, at 7 p.m. The Eagles come into the match with an overall record of 10-7. In their most recent game, they fell to Lipscomb University 3-0; however, the Panthers know not to take them easily.

Senior Eleonora Kazarian, and freshmen Amanda Carroll, are both in the top-five in kills per set in the Atlantic 10 Conference. Meanwhile, freshman Maggie Rick, is second in the A-10 with 9.84 assists per set.

Head Coach Rita Buck-Crockett said, “FGCU is a very good team. They are going to use it as practice for Conference USA games.”

“This game will mark the 11th and final non-conference game of the season, in which the Panthers are 6-4. The team will not think of this as an ordinary game; instead, they’ll use it as practice for Conference USA games. “We’ll do the same that we do for conference. For us, that’s training and it is preparing us for conference,” explained Buck-Crockett.

To close out the homestand, the Panthers will get back to their CUSA schedule and host University of North Carolina at Charlotte on Friday, Oct. 9, at 7 p.m. The 49ers are 5-11 (2-3 C-USA) this season and on a three-game losing streak. They are coming off a close, hard-fought match against Rice University, in which they lost in five sets.

Senior Britney Leigh Held, sophomore Abreia Epps and senior Sarah McDonald, will all be on the Panthers’ watch list. Against Rice, Held finished with 36 assists and Epps and McDonald combined for 30 kills.

Aside from a meeting on Wednesday, Oct. 21, against Louisiana Tech University, the Panthers will not play at home again until Sunday, Nov. 1, when they take on University of Texas at San Antonio. It is important for the team to use its home-court advantage while it lasts.

“It’s important to win, whether it’s home or away. Only eight teams get into the conference tournament, and we want to be one of those eight teams. When we have an advantage to win at home, we need to take advantage of it and go for it,” Buck-Crockett said.

The Panthers have had recent success with their new lineup change. The team is starting four middle blockers: junior Katie Hogan, sophomore Jennifer Ene, senior Gloria Levorin, and sophomore Brianna Gagino. The average height of these blockers is about 6 feet 3 inches, making it very difficult for other teams to hit successfully. The team is 2-0 so far with this lineup.

**Football**

**Panthers predicted to rebound in next game**

**JAMES TAKES**

**JACOB SPINAK**

Following an ugly, flat out unacceptable loss at the hands of the University of Massachusetts Minutemen last week, FIU faces a crucial must win game this Saturday, Oct. 10.

The Panthers (2-3) will be returning home for their Conference USA home opener against the University of Texas at El Paso Miners (2-3). Both of these teams are underperforming and coming off extremely disappointing losses, looking to save their seasons with a key conference victory.

FIU opened as a major favorite in this game, with the spread running anywhere from 13 to 15 points. Besides the UMass game, the Panthers haven’t played poorly this season. That line is based more on UTEP’s extremely lackluster play than it is on how well FIU had played earlier in the season.

UTEP’s season took a major hit when they lost star running back Amir Epps for the second time this season, improving its record to 6-3 at Lime Court. The Panthers have done this by defeating Marshall University 3-1 on Friday, Oct. 2 and University of Texas at El Paso on Sunday, Oct. 4 with a combined set score of 6-1.

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**Prediction:** FIU defeats UTEP 28-13. Neither team has been all that great on offense this season, especially after UTEP lost their star running back in Jones. As disappointed as I was in FIU’s play a week ago, I see them rebounding in a key conference game. The defense will bounce back in a major way, and the offense will do enough to maintain control and take down the Miners.

“Jake’s Takes” offers commentary on the University football team with predictions or recap of gameplay. For commentary, email Jacob at jacobs.spinak@fiusm.com.
Panthers' chance to reach six wins, another bowl game

Even a win against UCF is definitely a big one for me, they're national qualifiers so the pressure is definitely on," Baron said. “Regardless, we’ve all been working really hard.”

Freshmen Angelo Martinez, Carlos Cardenas and Robert Warnington all really bring something great to the table. With talent ranging from Japan to the United States, there’s no doubt that this dedicated team will make it to the top.

