

CARTOON ME



ALFONSO YEC/THE BEACON

Cartoonist Al Rodriguez draws sophomore Eileen de la Rosa, biology major, during a free t-shirt giveaway sponsored by CAPSapalooza 2012 National Alcoholic Drug and Awareness Week.

New learning tool to become “future in education”

STEPHANIE MASON
Contributing Writer

Students can now take courses with Ivy League professors, online and free of charge.

Massive open online courses, or MOOCs, give students a chance to expand their knowledge on a variety of topics, from biology to design to mathematics, for free.

Each course is self-paced and constructed to last about eight to 12 weeks.

Professors affiliated with Coursera, the social entrepreneurship behind MOOCs that partners with universities and offers courses, teach the courses nationwide.

According to Joyce Elam, Dean of University College, completion of MOOCs do not offer students any credit towards their degrees as

MOOCs are designed for students who are self-motivated.

Although no credits are given for completion, some professors are offering a signed certificate of completion once the student finishes the course, sometimes with a fee.

The University is not yet directly affiliated with Coursera but according to Elam, the University is currently planning to launch an FIU MOOC in the spring.

Thirty-three other universities across the nation have already partnered with Coursera and are providing hundreds of courses for students. Some of these universities include Princeton, Brown, Columbia and Stanford.

Robert Grillo, vice president of Information Technology and

SEE MOOCs, PAGE 2

ELECTIONS 2012

Neither Democrat nor Republican, but still active

BRITNY C. VALDES
Contributing Writer

Tomorrow, Nov. 6, many students will vote Democrat or Republican, but there's one student group on campus that won't support either.

They are the Young Americans for Liberty.

“We believe the founding fathers had some beliefs that protected individual liberties and were wary of the government taking control,” said Rey Machado, president of YAL.

YAL is a Libertarian club that focuses on the belief of individual liberties and rejects the utilization of force to achieve outcomes.

“People might be Libertarian but they just don't know it,” said Steven Nekhaila, freshman and member of YAL. “They have to enlighten themselves on the issues first.”

YAL FIU is the southernmost chapter of the 130 chapters that have extended from YAL's national organization.

Machado, a senior in accounting

and economics, founded the club in late September along with Luis Rivera, treasurer, and Marcos Lopez, Council for Student Organizations representative, to promote another political point of view on campus.

The national organization was estab-

SEE LIBERTARIAN, PAGE 2

Internships, money, family— Students delay graduation

CONSUELO NARANJO
Staff Writer

Despite the State University System's pressure on students to graduate in four years, some struggle to meet this deadline.

Carlos Escuerdo, a senior and advertising major, worries about graduating due to prerequisites within his major track.

“I should be able to graduate in summer, however, some of

my classes are just offered once a year and most of them are connected and are prerequisites to other advanced courses,” Escudero said. “It is frustrating to stay in college while I feel ready to acquire experience and work on my professional field.”

In 2011, there were 18,000 students admitted to the University, with an estimated 9,200 students graduating annually.

Sixteen percent of the

student population will graduate in four years and around 43 percent will take more than six years to obtain their bachelor's.

Lucille Jimenez, a fine arts junior, was forced to take a semester off because of financial problems.

“In the summer I could not find a job. I was not able to save for my college tuition. Now, I

SEE GRADUATION, PAGE 2

GOING POLITICAL



STEPHANIE MASON/THE BEACON

Students for Environmental Action members Javier and Jacquie Ayala explain why the environment is important to consider when voting in an interview with Channel 41.



University to launch FIU MOOC in the spring

MOOCs, PAGE 1

chief information officer at the University said MOOCs will give students “a chance to be educated by some... Ivy League professors that normally you would not ever have access to having contents collaborated with.”

Because MOOCs are self-paced courses, Grillo said “completion rates of MOOCs are very low. Ultimately, who would benefit is anyone who wants to enhance their education.”

Elam said that with MOOCs, there is one professor per thousands of students. Students might not have any interaction with the faculty and any assessments done in the course are going

to be machine or peer-graded.

Elam said there is no one standard for MOOCs, as each course is taught by a different professor from a different university, leaving room for individualized course plans.

Although the University is still in the process of teaming up with MOOCs, students do not need to wait for this collaboration to take a MOOCs course. Currently, students can register on coursera.org to get started.

Grillo predicts that MOOCs will possibly become the wave of the future in education and “will challenge higher institutions to figure out how to better educate the nation.”

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HIT ME



DIANE ARIAS /THE BEACON

Junior Jorge Pinedo, psychology major and cardio boxing trainer, spars with senior Laura Muniz near the soccer arena to maintain a healthy lifestyle and stay fit.

Academic breaks, finances lead to delay in graduation

GRADUATION, PAGE 1

have two part-time jobs that just help me pay some bills and cover my basic needs,” Jimenez said.

She was not able to use financial aid support and her petition for private students loans were declined.

“The reasons for delayed graduation are many, but our

main goal is to provide students with academic and work guidance that will help them to reach their goals,” said Efigenia Gonzalez-Duran, assistant director of Career Services. “If you need help searching for your major, career assessments, internships or any concerns about delaying graduation, this is the place to come to.”

Gonzalez-Duran said staying in college for more than four years is a terrible financial decision and a short-term investment.

“The longer students stay in school, the longer it will take to get their money back,” Gonzalez-Duran said. “Recruiters are looking not only for students with experience in their fields, they want workers who commit and finish their studies in the minimum amount of time.”

Jessica Lee, an environmental science graduate student, chose to take a semester off during her undergraduate years to work on extracurricular activities.

