

ELECTION 2012

Last state standing: Florida votes four more years

BARBARA CORBELLINI DUARTE
Asst. News Director

In a historical night of change, much will stay the same.

On Nov. 6, President Barack Obama was re-elected for four more years. The Senate remains with a majority of Democrats and the House of Representatives keeps a majority of Republicans.

"This was not a surprising result to those that follow credible election forecasts based on important economic indicators and state polls," said Kevin Evans, assistant professor in the Department of Politics and International Relations. "Our system is one that pits factions against one another to intentionally produce conflict. In other words, widespread consensus will be needed to move government."

The race was not as

close as many anticipated. On the afternoon of Nov. 7, Obama had 303 of the electoral votes, winning most of the swing states, including Florida, which was still counting votes on Wednesday afternoon.

However, the country was divided.

Obama had 50.4 percent of the popular vote against 48.4 percent for Mitt Romney on the afternoon of Nov. 7.

"If we are going to see any major policy changes come out of government in the next few years, both sides are going to have to come to the table and find common ground," said Evans. "That will be very difficult, but it is not impossible."

After canvassing for the whole day, Leonardo Curiel, president of the University's College Democrats, watched the elections results at TGI Fridays with other Panthers for Obama

members, a faction of the FIU College Democrats.

Curiel worked for the Obama campaign since June of 2011 and he feels the work of College Democrats on campus made a difference in the elections.

"Almost a year and a half working to get the president re-elected and finally the objective was accomplished," he said. "Not going to lie, it was very hard keeping emotions inside. But I did manage not to cry."

Curiel is confident that in the next four years, Congress and the White House will work closer together, but Evans, who specializes in Congress and presidency studies, thinks it will be difficult to get them to work together.

"Republicans in the House will use their agenda-setting power and ability to use restrictive rules in order to either

SEE PRESIDENT, PAGE 2



MORRY GASH/AP IMAGES

President Barack Obama took the 2012 presidential election with 50.8 percent of the popular vote.

Florida supports three amendments, rejects eight

MELHOR LEONOR
News Director

On the ballot, Floridians were faced with 11 amendments to the Florida Constitution and supported only three.

The amendments that passed are "feel-good amendments," according to Kathryn DePalo, political science professor at the University, in reference to Amendment 2, Amendment 9 and Amendment 11, which provide tax exemptions for veterans, spouses of veterans and seniors.

"These are positive amendments and people don't want to vote against tax exemptions for veterans and seniors," DePalo said.

Among the amendments rejected was Amendment 12, which proposed to create a council of student government presidents that would appoint a student representative to sit on the Florida Board of Governors. The BOG was created to oversee the 12 state universities in the State University System.

Amendment 12 did not find support with Florida voters, with 59 percent of voters against it.

Laura Farinas, Student Government president at the Modesto Maidique Campus who supported the amendment, said that with the amendment rejected, students and legislators "will now have to go back to the drawing board to take action."

"Amendment 12 not passing doesn't solve the problem," Farinas said. "The amendment was an effort to maintain a student run appointment and now there will be conversations about how we can further alter the decision."

The Florida Student Association, which currently sits its president in the BOG, would have had their seat on the board removed if the amendment had passed.

"Either way, [FSA] is going to continue, whether or not they take part in student representation and lobbying," Farinas said, adding that FIU will continue to be part of the organization.

According to DePalo, long lines and lengthy language on the ballot played a factor in the rejection of this amendment, and others.

"A lot of people who stood in line for hours were tired and did not want to vote for changes to the constitutions," DePalo said. "People were going through saying 'no, no, no and... no.'"

Among the amendments also rejected by Florida voters were Amendment 6, which would add to the state constitution an existing federal ban on public funding for most abortions and Amendment 9, which would remove the prohibition that prevents religious institutions from receiving public funding from Florida's Constitution.

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FIU 2013: a new campaign to 'benefit' University

ASHLEY MARTINEZ
Staff Writer

A new campaign is rising in the University community.

Approved through the Senate Resolution 1229 during a senate session last Monday at the Modesto Maidique Campus, the campaign titled FIU 2013 was created in support of both the University and Miami-Dade county's economy.

According to Laura Farinas, president of the Student Government Association at MMC, the campaign's purpose is to increase the student body's awareness of the issues within the state legislature and engage them in being part of the solution.

The campaign is looking to engage local community members, delegation members, elected officials, business owners and students to support and create

awareness of what the state legislature is doing.

To engage these members, the campaign asks members to pledge their support for the campaign.

"The objective is basically a campaign in which supporters can pledge their support for our objective," Farinas said.

Farinas said one of the purposes of the campaign is to have the State Legislature keep their promise in regards to the

one-time \$300 million cut in the State University System and \$24.3 million budget cut from the University.

"This was stated by the state legislature to be a one-time cut," Farinas said. "So what we are doing with this campaign is basically telling them to keep the promise and ensure that it is only going to be a one-time cut."

Farinas said the campaign will also be used to put out information

for the University's benefit.

"We're putting information about the University, like why our student body is unique, not only socio-economic but also demographically through our ethnic diversity and things of that sort," Farinas said.

