Extended dining hours will benefit University residents

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Florida International University has a vast number of eating establishments on campus to accommodate students living on campus. These students usually live on campus for the entire semester, and are sometimes on campus and in their dorms over the breaks.

Jose Sirven, president of the Residential Hall Association, says these students are the highest number attending campus restaurants since they are the closest and most convenient places to find food.

Sirven explains “there are students who are on campus 24/7, and work, then need to find a place to eat when they come home.” This is an issue the Residential Hall Association has been attempting to resolve over the last few months.

Sirven, a sophomore majored in international relations, has been at the head of negotiations with Aramark and the University to extend the hours of operation of the on-campus food places.

“We started off with a lot of research and then actually managed to speak with President Rosenberg about the issue we were facing.”

RHAs research showed that a recurring issue students seemed to be facing was the early closing hours for most eating establishments on campus.

Erica Phillips, a senior Asian Studies major, says, “I remember being a freshman and hating that either nothing was open on the weekends or that, if something was open, it would always close super early.”

Sirven explains “after that step we have a meeting with representatives from Aramark, who actually interviewed me asking what we would need.”

According to Sirven, the process was long and difficult, “We had to find ways of getting feedback from the students, once we had that we started sending out surveys and getting as many people to fill them out as possible to show the need for the extension of hours.”

Aramark then came to an agreement with the University and its food providers, as well as the Office of Residential Life and RHA, to extend the hours.

Fresh Food now closes at 9 p.m. on weekends, which Sirven says is a small step in their future plans.

Phillips says, “I don’t go to Fresh Foods as much as I used to because I don’t have the unlimited plan that I had while I was a freshman, but even still I love the fact that Fresh has extended hours.”

Some students don’t even have kitchens in their dorms so they need to find a place to eat,” Sirven says. He adds that “this is only the first step” something he insists on pointing out.

“The goal is that perhaps one day we can get some places to stay open 24/7 for students.”

Sirven says, “Students have different working hours and some come home late at night from their shifts, so it would be good to have a place for them to eat instead of having to make food at that time, especially if they don’t have a kitchen in their dorm or work on weekends.”

RHA is working not only on the project of further extending dining hours, but also on a free transportation system to get the residents easier access to other locations around the university. Sirven says that he and his team are working hard.

“We and the students have been disgruntled, but know we will make this possible one day. There’s definitely a lot more to come.”

RHA addresses resident Wi-Fi complications

MORGAN BENNOIT
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Florida International University is attempting to tackle the current issue of unreliable internet connections within the dormitory halls. Internet connection is a concern for most students on the University campus.

FIU is taking this problem into consideration to reach a solution by pinpointing the core cause of the poor connection. The cause could possibly result from the large amount of devices and wireless printers being used.

A large sum of students throughout the housing facilities depend upon the internet for course assignments, cellular devices and personal needs. Without a dependable and consistent internet connection, this can pose as a serious problem for the housing department, hindering the residents. Jose Sirven, president of the Residential Hall Association, discusses the effects of poor connection.

“Some of our students cannot study in their rooms because of the quality of the Wi-Fi connection or lack thereof. Some students are still frustrated with the Wi-Fi.”

Concerned students are instructed to contact the Division of IT so that they can aid with the issue at hand.

According to Joe Paulick, director of Housing, “Wi-Fi in on-campus housing is challenging at all universities. On-campus housing Wi-Fi is provided by the Division of IT. Housing had provided resources to the Division of IT to upgrade Wi-Fi in housing.”

Paulick discussed how a survey was conducted in order to discover the weak points, stating “Division of IT added new access points where weak areas where found. Access points were also adjusted in location to provide better coverage.”

Housing is further reinforcing their actions by partnering with the Residence Hall Association, the governing council of the on-campus community. As RHA President, Sirven has a huge responsibility to serve the residents of FIU.

He describes what his role entails stating, “As RHA President, it is my responsibility to advocate for the 3,200 students who live on campus whose voices can sometimes fall on deaf ears. My amazing team and I work to create a sense of community on campus through programming. We also participate in conferencing.”

In order to continue advocating for the students, he must ensure that their concerns are addressed and resolved to its full extent.

The RHA partnership with the housing department titled “New Year New Wi-Fi,” allows students to directly contact the RHA to identify problem areas.

