FIU and UM collect data to make housing affordable

JULIE WALSH
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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, assistant provost for community and civic 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.

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.

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

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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.

The state government just can neither depend on the federal nor state government 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.

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GUETHISHNA ALTENA
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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 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, 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.

FIU and UM collect data to make housing affordable

Knowing Tomorrow

Freshman marine biology major Katrina Abel tables at the presentation held by FIU’s Climate Reality Project at the Green Library breezeway.

CALSA hosts second annual school supplies drive

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Contributing Writer
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NATION & WORLD BRIEFS

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.

Court orders EPA to revise ship ballast discharge regulations

Russian warplanes on bombing runs over Syria twice entered Turkish airspace over the weekend, causing “extreme damage 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.

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The Beacon is published on Mondays, Wednesdays and Thursdays during the fall and spring semesters and once a week during summer. The Beacon is an independent, student-run newspaper published at Florida International University. The Beacon is partially funded by student and service fees that are appropriated by student government.

Serving the students and community of FIU.

FIU and UM preserve housing affordability

DATA, PAGE 1

to provide money for construction or rental subsidies,” said Murray. “Therefore, the county governments are left to handle the affordable housing, locally... We have to come up with very creative solutions.” Bachin said that the SFHSC can replace popular perception and allow elected officials, public policy makers and neighborhood non-profit organizations to look over housing needs.

The consortium will make data and objective analysis, the process of evaluating data using analytical and logical reasoning to examine a particular problem. It will be presented to officials to give them an idea of how quickly develop housing strategies that can meet the needs of neighborhoods in Florida. Policy makers and community organizations may know when a particular neighborhood might have units of affordable housing.

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 as well as music from T-shirts and rainbow pins.

George Escobar, a political science major, said that the National Coming Out Day event will give people incentive to be who they are instead of conforming to a social norm.

“Probably it is not as prevalent as it was before, but the ideology is still out there,” Escobar said. “You can change the law, but you cannot change the people, and that is the important part.” The event will take place Friday, Oct. 9 from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. at the Graham Center Pit at the Madeson A. Maidique Campus.

University celebrates Coming Out Day

GRETIEL RAMOS FIAD

Contributing Writer

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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 LGBTQ community; however, it will be open to anyone who wants to show support through rainbows and cheers, said Jazmine Clifton, multicultural programs graduate assistant. Participants at the event will visualize the process of the LGBTQ 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 LGBTQ 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

Multicultural programs

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

Jazmine Clifton considers multicultural programs

The door sketch is both humorous and serious.

The Beacon – Thursday, October 8, 2015
LEAD THE TRIBE

ANA BARBOS
Contributing Writer
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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. 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 Martínez 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.

A French publisher by the name of Hachette has published a collection of twenty volumes of coloring books, titled Anti-Thérapie, with a variety of drawings such as butterflies, flowers, cupcakes, graffiti and psychedelic patterns. Coloring books have also trended in Spain as the Spanish cartoonist, Antonio Fragas, published his named Coloritor. 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 Bookstores store, 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 be 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’

MICHELLE MARCHANTE
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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 how automatic 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 humankind’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 own 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 if the sole reason for friendships comes from survival in terms of genetics and that’s legit, what does that mean in reference to when you lose a friendship?

Following the new view scientists have of humans being metagenomic, meaning that we’re not just a combination of our own genes but of the genes of people with whom we closely associate with then that means our genetic makeup suddenly went through some type of rapid mutation which made us become incompatible?

Friendship is a curious thing and scientists are curious people but 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 purest sense of the word.

When it comes to the nature of friendships, even if science is right we are a flawed species-they only form through DNA compatibility, it doesn’t seem really matter because at the end of the day, we choose to be friends with someone, we choose to create memories with them and we choose to make them important figures in our lives.

The best part about this scientific discovery though is that the next time your family asks you if you always have to hang out with your friends, you can look at them with a straight face and say, “they’re essential to my survival,” and actually mean it.
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 much that they reached out to the Florida Special Olympics and asked if they could host an event with.”

Philadelphia Special Olympics replied with an email that went through the Honors College to Nick Kinslow. They accepted the offer and scheduled the event for Oct. 6, 2015.

“This is put behind one game. Unfortunately, Madden NFL 16 review: "Roughing the passer"

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Ellen Page embraces open life, could not be happier

“People close to me keep reminding me that I am not different. I am who I am.”

Ellen Page

Ryan Murphy reinvigorates television horror again
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 on 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 throw way too many short passes. As long as the offensive line can finally play up to their ability, and this game certainly has potential for that to happen.”

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 CASA 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 to the conference tournament, and we want to be one of those eight teams. When we have an advantage, 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 Enie, senior Gloria Levorin, and sophomore Brianna Gogins. 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.
Wrestling club gears up for season

ERIKA SEMPRUN
Contributing Writer

The Panthers have four more home games, including the one against UTEP. Thaily next three are the Homecoming game against Old Dominion University, University of North Carolina at Charlotte, and WK. Also, the Panthers need to keep winning to gain the confidence and rhythm they had in the beginning.

Those are the quality teams the Panthers have left on their schedule. Not saying it’s impossible to beat the two heavyweights in their division, but getting a win from one of them if not both can most likely guarantee them a bowl bid.

But the Panthers offense is below average and needs to step it up the rest of the season if they want to get six wins. Even though the defense is under achieving and there are players injured, they are ranked number 42 overall in total defense. But the defense can’t bail them out every game when they need to, and the offense has to find a way to get in scoring position.