The campaign needs to promote the University's diversity for it to not be judged equally against the

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ASSOCIATED PRESS

Gay marriage, marijuana backed in historic votes

DAVID CRARY
AP National Writer

Altering the course of U.S. social policy, Maine and Maryland became the first states to approve same-sex marriage by popular vote, while Washington state and Colorado set up a showdown with federal authorities by legalizing recreational use of marijuana.

The outcomes for those ballot measures Tuesday were a milestone for persistent but often thwarted advocacy groups and activists who for decades have pressed the causes of gay rights and drug decriminalization.

“Today the state of Washington looked at 70 years of marijuana prohibition and said it’s time for a new approach,” said Alison Holcomb, manager of the campaign that won passage of Initiative 502 in Washington.

Colorado Gov. John Hickenlooper, a Democrat who opposed legalization, was less enthused. “Federal law still says marijuana is an illegal drug, so don’t break out the Cheetos or Goldfish too quickly,” he said.

The results in Maine and Maryland broke a 32-state streak, dating to 1998, in which gay marriage had been rebuffed by every state that

voted on it. They will become the seventh and eighth states to allow same-sex couples to marry.

In another gay-rights victory, Minnesota voters defeated a proposed constitutional amendment that would banned same-sex marriage in the state. Similar measures were approved in 30 other states, most recently in North Carolina in May.

“The tide has turned — when voters have the opportunity to really hear directly from loving, committed same-sex couples and their families, they voted for fairness,” said Rick Jacobs of the Courage Campaign, a California-based gay rights group. “Those who oppose the freedom to marry for committed couples are clearly on the wrong side of history.”

Washington state also voted on a measure to legalize same-sex marriage, though results were not expected until Wednesday at the soonest.

The outcomes of the marriage votes could influence the U.S. Supreme Court, which will soon consider whether to take up cases challenging the law that denies federal recognition to same-sex marriages. The gay-rights victories come on the heels of numerous national polls that, for the first time, show a majority of Americans supporting same-sex marriage.

BOUNCING IN THE HOUSE



ANDRES BEDOYA/THE BEACON

Silvana Pedrosa, freshman biology major and Daphny Alvarez, junior biomedical engineering major ‘bounce’ to help Phi Sigma Sigma raise money for children’s education.

Close election yields little change in power

PRESIDENT, PAGE 1

block the president’s legislative program or extract concessions important to their party,” Evans said. “Likewise, Republicans in the Senate will use the filibuster, or simply the threat of a filibuster, to frustrate the president’s agenda.”

Working with a divided Congress and a divided country may be one of the major challenges for Obama’s second term.

Norberto Esquivel, a junior majoring in biology who voted

for Gov. Mitt Romney, was not surprised with the national results, but he was surprised when he saw that Miami-Dade county went blue.

“It was surreal to see the amount of Obama supporters around my area,” he said. “I am somewhat disappointed.”

Esquivel hopes to see Congress and the White House working together and wishes the Affordable Care Act, popularly known as Obamacare, to be repealed.

Marlon Velez, a junior double major in history and

philosophy, voted for Obama and feels his vote counted when he saw the close results.

His main concern for the next four years is the economy.

“As a college student, I am worried about the job market when we graduate,” Velez said. “I would like to see more jobs and a better economy from both branches of government.”

Lulete Mola, junior and political science major, is from Minnesota but chose to vote in Florida because she said her vote would hold

more value in Florida than in Minnesota.

She waited four hours in line to vote early for Obama and was nervous while awaiting the results.

For Mola, the economy is not the main priority.

“I would like to see more advocacy for women, education, implementation of Obamacare, the Dream Act and more progressive steps towards gay marriage,” Mola said.

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“ I would like to see more jobs and a better economy from both branches of government ”
Marlon Velez,
Junior
Double Major in
History and Philosophy

THE BEACON

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Campaign invests in Miami-Dade’s economy

CAMPAIGN, PAGE 1

other 12 universities that are present in the Board of Governors when they make decisions regarding tuition increases or, in the case of become an appropriation, give funding.

“We are looking out for our backs to say that when you are appropriating this money, you cannot judge us all equally because if you do the University will definitely get the short end of that stick based on, for example, six-year graduation rates,” Farinas said.

The BOG, an entity appointed by the governor, makes decisions regarding tuition increases and other topics within the Student University System, which includes 12 other state universities.

The campaign emphasizes the fact that, if the BOG is approved as an appropriation committee, the SUS will receive money that could be beneficial for the 12 universities within the BOG.

Since BOG is not an appropriation, the BOG does not receive money, but they do make important decisions on behalf of the University. According to Farinas, the

BOG is seeking to become an appropriation to receive an amount of money and give it to some of the universities based on performance.

Another vision of the campaign is investing in Miami-Dade’s economy.

“Virginia actually did this very well. They actually paid someone at a consulting firm and performed a study which presented the fact that every dollar invested into a student actually yield at sixteen dollars to the local economy,” Farinas said. “We are trying to do the same in emulating what that study yielded based on some numbers that we have to try to make that same statement.”