The flyer states that residents are to email RHA with information containing your hall and room number to explain the situation.

Once this is completed, housing will send out a technician to solve the problem.

Certain weak spots on campus are hard to detect through IT, which explains the importance of students reaching out and bringing awareness to where and what their technical issue is.

Sirven reports that the new system is being utilized by many students, “It has proven beneficial for the students who have been sending us the emails. We encourage all of the students who email us to fill out the online IT WiFi Troubleshooting Form.”

Other actions have been taken by housing in the process of resolution.

According to Sirven, “Housing has upgraded all of the hardware in all of the buildings, placing a router in each room. We are working with IT to fix the spots where there is no or bad service.”

“Housing uses the Division of IT to give the students Wi-Fi access. I congratulate Housing Director Paulick and the Division of IT for their continued attention and for advocating on our behalf to address the issue,” he says.

Though this may not be an easy task, the housing department and RHA stress that they are aware of what issues need to be fixed pertaining to Wi-Fi and are currently working to provide every resident with reliable access to the internet.
Students keen on social issues

TERESA WATANABE
Los Angeles Times

Today’s American college freshman is more liberal, less religious and increasingly committed to civic involvement and political activism compared with those in previous generations, according to a national survey by researchers at the University of California, Los Angeles. Nearly 60 percent of freshmen said they expected to vote sometime during their college years, and majorities supported same-sex marriage, abortion rights, affirmative action, legalization of marijuana and equal pay for women. They also overwhelmingly opposed U.S. involvement in other countries’ wars.

“Collectively, the findings suggest more students are committed to social justice,” said Kevin Eagan, director of UCLA’s cooperative institutional research program, which has conducted the annual American Freshman survey for 50 years.

“That may be why they are the most politically engaged of any of the previous 49 classes,” says Eagan.

The results released last week showed that one-third of those surveyed said they were “liberal” or “far left,” the highest proportion in four decades, while one-fifth described themselves as “conservative” or “far right.”

But their attitudes were markedly different according to race and ethnicity. Although interest in political and civic activism has grown among all students, African-American and Latino students were far more likely than Asians and whites to expect to participate in a campus demonstration. They were also more likely to believe it important to promote racial understanding and influence politics.

For instance, only 6 percent of Asians planned to participate in a protest or felt it important to influence politics, compared with more than twice that share for African-American and Latino students.

The UCLA researchers said the heightened interest in political activism could be the result of students witnessing the recent wave of protests against police shootings of African-American men and student demonstrations against campus treatment of minorities at Claremont McKenna College and Occidental College in Southern California, the University of Missouri and elsewhere.

Whether the enhanced political interest will affect the presidential election this year is another matter.

Although Barack Obama received a record turnout of young voters in 2008, and won the backing of 66 percent of those under 30 years old, young people still have the lowest voting rates of any age group.

“We certainly see students embracing more of the progressive perspectives,” Eagan said. “But will it actually translate to action?”

“If they organize, protest and show up at the polls, they may have a role in shaping the public discourse on issues related to social inequality, equity and citizenship.”

By contrast, if these students do not follow through on their intentions and goals, the enthusiastic support seen in 2008 for addressing social justice concerns will likely diminish, eliminating the potential for a broader impact in politics or American life.”

The researchers surveyed more than 143,000 freshmen, full-time students who entered their first year of four-year U.S. colleges and universities in 2015. Despite their overall embrace of liberal views, today’s freshmen are more likely to support restrictions on free speech - a trend that has led to controversial student movements to disinvite commencement speakers, disrupt presentations by those with unpopular views and demand “trigger warnings” before uttering potentially uncomfortable speech.

The UCLA researchers blame for banning racist and sexist speech on campus reached 70.9 percent in 2015, up from 58.9 percent in 1992. And 43 percent of those surveyed said colleges should have the right to ban extreme speakers, up from 25 percent in 1971.

Eagan said he understood student concerns that derogatory speech could lead to violence or harm students.

“At the same time, institutions need to make sure we aren’t insulating students from ideas that may be counter to their narratives,” he said.

The proportion of students who did not affiliate with a religion grew to 29.5 percent, an all-time high since the survey began. Freshmen also continued to report that they studied more and partied less in their last year of high school than previous classes.