After the UMass game, Head Coach Ron Turner apologized to Panther Nation for what he called an “embarrassment.” Penalties played a key role in the loss to UMass. Now the Panthers have 38 total penalties this season, which is ranked 18 in the country. They give up 325 total yards in penalties, which is ranked number 31 in the country. It’s quite funny how Turner stresses about playing disciplined football but there is no execution from the players.

With all these stats, it would be near impossible for the Panthers to have a winning season. It could not only affect the team, but Turner’s job might be in jeopardy as he only has five wins throughout his two seasons as head coach.

The two wins from UCF, UWF, and schools that the team prepared for at Charlotte and WK. Those were gimmies!

The Panthers started with the number one ranked Ohio national champions and defeated Indiana, a team that the Panthers can still fulfill their destiny.

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.

“Our match 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 Warmington 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.

The Beacon – Thursday, October 8, 2015

Pete’s Picks offers commentary on football games, player and standings. For commentary, email Peter at sports@fiusm.com.
Design for PortMiami soccer stadium revealed

LOUIS AGUDELO
Special to the Beacon

The reigning Conference USA champions and FIU Panthers began their title defense this last weekend in Jacksonville, and did so without their star player.

The FIU women’s swim and dive team defeated a UNF squad that included 10 Florida natives 168-81 and topped GSU, and their overwhelming 12 member freshman class 155-103, while posting 11 first place finishes this last Saturday, Oct. 3. Although Head Coach Randy Horner made it very clear that he and 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 over 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 season 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.

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 can keep the win 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 recent memory.

The University of Miami Hurricanes, and the Florida Atlantic Owls.

can now enjoy.

spectacular vista, Alschuler said, downtown -- providing visitors a location that looks back toward Dodge Island and open terraces. It would also have dining and retail establishments, maybe a Beckham museum, and shops, maybe a Beckham museum, and open terraces. It would also have a nightclub open year-round to the public.

“We have a chance to do something special,” Alschuler said.

“It can be one of the great stadiums.”

The contemplated site has raised opposition from key port tenant Royal Caribbean Cruises, whose headquarters abuts the site, and some Miami-Dade County commissioners who are concerned it could bring more traffic to the port and interfere with port operations or future expansion. A Royal Caribbean spokeswoman did not respond to an email seeking comment on the plans.

Alschuler concedes that the site poses complex “landlord-tenant issues,” including where to put parking for more than 5,000 cars.

But he says traffic and scheduling talks with the Marlins. But the key player would be the city, and Mayor Tomas Regalado has said he is not inclined to turn over public land to a soccer team without voter approval.

The FIU site had not been mentioned before, and seems unlikely, considering that the university would like to expand into the park fairgrounds and already faces a fight with the Miami-Dade County Fair over use of the property.

Also for the first time, Beckham’s group acknowledged an interest in potentially overseeing the development of the rest of the port site, at the southwest corner of Dodge Island, where port administrators have been looking to build a massive office and commercial district to bring in new revenue.

The 7 million-square-foot plan port administrators have pitched for the site, Alschuler contends, is unfeasible and would badly hurt downtown Miami, which is already struggling with high office-vacancy rates. Instead, the team believes the soccer stadium and plaza would leave enough space for construction of about 1 million square feet of ancillary development, including a hotel, restaurants and shops.

“We’re the way to square the circle of how you get development here, but not pose a threat to downtown,” Alschuler said.

Arquitectonica’s stadium renderings show four accompanying buildings on the western portion of the parcel. These are conceptual and meant only to suggest how a fully developed site might look, Alschuler and Arquitectonica principal Bernardo Font-Brescia said.

The group does not want to actually build out the commercial projects, Alschuler stressed. But it would be willing to serve as the site’s “master developer,” charging the county a fee to create a plan for the property and manage it. Developers would bid competitively for projects, which would be awarded by the county commission and pay market rents to county government.

“This is county land,” Alschuler said. “It should be open and competitively bid.”

The mix of uses and open space on the site, he said, satisfies requirements set by Miami-Dade Mayor Carlos Gimenez and would ensure it will be a vital, active part of downtown Miami. Stadiums plunked down by themselves without a broader development strategy usually fail to improve their surroundings.

“When done poorly, a stadium can be an anti-urban object, and there’s lots of examples of that,” he said.

The financing of the stadium, however, would not depend on the accompanying development, Alschuler said. The team says it will cover stadium construction without county funds and pay rent for the land, though it is seeking a sales-tax rebate from the state like the one granted to other professional sports franchises in Florida. The group has a construction cost estimate, Alschuler said, but he declined to reveal it.

Still to be determined, he said, is how the cost of public improvements, such as the pedestrian path, a busway and the plaza, would be covered. He said it should split in some equitable proportion between the team and local government.

The team also cannot afford to pay for a multi-story parking garage by itself, but has proposed sharing one with Royal Caribbean. To make room for it, the stadium could provide accommodation for the cruise company’s daycare center, which sits directly east of the stadium site, Alschuler said.

The Beckham group is also in “active discussions” with the University of Miami about sharing the stadium with the Hurricanes football team, which now plays at the Miami Dolphins’ Sun Life Stadium under a long-term lease. That would require the soccer stadium, now designed for about 20,000 to 25,000 spectators, to grow to about 40,000 seats, complicating the parking picture and scheduling, he said.

The group expects to decide within 60 days whether the UM idea is feasible, Alschuler said.