Alex Castro, vice president for SGA-MMC, said the campaign was “a big push for them.” Castro and Farinas have been working on the campaign since they came to office.

Farinas said she is working with External Relations in hopes of giving out more information on the campaign and its purpose by the end of November to distribute to the local delegations in either December or January so the campaign can start next year.

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THEATRE

Roxy Theatre Group to take audience on magic carpet ride



PHOTO COURTESY OF NORA OÑATE FROM THE ROXY THEATRE GROUP

Michelle Negrin, 19, as Princess Jasmine and Kevin Yungman, 20, as Aladdin in The Roxy Theatre Group's presentation of Disney's "Aladdin, Dual Language Edition."

ALFREDO APARICIO
Staff Writer

Theater-goers will experience a "whole new world" at the Roxy Performing Arts Center's encore presentation of Disney's "Aladdin, Dual Language Edition." The production, which had its premiere in the summer, will be back once more because of its success during its original run.

"The play is colorful, visually stunning and child friendly. It's a story kids are familiar with and we thought it would be a good idea because of its immense appeal," said alumnus Charles Sothers, the theatre arts director who gives life to the Genie.

"The only big production we've seen is the musical spectacular in California, but that production is all in English. This one especially appeals to the Spanish speakers in Miami," said Ana Andreu, University alumna and programs' director, as well as one of the directors of "Aladdin." "The genie even says certain jokes in Spanish," added Sothers.

The production's biggest challenge was the flying carpet, but, with many rehearsals, the production team managed to create a carpet that not only flies around the stage, but is also safe for the leads, Aladdin and Jasmine.

"This is a show with kids, but it's not a kid's show - in the sense that it's top notch," said Sothers. "The audience response was, 'we didn't expect this,' and that level of quality is what we try to achieve every show, even on a tight budget."

Andreu agrees, "That's always our approach because kids are not shy about saying if they don't like something, so we tried to cast people that were similar or matched the Disney characters, but the cast has been excellent and the kids enjoyed seeing it in the summer."

The cast's approach to the characters, however, has been all their own, keeping the production fresh while still providing notable qualities to the characters whom the audience has come to know and love from Disney's version.

"The characters are recognizable, but they're still different enough so you can be entertained with this new interpretation," said Sothers. "It's difficult because the characters are widely known, but you take it as any other character: you give it your own twist and make it your own."

Erik Rodriguez, a junior B.A. theatre major, plays the

sultan and took a similar approach, researching different ways to walk and talk — including Richard Attenborough's character in the original Jurassic Park and Colonel Sanders. "It's a lot of choices and discovering things through the rehearsal process," said Rodriguez. "I tried to make the sultan an individual to this production and separate it from Disney, even if the character physically looks like the movie version."

The production also incorporates a full orchestra led by Music Director Luciano D'Amico, a sophomore business major, who stresses the importance of having a live orchestra during shows.

He says it not only sounds better, but it's something theatres, which usually use either CDs or small half an orchestra, don't have. "It helps you prepare for professional productions," said D'Amico.

For Sothers, the experiences kids gain participating in the production are also an important part of the Roxy Performing Arts Center's goals. "It keeps you on your toes and translates to real world experience. It's about collaboration and teamwork and being involved in the intense performing arts process so they're prepared."

Andreu hopes that aside from enjoying the show, "Aladdin" also exposes kids to theatre from a young age and helps them build an appreciation for it.

"Our goal is to open as many facets of creativity as possible and build a theatre culture from an early age."

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Nov. 9 - Nov. 18 with Friday & Saturday shows at 8 p.m. and Sunday shows at 2 p.m. and 5 p.m.
There will not be a performance on Saturday, Nov. 17.
For more information call 305-226-0030.



CAMPUS LIFE!

International Education Week hopes to expand global views

VICTORIA RIVERA
Contributing Writer

International students, students who are considering studying abroad, and anyone interested in exploring different cultures at the University, can attend International Education Week beginning next Tuesday, Nov. 13.

The events, hosted by several organizations and programs at the University, plan to expand students' global perspectives.

"It's important to explore all the different connections, celebrate different cultures, and become active participants of [global learning]," said Ana Sippin, director of International Student and Scholar Services.

Jessica Larsen, coordinator of International Student and Scholar Services, said that International Education Week will also provide students with several study abroad and international career opportunities.

Ignacio Jimeno, senior double major in Asian studies and international relations, will speak at the Study Abroad Alumni Student Panel on Nov. 15.

"I would study abroad again in a heart-

beat if I could," said Jimeno, who has studied abroad twice in Japan.

His adventures in Japan included climbing mountains, following rivers, and getting lost in new cities.

One obstacle that several students face when considering studying abroad opportunities is finances.

"Sometimes, it's a path of hardship. You have to look for the scholarships [and] work those extra hours. You have to save the money that you want to use to for something else," said Jimeno.

But students can apply their financial aid, including FAFSA, to several study abroad programs. The Office of Study Abroad will host the "Funding Your Experience Abroad" event to provide financial assistance to students who want to study abroad.