For the first time, the survey asked students about their sexual orientation and gender identity and found that those who described themselves as bisexual, gay, lesbian, queer or “other” more frequently felt depressed and overwhelmed than the 93.2 percent of students who said they were heterosexual.

The survey also asked questions about financial aid for the first time.

It found that more than a quarter of freshmen received a federal Pell Grant, an annual award of up to $5,775 for low-income students, and they were disproportionately Latino and African-American. Those students worried far more often than others about their ability to pay for college and had to scramble more to take out loans, find work-study jobs and seek other ways to foot their educational bills.

The UCLA institute plans to release another analysis in June that will provide more detail about how college freshmen have changed over the past 50 years of the surveys.
The struggle between love and friendship

According to the New York Times, e-book sales skyrocketed up 128 percent between 2008 and 2010. By the time Borders closed its doors in 2011, experts were convinced that printed books would be obsolete by 2016.

We're now in 2016 and the publishing industry has been comforting itself with the discovery that those predictions seem to be wrong-for now. According to a December analysis report by Nielsen BookScan, a data provider used by many in the industry, 571 million print books were sold in 2015, yet e-books, which experts had predicted would reach 50 to 60 percent of total book sales this year, barely reached the sale mark of 25 percent.

Living in a technology-dominated era, these numbers may sound confusing, as tablets, computers, e-readers and other technological devices are no doubt the most popular consumer purchases throughout the year. Yet those familiar with the history of books will know that its shift in the battle is nothing natural.

Before the production of what we've come to know as a book, society used to have manuscripts, which would normally be made of animal skins known as parchment, instead of paper. For a time, people could choose to either buy parchment manuscripts or printed paper books; but it looked like the printed book would be a passing trend.

The process changed after the invention of the Gutenberg Press and the appearance of more paper mills, making the production of printed books cheaper and faster until they take the norm.

Today, it might look like history is repeating itself with the battle between printed vs. digital. People naturally assumed that this new way of reading would be the new old but according to university professor, Heather Blatt, this isn’t the case.

When print technology initially developed, we can see scholars looking back on that period...treated this form of transformative experience as if it would lead to the overturning of manuscript traditions but...more than 150 years after the introduction of the printing press we can see...other traditions of manuscript practices continuing even into the 20th century...and preserve that kind of handwritten manuscript tradition,” Blatt said to FIUSM student media.

“The initial prediction of the demolition of the printed book and the print book market were heavily overestimated and it continues to have a very hard and even quite thriving tradition in contrast to the notion of the book.”

At the same time, Blatt recognizes the “aesthetic” appeal of e-books that physical books can’t match such as its award-winning electronic novel, “Pride,” where readers actually open the character’s eyes to get the text.

While battle for survival isn’t for a first the physical book and it certainly won’t be the last, physical books won’t be going anywhere.

According to Blatt, the book has been significant in Western Europe for at least 2,000 years and its success is due to a variety of different things such as the way we associate the physical act of holding a book with memories or emotions and most importantly, its durability.

“We've seen it tested over 500 years that if it's made out of good material, a book can last quite a long time and we have a lot of examples of literature where e-books actually mean that the [book] won’t be there,” Blatt said. “Although it might be possible to encode the data for centuries, there's no means to preserve that kind of handwritten manuscript tradition.”

Blatt said to FIUSM student media.

The person that makes your heart skip twice is a fate countless succumb to. The problem is that the representative is not the real you, leading the relationship to end after down the road due to the driver looking over and realizing that they've been riding with a stranger. Friends, however, can get away with a lot. If you're looking at a girl, she might not even notice.

There's more communication between friends than with couples. Think about who people talk to about their future. It's not all about choosing between a partner or a friend.
Latin fraternity hosts Valentine’s Day fundraiser

JAY VANPARIAS
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Forgetting to buy a gift for your Valentine is a potential blow to all the time and love you invested in your relationship. Luckily for Panther couples, the Phi Iota Alpha fraternity along with the Student Veterans of America came to the rescue. Working together, they organized a fundraising event, in which they sold a variety of Valentine’s gifts.

