THE READER'S FORUM

The June 4 Story *UM and FIU to reignite feud at baseball tournament* took a narrow view of the relationship between our institutions. Our two universities play key roles in our community and maintain a close and productive relationship that transcends the sports arena. This relationship is based on mutual respect for each other's institutional mission.

While a little healthy competition is good, we have a number of formal collaborative projects that advance larger interests. In response to the Deepwater Horizon oil spill, researchers from the University of Miami and Florida International University are working together on the Oil Spill Academic Task Force, along with other academic institutions.

UM researchers are using FIU's Advanced Materials Research Facility while FIU medical students train at UM's Michael S. Gordon Center for Research in Medical Education Laboratory. FIU's Latin American and Caribbean Center and the Center for Latin American Studies at UM have formed a consortium and an exchange program that allows Ph.D. students to take classes and select professors to serve on their dissertation committees from either institution.

At this year's Clinton Global Initiative University, President Bill Clinton recognized the Urban Roots Give Life Commitment to Action headed by students from UM and FIU. This project establishes sustainable urban gardens in Haiti.

We meet frequently and informally, with staff and faculty members regularly consulting and supporting each other on matters that range from nursing to legal education.

On the athletic front, our student-athletes have met each other on the playing field almost 70 times in the last decade—and in the spirit of intercollegiate athletics, we look forward to playing each other in the future. In the meantime, the South Florida community will continue to be enriched from our ongoing collaboration.

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President, Florida International University

-DONNA E. SHALALA
President, University of Miami