The University has approximately 2,500 international students from more than 125 different countries, according to the ISSS website.

FIU's Career Services will host several events on Nov. 16 to inform students of numerous international careers, assist students with their resumes, and teach varying cultural etiquettes.

It's important to explore all the different connections, celebrate different cultures and become active participants of [global learning].

Ana Sippin
Director

International Student and Scholar Services

There will also be social and community service events during International Education Week, such as the National Service Movement event on November 15 and the Soul do Samba event on Nov. 16. Omicron Delta Kappa will host the

"National Service Movement" event.

Juliana Goncalves, senior hospitality major and president of the club, hopes the event will "provide knowledge of a very different service opportunity for students who want...to give back to their community."

"Soul do Samba," meaning soul of Brazilian dance and music, will be a Brazilian celebration with food, music, and culture hosted by the International Student and Scholar Club.

Adnan Samma, sophomore double major in economics and international relations and president of the club, is excited about the teamwork between the Brazilian Jiu Jitsu Club and the Brazilian Culture Club.

"We aren't just holding a basic dinner, but a myriad of entertainments for our guests from the importance of the Portuguese Language to even the cultural importance of Football (Soccer) in Brazil," said Samma.

For more information, students can go to GC 355 or visit the International Student and Scholar Services website.

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REEL TO REEL

Spielberg's "Lincoln" is bloated, boring, Oscar bait

Adding another historical feature to his lengthy oeuvre, Steven Spielberg's latest film "Lincoln" is far from what many, including myself, expected it to be.

COLUMNIST



JUAN BARQUIN

One might assume that the film would take a focus on the man that Lincoln was throughout the late portion of his career, featuring plenty of conversations with wife Mary Todd and secretary of state William Seward.

These assumptions were futile, as "Lincoln" actually dedicates most of its screen time to following the shady tactics taken to ensure the ratification of the thirteenth amendment to the U.S. Constitution.

As the Civil War nears end, Thaddeus Stevens (Tommy Lee Jones) spends his days arguing before the House of Representatives while a group of political operatives find ways to bribe, hassle and threaten Democrats and fellow Republicans into voting for the amendment.

All the while, Abraham Lincoln (Daniel-Day Lewis) does a little presidential work, has some very serious conversations, and spends a whole lot of quality



PHOTO FROM IMDB

Daniel Day-Lewis plays Abraham Lincoln in this biographical drama that takes place during the Civil War.

time with his family.

Tony Kushner, writer of the acclaimed "Angels in America" and Spielberg's "Munich," loosely crafts a sentimental and

dialogue-heavy screenplay based in part on Doris Kearns Goodwin's biography on Lincoln. The film tiptoes around sensitive subjects for the most part, notably that of race and death.

Considering that, it's confusing as to why there is so much comic relief thrown in, especially from James Spader and John Hawkes' characters.

When it comes to race, Spielberg and Kushner choose to reinforce the false notion that Abraham Lincoln was nothing but an unbiased, perfect savior for African Americans.

Unfortunately, Louis C.K. and "Saturday Night Live" were more able to show that Lincoln was actually racist in a five minute comedy sketch whereas this film chose to ignore that detail over the course of two boring hours.

With many profile shots and use of lighting that Spielberg used to establish grandeur, Daniel Day-Lewis might as well have been playing a penny or Jesus.

While that may sound like a harsh judgment on Daniel-Day Lewis, one can't deny that his performance in this film, however limited, was impressive.

The man always fully dives into his characters and he's clearly done it again with Abraham Lincoln, regardless of

how disappointing it is that the film's creators chose to portray him as tame and immaculate.

However, a cast as massive as the one "Lincoln" boasts, there are plenty of hits and misses. Sally Field delivers the best scenes of the film as Mary Todd Lincoln, regardless of how superfluous they were in context, and Tommy Lee Jones provides some solid work in a mostly silent role.

It is with the bit players that things really get mixed, as Jared Harris is one great Ulysses S. Grant, but Joseph Gordon-Levitt could and should have been written out of the film completely in his role as one of Lincoln's sons.

Attempts to expand the roles given to Michael Stuhlbarg, Lee Pace, and many others as House members was yet another major issue here.

There is no denying that "Lincoln" will sway some audience members no matter how historically inaccurate or messy it is.

Steven Spielberg's sentimental look at the man who abolished slavery will draw crowds and pull heart strings, but there is little substance in this lengthy film to keep it from being anything more than your average cookie-cutter historical drama.

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ASSOCIATED PRESS

New master's program concentrates on animal law

SUE MANNING

AP Staff

Mitzi Bolanos adopted a pit bull a few years ago, only to find that discrimination was part of the deal. Because of her dog, she was often told where she could or couldn't live or work.

"I am a Hispanic female, and I never felt discriminated against in this country until I started walking around with my pit bull," Bolanos said.

In September, the 28-year-old lawyer went back to school to get a master's of laws in animal law. She wants to use her degree — the first of its kind in the world — to help fight breed bias.