The event was held at night in the Graham Center pit, Feb. 11. “We are basically trying to do a bit of fundraising for ourselves and getting everybody to interact socially,” said Israel Najarro, a member of the Phi Iota Alpha fraternity and a Student Veterans of America social chair.

“This does not happen very often that Greek culture and the veterans need a help,” said Israel Najarro, a member of the Phi Iota Alpha fraternity and a Student Veterans of America social chair.

According to him, it can be tough to juggle between the two duties, but that is how you learn to multitask.

The event was a success due to the hard work and determination put in by the participants and it is great to have them uplift the panther spirit of students.

Valentine’s Day gifts on display during Phi Iota Alpha and Student Veterans of America fundraiser.

For those into the art of cosplay, the convention hosted multiple costume and cosplay events, including costume contests that let fans show off and decide whose outfits were the best! From the colorful world of comics from DC to Marvel, to the science-fiction gear of the Federation and a galaxy far, far away, there were outfits from every show, film, or franchise that one could imagine.

Magic City Comic-Con

hosted convention at Miami airport convention center

One of the guests of honor at the Magic City Comic-Con, which featured two big names from the Force Awakens, the convention hosted a reunion of the hit classic film Star Wars: The Phantom Menace. Stars like Liam Neeson as Qui-Gon Jinn, Ewan McGregor as Obi-Wan Kenobi, and Ewan McGregor as Obi-Wan Kenobi, among others, who were enthralled to find every kind of item that their heart desired and for great prices, too! For those into the art of cosplay, the convention hosted multiple costume and cosplay events, including costume contests that let fans show off and decide whose outfits were the best! From the colorful world of comics from DC to Marvel, to the science-fiction gear of the Federation and a galaxy far, far away, there were outfits from every show, film, or franchise that one could imagine.

Bill Nye the Science Guy listens to questions from excited science fans during Magic City Comic-Con in January.

This event was a success due to the hard work and determination put in by the participants and it is great to have them uplift the panther spirit of students.

If unable to attend, there will be plenty of conventions to attend in Florida throughout the year, such as Megacon (May 26-29), and the Florida Supercon, already hosting a large guest list with names from Star Wars, Star Trek and Harry Potter.

For books and books is a weekly column about literary events, for comments and suggestions, please contact collin.simpson@fiusm.com

One of the guests of honor of this show was no other than famed scientist, Bill Nye, best known as the host of the Disney/PBS children’s science show Bill Nye the Science Guy. He only appeared on Friday, hosting a Q&A on the Main Stage 3 – 3:45pm.

The con was also selling copies of his new book, Unstoppable: Harnessing Science to Change the World. Nye hosted a signing from 4-7pm. He would only sign copies of his book, which were pre-ordered online or bought at the convention.

Magic City Comic-Con

held something for everyone. From bins full of discounted comics to tables and racks covered in rare and detailed figurines, Shoppers were enthralled to find every kind of item that their heart desired and for great prices, too! For those into the art of cosplay, the convention hosted multiple costume and cosplay events, including costume contests that let fans show off and decide whose outfits were the best! From the colorful world of comics from DC to Marvel, to the science-fiction gear of the Federation and a galaxy far, far away, there were outfits from every show, film, or franchise that one could imagine.

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Although it first premiered at the Telluride Film Festival back in September 2015, Lenny Abrahamson’s suspenseful family drama Room has now been given a wide release in the United States for movie fans all across the country to properly enjoy. 

The film is based on Emma Donoghue’s novel of the same name and was written by the author herself. It tells the story of a 24-year-old mother Joy and her 5-year-old son Jack who are being held captive in a tiny, makeshift shed that they call Room. This is all that Jack knows about the world as he was born inside Room and has never left, only the signs of life outside are a tiny skylight and the television they are allowed to watch. 

Their captor is actually Jack’s father who abducted Joy when she was teenager and repeatedly raped her while holding them captive inside the secret shed attached to his house. A week after Jack’s fifth birthday Joy believes he is now old enough to help them escape their desperate and horrifying situation. 

Since the films premiere and its subsequent limited release, Room has been sweeping up awards quicker than they can be given out. The movie has garnered four Academy Award nominations, and this wider release makes sense as a way to get this low budget film more exposure leading up to Oscar night. 