“Coach Warmington is an amazing coach; the team really has a lot to offer,” Joshua Baron FIU Wrestling.

The Panthers have four more home games, including the one against UTEP. Thaly and the Homecoming game against Old Dominion University, University of North Carolina at Charlotte, and WK. Also the Panthers need quality wins as well. As I mentioned earlier their two losses were against UCF and still haven't won a game yet and NCCU, an FCS School. Those were gimmies!

It would have been a huge win for the Panthers if they defeated Indiana, a team that almost defeated the defending national champions and number one ranked Ohio State University Buckeyes. And they could have beaten Louisiana Tech’s team, who are projected to not only win the West division of C-USA, but probably the whole conference. The Panthers were at least talented enough to hang around and not get blown out against those teams.

Even a win against UMass would have helped their chances. It's not a quality team like Indiana or LA Tech, but it would have given them three wins and they would have needed three more wins to be bowl eligible.

Although Baron was unable to fulfill the plan he initially had in mind, he has slowly come to realize that he's grown to love his school. “I love attending FIU, and I love the team,” says Baron. “Coach Warmington is an amazing coach; the team really has a lot to offer.”

An exciting season for the Panthers approaches as the team prepares for matches against USF, UCF, UWF, and schools from across Georgia.

And the NCAA could take away their division one privilege and downgrade the Panthers to a sub-division team if the fans don’t attend home games. I believe this team can turn it around despite digging themselves in a deep hole. This is our opportunity as we reach the second half of the season. The Panthers begin their second conference game and second home game against UTEP this Saturday at 12 p.m.

Pete’s Picks offers commentary on football games, player and standings. For commentary, email Peter at sports@fiu.com.
Swimming off to a first place start

LOUIS AGUDELO
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The reigning Conference USA women's soccer champions, FIU Panthers, began their team defense this last weekend in Jacksonville, and did so without Helen Long.

The FIU women's swim and dive team defeated a UNF squad that included 10 Florida natives 168-90, and topped GSU and their overwhelming 12 member freshman class 153-103, while posting 11 first place finishes this last Saturday, Oct. 3. Although Head Coach Randy Horner made it very clear that he said his team weren't very worried about results going into their first meet saying that it would be seen more as an opportunity for his swimmers to work on their technique and get a bit more training in, no one's smile shone brighter immediately following the team's dominance than Horner.

With everything going on around the defending champs, team spirit is the best it has ever been.

According to coach Horner that could prove to be very valuable for the long season ahead of this team.

Saturday was only the first of the eleven meets Florida International Intercollegiate will compete in, before C-USA championships at the end of February.

The Panthers will take part in the second meet of the seasons when they host Dual-A-Palooza in just a couple short weeks from today.

The dual meet will host the visiting Rice University Owls, the University of Miami Hurricanes, and the Florida Atlantic Owls at the University of Miami Aquatic Center.

It will be a two day event starting Saturday October 16th at FIU’s home pool, the Biscayne Bay Aquatic Center.

It will certainly be interesting to see if FIU approaches this meet as just another meet, or a chance to set the tone for the rest of the season, and perhaps the decade against their toughest in-conference competition in University Owls, Hurricanes, Owls, Miami, and Florida Atlantic.

Design for PortMiami soccer stadium revealed

ANDRES VIGLUCI & PATRICIA MAZZEI
TNS Staff

A group led by retired English soccer star David Beckham is set to unveil its design for a European-style, open-air football stadium at PortMiami that would frame full-frontal views of the ocean at daytime and bayfront at night, undulating an canopy layer and create a new public plaza reminiscent of Europe's Spanish Steps at the water's edge on Biscayne Bay.

The release of the proposed stadium renderings and their associated "wow" factor, scheduled for Monday, is intended to build support for locating the home of Beckham's new Major League Soccer franchise on a site, at the southwest corner of Dodge Island, that would frame full-frontal views of the ocean at daytime and bayfront at night, undulating an canopy layer and create a new public plaza reminiscent of Europe's Spanish Steps at the water's edge on Biscayne Bay.

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