Bolanos will be among the first class of six students to get such a degree from Lewis & Clarke Law School's Center for Animal Law Studies.

Enrollment in the yearlong program is expected to grow to 15 or 20 students in three to five years, said attorney Pamela D. Frasch, assistant dean and executive director of the law center.

Interest and enrollment at Lewis & Clark for the \$35,000-a-year program have mirrored the pet revolution in the United States, Frasch said.

"But while laws have improved and grown, there is still a disconnect between what animals

deserve and what protections they get," Frasch said. That led Lewis & Clark to develop the master's of laws program with the Animal Legal Defense Fund in Portland, Ore.

Bolanos grew up in Miami, where pit bulls are banned. When she moved to New Orleans in 2011, she volunteered at the Louisiana Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals. She adopted a pit bull named Bubba who was covered in scars and had a fresh chemical burn down his back.

Life with a pit bull hasn't been easy. She said she has faced citywide breed bans and at homes in cities without bans.

She said their travel was restricted when she wanted to take the 65-pound Bubba home for the holidays, but most airlines banned Bubba's breed and one required an expensive "dangerous dog" crate.

More than 650 U.S. cities ban pit bulls or require sterilization, muzzles in public or extra insurance. Some regulate the size of fences that keep pit bulls enclosed or the weight of leashes that keep them restrained. Even the Army and the Marines ban pit bulls in base housing.

According to DogsBite.org, a Texas-based dog bite victims' group that encourages breed bans, pit bulls were responsible for 22 of 31 fatal

dog attacks in 2011. The breed — loosely defined as American pit bull terriers, American Staffordshire terriers or Staffordshire bull terriers — is large, strong and easily trained to fight, making them targets for dogfighting operations.

In turn, their reputation made them targets of the acts of discrimination that Bolanos encountered. But they also led her to the program, at a time when she was looking to combine her interests with her job.

"When ABA (American Bar Association) approval for this program was announced, there was just no other option for me. I knew I had to come here," Bolanos said.

When Frasch started teaching in 1998, only a handful of law schools offered animal-related classes. "Today, 140 law schools out of 200 ABA-accredited law schools offer at least one animal law course," she said.

Frasch called animal-related law "so broad and so deep, it touches every other area of law." She cited its intersections with contract law in tenant disputes over weight limits in leases; anti-cruelty laws that hinge on criminal law; and estate law as more pet owners include animals in wills and trusts.

The extra degree also could help law school graduates stand out, since the U.S. has more than

1.2 million licensed attorneys.

Madeline Bernstein, an animal law attorney and president-CEO of the Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals Los Angeles, said good lawyers can change laws that affect millions of people and animals with just one case — whereas law enforcement can only do so much, one arrest at a time.

The degree also comes at a time when more people are becoming aware of the treatment of animals, both as pets and food, said Bernstein, who is a visiting advocate with the new program. They want to know how food animals are treated and how circus and rodeo and entertainment animals are cared for, she said.

Frasch agreed, saying she expected the treatment of farm animals to be the center of coming legal challenges in the U.S.

Martha Claire Howe, a 31-year-old social services worker from Phoenix, said she enrolled in the master's program so she could one day work to establish a humane education law in every state. She joined the animal rights movement eight years ago, after she watched a 4-minute video by the People for the Ethical Treatment of Animals.

"I don't want to be a practicing attorney but to work on policy," Howe said.

CALENDAR FALL 2012 EVENTS

FRIDAY, NOV. 9

2013 SOUTH BEACH WINE AND FOOD FESTIVAL KICKOFF EVENT
WHEN: 11 a.m.-2 p.m.
HOW MUCH: FREE
WHERE: MMC GC Pit

THE EXPENDABLES II
WHEN: 5 & 8 p.m.
HOW MUCH: FREE
WHERE: MMC GC 150

SATURDAY, NOV. 10

MUSIC AUDITION DATE
WHEN: 9 a.m.
HOW MUCH: FREE
WHERE: MMC School of Music

FIU VOLLEYBALL VS. SOUTH ALABAMA
WHEN: 6:30 p.m.
HOW MUCH: FREE
WHERE: MMC

SUNDAY, NOV. 11

FIU THEATRE PRESENTS: MEDEA
WHEN: 2 P.M.
HOW MUCH: \$10-\$15
WHERE: MMC WPAC

FIU WOMEN'S BASKETBALL VS NORTH FLORIDA UNIVERSITY
WHEN: 6-9 p.m.
HOW MUCH: FREE
WHERE: MMC

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			3					6
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MEN'S AND WOMEN'S BASKETBALL

LEGEND AND VIRTUOSO

Two coaches set to kick off fresh new seasons

RUBEN PALACIOS
Staff Writer

The upcoming women's basketball season can be summed up in one word: potential.

With the addition of newcomers like junior center Marita Davydova and freshman guard Taylor Shade, the women's team is set to improve on an already successful campaign last year. Last season, the team went 23-11 (10-6 SBC).

The team faced off in two exhibition games so far, going 2-0 against the University of Quebec and Barry. The new faces on the team have definitely performed well on the hardwood.