Casting child actors are always among Hollywood’s more difficult aspects of production, especially when the character is such a prominent part of the story. The film almost entirely rests on the tiny shoulders of Jacob but he knows it out of the park with incredible tenderness and emotional range. 

The movie as a whole can be broken down in a number of ways. You may look at it in a classic crime thriller containing all the conventional ideas of kidnapping, torture and eventual escape attempts. But when you look deeper into the meaning of the story you start to think about ‘Family’ and what that word actually means to all of us. 

The types of emotions that can be conjured up when thinking about our families can sometimes be overwhelming but there is a comfort that I believe each of us finds in realizing the true meaning of the word and how it fits into our lives. 

Jack knows nothing about the real world up to this point. But then again, which one of us really knew anything when we were that young? 

As amazing as their situation is, you can certainly make parallels to other types of situations and how you might have grown up to escape a ‘Room’ of your own. Through clever storytelling and fascinating character explorations finding success because of its connection to anyone still finding a path to true happiness. 

Room is now playing at a Theater near you. 

Sick Ficks is a weekly column that provides reviews on newly released obscure and independent films. To offer suggestions for David, send an email entertainment@fiusm.com. 

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**DIIV’s frontman’s addiction contained in new album**

**SICK FICKS**

DIIV has released their highly anticipated sophomore album, Is the Is Are. The band takes a somewhat unexpected route that complements their well known sound of heavy reverb and wailing guitar riffs that are highly reminiscent of 90’s alternative bands such as Sonic Youth, Nirvana, and the Boo Radleys.

White, also incorporating their familiar indie rock style, the album contains catchy upbeat rhythms and dreamy melodies that can easily be attached to their unique sound.

Claiming to not diverge from the same style he has been known for in his debut effort, ‘Oshin’ in 2012, lead singer Zachary Cole Smith suggests that the album focuses on the importance in lyricism to create powerful vocals that stand up to a mixture of sounds that can speak of despair and redemption.

Smith’s new album makes a clear statement that this is DIIV, and that this is what DIIV will always sound like.

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The softball team won their final four games of the Juicelbendtz Invitational Tournament, which they hosted at Felserg Field this weekend.

The Panthers went 4-1 overall, only dropping their first game to the nationally ranked 10 Florida State Seminoles.

The action kicked off Friday, Feb. 12, against the Seminoles, in what was a tightly contested matchup for the first five innings.

The game was all tied up heading into the top of the sixth inning, with both teams bringing in unearned runs off errors. In the sixth, another throwing error gave FSU the 2-1 advantage, and it stayed this way heading into the last inning of play.

Florida State then ensued to break the game wide open, scoring five runs and going on to win 7-1. Three errors haunted the Panthers, and Corinne Jenkins, the leader of the pitching rotation, dropped to 0-1 with 3 ERA after the game.

The Panthers had no time to dwell, as they had a doubleheader Saturday, Feb. 13. The first game of the day was against St. Johns, with Abby Summers starting at the mound.

FIU found themselves in an early deficit at the top of the second, but a 1-0 lead was nothing to be concerned about. FIU took the lead just a half inning later after Kyleigh Musa brought in two runs with a single. The Panthers went on to dominate the game, with another run in the bottom of the fourth and three more in the bottom of the fifth. Summers picked up her first win, allowing 9 hits but only one run, with four strikeouts in 7 innings.

The second game of the evening featured FIU against University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign. The Panthers were once again down early in the contest, as the Illini took a 1-0 lead after the first inning. However, in the bottom of the second inning, FIU bounced back with a 2-1 lead. The Illini were able to tie the game heading into a big fourth inning.

A four run fourth inning was highlighted with one of the most electrifying plays in all of sports. Enter Stephanie Texeira with a runner on second base. Texeira knocked one straight into left field. A few bounces and dings later, Texeira recorded a two RBI inside-the-park homerun.

A 6-5 FIU lead was quickly cut after Illinois recorded their own inside the park homerun after the ball sailed straight over the second baseman in a throwing error. However, FIU added some cushion in the fifth, taking an 8-5 lead. In the sixth, Texeira got another home run, but this one sailing over the fences, and the Panthers took a 10-5 lead into the final inning of play.

The final rally by Illinois wasn’t enough, and FIU went on to win 10-8. Jenkins allowed two runs, but picked up her first win of the season. Hunter Scharf was awarded the save for the Panthers. FIU was prepared to close the weekend on a strong note against Long Island University - Brooklyn and Valparaiso. Rachel Dwyer, the sophomore pitcher, took the mound in the first game of the afternoon against LIU. Dwyer went on to pitch 4.2 innings with just one earned run. She walked two, but was able to earn the win at the end of it all, her first of the season.

The Panthers dominated the first match of the day. LIU was unable to stop the Panther hitting, which scored in the first three innings. The lead was 6-0 before LIU finally got a run in. With a 6-2 lead in the sixth, Texeira hit her third homerun of the season as she crushed it over the fences and gave the Panthers a 9-2 lead, which would ultimately be the final score.

The Panthers also had no problem with Valparaiso in the second game of the afternoon. Megan Kugelmann got her first career start for FIU, pitching with one earned run and five strikeouts in five innings.

With the game out of hand, the run rule put the game to an end in the fifth inning as FIU went on to win 9-1. Three Panther managed to get 2 hits in the game, while Lauren Williams led the squad with 3 RBI’s.

The Panthers went 2-0 for the day and would end the tournament on a great note. 28 combined runs in a 3 game span is a positive remark for Head Coach Gator Rebbin and his girls, with a 4-1 overall record heading into the next slate of games.

FIU will host the Panther invitational this weekend, as Indiana, Holy Cross, and Delaware will visit sunny South Florida to be a part of the tournament. The first game for FIU will be Friday, Feb. 19, at 4:30 p.m. against Holy Cross, and then at 7 p.m. with the second match a double header against Indiana.
**Men's Basketball**

**Panthers’ win over UTSA ends five game skid**

The Panthers were able to control the tempo of the game even when UTSA was playing a full court press defense and a man-to-man coverage. Even with the Roadrunners’ aggressive defense, point guard Donte McGill was able to slice through the defense and lead the Panthers’ offense with 20 points.

For the first half, forward Davion Draper got off to a quick start offensively and ultimately played the entire 40 minute game. Draper was ready for that game knowing that Diaz, who averages the same amount of points per game as Draper, was not going to be starting.

“We still keep the same team concept. We probably had to rebound and focus on rebounding a little more and protecting the paint,” said Draper.

Draper did pick up the rebounding slack as he finished with seven rebounds which were second on the team behind Diaz’s nine boards. He complimented his effort on the boards with scoring 18 points.

In the second half, the Panther’s offense shined. They took a 39-36 lead early in the second half and for the remaining 17 minutes of the game, FIU never gave up the lead and had a double digit lead. The highest lead they had was 17 points thanks to Diaz playing the majority of the second half. Diaz finished off with 17 points and nine rebounds and in limited minutes he was still almost able to pull off a double-double.

This Conference USA win puts FIU one game under .500 in their conference record and keeps them in the middle of the pack in the standings. The Panthers have the opportunity to still move up in the standings with five games left in the season. Evans stressed the importance of the upcoming three game road trip.

“Keep doing what we did yesterday in practice. Just keep working hard. It’s a good team but that doesn’t equal wins if you don’t put the work into it. We have to put the work in consistently,” said Evans.

Following this win, the Panthers will travel back to Texas for the second time this season, where they will face North Texas Thursday, Feb. 18 and Rice Saturday, Feb. 20. From there they will wrap up the regular season with two games at home. The final home games will be Thursday, March 3 at 7 p.m. to face UAB, before taking on Middle Tennessee Saturday, March 5 at 6 p.m. to close out the regular season.

**Beach Volleyball**

**Beach, indoor volleyball differ in strategies**

The relationship and communication that setters have with their hitters is one of the most vital aspects of the game. How will the hitter know what the setter will be doing? Is the hitter going to play a soft or hard set? The setter’s skill and communication level with their hitters will be the deciding factor.

If you haven’t played volleyball, I encourage you to go and give it a shot. Whether it’s with a group of friends or not, you’ll enjoy it.

**Staff Serve** is a column centered around beach volleyball. For commentary or suggestions email Stefano Rivera at sports@fiusm.com.
Leukemia survivor makes mark on tennis team and in Conference USA

Can only Congress prevent climate change?