In the game against Quebec, Davydova dominated the paint and enforced her presence in the post. Davydova scored 22 points on eight of 12 shooting from the field and went six of nine from the free throw line. She also grabbed eight rebounds, three of which were offensive rebounds.

Also against Quebec, Shade recorded 13 points on five of eight shooting, and was three of four from the three point line, providing



ANDRES BEDOYA/BEACON FILE PHOTO

Head Coach Cindy Russo (above) is heading into her 34th season with the Panthers, where she has amassed a record of 630-329.

a much needed threat from beyond the arc.

"I like our newcomers," Head Coach Cindy Russo said. "Davydova has a nice inside game that we can score with."

In addition to the stellar newcomers, the squad returns four starters. Among them is Finda Mansare, who is an SBC All-Conference Second Team selection. Junior Jerica Coley, who won AP All-America honors last year and was the SBC Player of

The Year as a sophomore, is also back. Coley was named SBC Preseason Player of The Year.

In the game versus Barry, Coley showed how dominant she can be. Coley recorded a double-double by dropping 17 points and snatching down 10 rebounds. She also recorded six assists, two steals and four blocks. Mansare, in her first game back from an ankle injury, recorded 12

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KEVIN CASTANEDA
Contributing Writer

One thing is clear about FIU men's basketball this season: Speed will have to trump size.

Head Coach Richard Pitino is using the foundation of speed, movement and conditioning to offset the team's lack of size. The Panthers have only three players taller than 6 feet 7 inches tall, and one of those players isn't eligible for the 2012-13 season.

This is Pitino's first season as FIU's head coach, after being an assistant at schools like Louisville and University of Florida. The practices in the summer were just as much of a learning experience for the players as for him. He said being an assistant in the past allowed him to be in charge of pieces of practices; but now he has to write up the entire two-hour set of drills.

"As a head coach, you want to work on everything, but you don't have all the time in the world," Pitino said.

The Panthers look to shake off a tumultuous end to last season after Head Coach Isiah Thomas was fired and players transferred out of the school, upset with how he was let go.



ANDRES BEDOYA/BEACON FILE PHOTO

Head Coach Richard Pitino (above) is heading into his first season with the Panthers.

FIU notched a sub-par 8-21 overall record (5-11 Sun Belt Conference) in Thomas' last year.

According to the SBC coach's poll, FIU needs a lot of work because they were picked to finish last in the East division.

"The first day those came out, we saw them in our locker room. Everybody had a copy of that in our lockers. It's preseason, they don't know how hard we've been working," said Cameron Bell, a senior and guard for the

Panthers. Bell feels that Pitino's fast style complements the SBC, which does not focus on big men. Instead, speed, athleticism and pressure defense will be what it takes to prove the poll wrong.

Pitino acknowledged that the team would probably start smaller at the center position.

"We'll probably go small to start and play Jerome Frink at the five," said Pitino. "He's

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ROUNDUP

FIU set to play Maryland in 2013

FIUSM SPORTS STAFF

FIU announced on Nov. 7 a completed deal with the University of Maryland to a two-year home-and-home football series.

The Panthers travel to Byrd Stadium in College Park, Md., on Aug. 31, 2013 for the Terrapins' first home game. FIU then hosts the Terps on Sept. 10, 2016.

"I want to thank the University of Maryland for playing this series with FIU," said Pete Garcia, executive director for sports and entertainment in the announcement. "These are the type of games our fans, students and alumni want to see. We will continue to schedule these quality opponents."

It won't be the first time these schools meet. FIU last met Maryland in Byrd Stadium in 2010 and suffered a 42-28 loss.

Overall, the Panthers are 0-3 against the Terps.

The added Maryland game gives FIU four non-conference games to open up the 2013 season, their first as a Conference-USA school. The Panthers are already scheduled to

face the University of Central Florida, Bethune-Cookman and Louisville.

-Eduardo Almaguer

UPA survives against Panther Hall
The University Park Apartments and Panther Hall teams faced off in the championship game for the coed dorms flag football league on Nov. 6 at FIU.

The first half of the game ended with a score of 0-0 and it wasn't until the second half that UPA defined the match with two touchdowns becoming the new champions of the league.

During the first half of the game, both teams played aggressive. Defense and determination prevented either team from scoring in the first half.

But play stopped when by the end of the first half, the lights of the field turned off and the game was delayed for 20 minutes.

When the second half resumed, UPA scored their first touchdown. UPA didn't abandon any opportunities and scored a second touchdown four minutes after their first one by player Giancarlo Simpson.

After these two strategic plays by

UPA, the Panther Hall players reinforced their defense and blocked UPA from scoring for the rest of the match. The game was about to finish with a score of 12-0, but player Kai Smith made the first touchdown for Panther Hall after a pass from teammate Elda Louis, ending the game 12-6.

"We played aggressive. I'm proud of my team and their performance. Panther Hall beat us in regular season but now we beat them and won the championship" Captain Miguel Lluessa said of the victory of his team.

This is not the first time these two teams play against each other and end up with tight scores. The Panther Hall players didn't feel satisfied with the results of the game and claim this was not their best match as a team.

"Both teams played hard, it was a great game but I feel the best team didn't win," said Smith from Panther Hall. "In this game, they came with a lot of players and I think that affected my team."

-Alexandra Sabalier

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PANTHER OF THE WEEK



ANDRES BEDOYA/BEACON FILE PHOTO

Kedrick Rhodes (above) had his best performance of the season against South Alabama this past weekend when he had 27 carries for 149 yards and a touchdown in FIU's 28-20 win. This season, Rhodes is averaging 4.8 yards per carry and has accumulated 558 yards rushing with three touchdowns.

Exhibition preps team for year

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points on six of eight shooting in only 12 minutes of game time.

The strong showing from the team in their two exhibition matches encouraged Coley.

“We are definitely ready. Coach says we are getting better every day,” Coley said. “We are ready for the season to start.”

This team can be an upgrade from last year with the returning talent and especially the newcomers.

“I see more people got better from last year,” Coley said. “The new people that we got, they really seem like they’re

going to step up and do more. It just shows that we have gotten better and I’m ready to go.”

Despite the talent, this team still has to prove on the court they are better than last year’s team, which made it to the Women’s National Invitational Tournament. In order to do that, the team will have to focus on concentrating throughout every game in their lengthy schedule.

“It’s a completely different story. We had at least five kids that could play game after game last year and I’m not sure we have that here yet,” said Russo. “We have to work in some new players and hopefully they can stay in for the

long haul.”

The talent on this team hasn’t gone unnoticed by coaches around the SBC. The preseason poll predicted the Panthers to finish second in the East Division, only behind Middle Tennessee who went undefeated in conference play last year.

The necessary pieces in order to succeed are all present, now whether or not they have a spectacular season will ultimately rely on focus and concentration, something that Russo thinks is the key to success.

“If we can stay that way, then we can do a lot of good things,” Russo said.

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Perez-Arau stays motivated by parents from Barcelona

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This trip to Lakeland will be the first away meet this year for the team and making the four and a half hour drive there and back in one day will be a new experience for this team as well as a new challenge.

Sonia Perez-Arau has been the most dependable swimmer all year. Having only finished outside first place twice this year, she is right on pace to fulfill her expectations of reaching nationals this year.

Motivation is imperative in a sport where one spends the majority of his or her time staring at a black line at the bottom of a pool, and Perez-Arau has plenty of it stemming back to her roots in Barcelona.

“The thought of my parents keeps me motivated, I know they are so proud of me and everything that I have done since I got to the USA,” Perez said.

Marina Ribí, who is the

only swimmer to have broken a team record this year, is finally recovering from what was a two week illness which had her missing various days of practice.

Ribí finished her day with a first and third place performance in the 200 yard free-style with a time of 1:56.18 and breaststroke with a time of 2:27.34.

The team is confident and morale is high. Their expectations for this season have not faded but gotten stronger as the season has moved along. This weekend is their last chance to see where they are as a team until their most important meet of this semester, the Mizzou Invitational.

“It’s a dream to do what we do and coach at this level with athletes that our this motivated and it’s about keeping our focus on the end of the season goal and what we got to do every day to get there,” Horner said.

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FIU heads to Chestnut Hill

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only six-foot-six and it may be a weakness, but I look at it as strength. I think that we can do a lot of different things defensively to take teams out of what they’re doing offensively.”

Rakeem Buckles, who transferred from Louisville in the off-season and ruled ineligible this season, played under Pitino in Louisville. Buckles is aware of what it takes to win at a high level and confident in what Pitino brings to the table.

“I trust these coaches so in my mind there’s no difference,” Buckles said. “These guys know what it takes to be at that level where Louisville is. We’re trying to be at that same level here.”

The first test for the Panthers will be Nov. 11 on the road against Boston College, who had a 10-7 record at home last season. They are a team Pitino knows will be difficult to cover, especially when comparing the size differentials between the two squads. Boston College has seven players over 6 feet 7 inches compared to FIU’s three.

During open practice late last month, Pitino demonstrated defensive looks that brought a lot of pressure from all over the court. Constant movement allowed the forwards and centers to help trap at the top with the guards. These schemes helped force turnovers, which the Panthers used to start fast breaks.

“It’s going to be running, trapping, and pressing. I rarely want to slow it down and call a play. I want these guys to get out and make the decisions on their own,” Pitino said.

The Panthers finished their two-hour open practice with a drill that had the players run up and down the court to make 86 layups in two minutes. Through their conditioning, speed and energy they reached the goal with ease. This hard work is what the team feels will set it apart from not only from the Eagles on Nov. 11, but from the rest of the conference.

“When other teams get tired, we’ll have more in the tank and be able to get the win,” said guard Malik Smith.

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FIU | Graduate Open House

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RSVP Today

New York Times stretches students' minds over continents

KATARINA DIQUEZ
Contributing Writer

The New York Times newspaper-distribution program started at Biscayne Bay Campus as a resource for the School of Journalism and Mass Communication students and faculty.

After the success with the program among students and faculty at BBC, the decision was made 8 years ago to replicate it at the Modesto Maidique Campus.

"The New York Times is just a way FIU reminds us that there's an entire world waiting for us outside FIU and outside Miami," said Christian Rojas, junior in business management.

The program is part of University President Mark B. Rosenberg's vision to "Be worlds ahead." For FIU, being worlds ahead means going beyond what is expected. Taking the opportunity you are given and doing something great with it, according to worldsahead.fiu.edu.

The New York Times

contributes to this vision because its content deals with worldwide events.

"It is part of my routine. Coffee and The New York Times," said Paola Molini, junior in journalism. "It keeps me involved with what's happening in the world."

The newspaper distribution, along with the events, lectures and roundtables that they offer, is also a component of the university's Quality Enhancement Plan, which is a multi-year initiative that serves as the University's roadmap for enabling students to act as engaged global citizens.

When the program started, it was originally funded entirely through BBC's Student Government Council.

After it was made University-wide, the funding of the newspapers distribution at FIU is now a combination of the input made by the Division of Academic Affairs, the Student Government Council at BBC and the Office of Global Learning at MMC.

Last year, SGC-MMC

decided it was no longer able to fund their portion of the program because of budget cuts and redistributions of funds.

The money that was not allocated to the program went into the general pot. It did not

of the SJMC, SGC-BBC is reluctant to reduce the amount of papers available for students.

President of SGC-BBC, Pablo Haspel, feels that it is important to maintain the same number.

The intervention of SGC-BBC is the reason why BBC has the same levels of newspapers being distributed that they have had on the previous years, while MMC currently has less newspapers than they were having before.

budget comes from the state, the Student Government Association's direct sponsors are the students.

SGA's budget is completely based on a fee paid by the students for each credit hour they take. The New York Times program at BBC costs SGC-BBC around \$5,400 for the academic year. Each issue currently costs 60 cents.

Since the amount of newspapers is limited and the cost per paper has been increasing, there aren't enough New York Times newspapers to supply the entire student body. This makes it not viable for every student to benefit from the program.

"It's sad to see the number of copies being reduced, but when it comes to budgeting, sometimes you have to make those types of choices," said Haspel. "But I'm confident that in the future the program will still be around and the number of copies being distributed is going to increase."

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“It's sad that the reason there's not enough newspapers for the students is because of budgeting.”

Estefania Galindo
Junior
Journalism major

go to any specific entity.

Laura Farinas, president of SGC-MMC, said the previous administration did not find the program financially feasible for the student body.

Now, the MMC only counts on the portion that's being funded by the Office of Global Learning.

But at BBC, because

At BBC, 180 copies are distributed Monday through Thursday and 155 copies on Fridays.

The SGC-BBC calculated the difference between how much the Division of Academic Affairs was funding and what was the desired amount of newspapers, and decided to provide with the difference.

"I did notice that now I can never find The New York Times at MMC, but I thought it was because they have more students than BBC," said Estefania Galindo, a junior studying journalism. "It's sad that the reason there's not enough newspapers for the students is because of budgeting."

Whereas the university's

SWIMMING

Panthers take to the water against the Mocs in dual meet

OSCAR BALDIZON
Contributing Writer

Coming off a strong victory against University of North Florida, the FIU swim team is looking to keep the momentum rolling on their season campaign to the Sun Belt Conference Championship.

After staying south the past few weeks, the Panthers will head north to Lakeland, Florida to take on the Florida Southern College Moccasins on Nov. 9.

Head Coach Randy Horner is the man leading this team through this grueling season when the Panthers will now take on their fourth meet in five weekends. But the wear and tear of the season affects everyone on the team, including coaches.

"Staying focused and getting through each day with small goals is very important but I feel like the girls have kept focused and their morale is really pretty good compared to where I have seen most teams at this point in the season when the grind is upon them," Horner said.

Awaiting the Panthers in

Lakeland will be the number one ranked women's swim team among Division II schools.

The Mocs are led by a small group of freshmen that have taken the Sunshine State Conference by storm. Freshmen Kelsey Gouge is coming off an SSC Swimmer of the Week performance against Florida State and Emory.

Along with two wins out of the three events she competed in, Gouge also swam a pair of NCAA "B standard" qualifying times.

While the Mocs have relied on their freshman talent, FIU has seen a freshman of their own breakout.

Becky Wilde finished first in the 100 yard freestyle with a time of 55.05.

The native of Northumberland, England has progressed well in her first year of college swimming.

"I want to be a reliable and consistent team member that can help the team with scoring, collecting points, and swimming quickly," Wilde said.

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WEEDING IN THE GARDEN OF GOOD AND EVIL



Eliana Cordoba, a sophomore in environmental studies, pulls weeds out of the ground in the butterfly garden outside of the Wolfe University Center. There are three butterfly gardens on campus. Students from the School of Environment, Arts and Society take turns gardening. As Cordoba was pulling weeds out, she found a dead snake. Snakes are good for the garden because the higher the biodiversity, the healthier the ecosystem.



PHOTOS BY SANA ULLAH/THE BEACON