She said that semester was one of her most enriching experiences.

“It was the best decision. Practicing in the lab and extracurricular activities gave me the possibility to meet professors and mentors who later on provided me with recommendation letters for future jobs,” Lee said.

Medical, family issues and the desire to participate in social activities are other reasons why students drop out of college or delay graduation.

Esther Chuang, an international student in business, chose to take a break from because she missed her family.

“I had the need to go back to my home country and visit my parents. I also wanted to travel around my country, explore and learn more about my culture,” Chuang said. “It was definitely not a waste of time.”

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CORRECTIONS

In Vol. 24, Issue 37 of The Beacon, in the article “Reality stars Giuliana and Bill Rancic visit FIU” The Beacon forgot to credit the Student Programming Council for bringing Giuliana and Bill Rancic to the event.

The Beacon will gladly change any errors. Call our UP office at 305-348-2709 or BBC at 305-919-4722.

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YAL seeks to promote different political view

LIBERTARIAN, PAGE 1

lished in 2008. It grew out of the Students for Ron Paul movement after his campaign that year.

“Ron Paul really put the liberty movement in the mainstream,” Machado said. “We can’t accept the way things are because keeping a system for the sake of status quo is dangerous.”

YAL conducted its fourth general meeting last Thursday after receiving more than 50 signatures at its first tabling event earlier that week.

“Our goal is to open the minds of people on campus and challenge the establishment of duopoly between the Democrats and Republicans,” Rivera said.

The meeting included a discussion on funding, exposure, club elections and the planning of its first project, “Choose Charity,” which is set to take place in mid-November.

Mikhail Gonzalez, a freshman majoring in mechanical engineering and member of YAL, attended the meeting.

“It’s true that in the U.S. it’s very established to think one way, but there are multiple views,” Gonzalez said. “We should have the

right to view things multiple ways without being branded something.”

The club’s next meeting has not been announced, but interested students can join the group and receive updated information at facebook.com/groups/YALFIU.

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“Our goal is to open the minds of people on campus and challenge the establishment of duopoly between the Democrats and Republicans.”

Luis Rivera,
Treasurer
YAL FIU

STUDY WOES



ILLUSTRATION BY CHRISTIAN SPENCER/THE BEACON

We're students not numbers, get it right

ADRIANNE RICHARSON
Contributing Writer

Being a student at Florida International University and learning to deal with the Financial Aid Office, Housing and Residential Life, and Academic Advising can sometimes feel like a daily game of cat and mouse.

Long lines, impatient employees waiting for their lunch breaks, class schedules, and registering for next semester classes is all very hectic. The funny thing about this is it all happens at the same time, when Financial Aid is crowded, Housing is crowded as well; it never fails.

As I went to visit my academic advisor recently, there were about ten students waiting to be advised. One young lady told me that she had no idea what to put into her shopping cart and that she needed to see someone before her next class, but the wait was so long and she didn't live on campus. Then she said three words that made me pause: "No one cares".

Another young man, sitting across from us, said, "They really don't, it's a system here, if you can't get with the program, they spit you out and move along to the next student."

Clearly, it isn't just a few students that feel this way. I agreed as well. Why? Because no one really takes the time to understand where you are coming from, unless you have a personal connection with them through a program, scholarship, et cetera.

Meanwhile, back at the Financial Aid Office, students were more than happy to let me know how they felt about the service. One young lady told me that she was an out-of-state student, and her tuition rates are way higher than mine.

She has no choice but to live on campus, but instead of being able to concentrate on her studies, she is worried about paying Housing and her tuition bill so that she can register for spring semester classes.

"They really don't understand how hard it is", she said. "My parents cannot pull \$2,000 out of thin air and money does not grow on trees. It is really difficult for me."

The University has nearly 50,000 students, so it is no surprise that we are all seen as numbers. But, a solution that can help us feel more like students and not customers would be to have a forgiveness policy, or something of the sort, for Financial Aid and Housing.

The policy can be included in a contract that all students have to agree to before registering for classes. Give each student a total of two chances to miss a payment deadline, whether it is Housing, tuition, Panther Dining or whatever else might place a hold on their account.

If the student pays the required amount, then they are cleared and will have one more chance to miss a payment deadline. After two chances are up, then we are on our own.

By having a forgiveness policy, students will feel like the University better understands their situation. Also, by doing this, more students will be willing to give back to a university that is so warmhearted towards its students.

The forgiveness policy should be approved for me and students like me who would like to focus more on their studies and not their bills.

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Cuban policy change and the University

MARC RAPPAPORT
Contributing Writer

Seeing as the recent changes to the Cuban immigration policies are coming into effect Jan. 13, 2013, it would be fair to assume that Miami may see a sudden influx of Cuban travelers to our city, looking to call it home.

The Cuban government has decided to remove the exit visa program and ease immigration restrictions to and from the island. Prior to this, a Cuban lottery was held in order to determine who could have a chance to leave the island.

If one were to win the lottery, a packet of papers would be sent to them which they must complete in order to apply for Significant Public Benefit Parole. Following this, an appointment must be scheduled in which there is no set wait time. As you can see, it has not been easy in years past to travel in, and especially out, of Cuba.

As for how this will change the community, initially we can expect to see a large number of Cubans inundate the U.S. Interests Section of the Embassy of Switzerland in Havana (USINT Havana), with requests to visit the United States. The USINT Havana represents U.S. interests in Cuba.

The Cuban government also decided to eliminate letters of invitation as well as the "tarjeta blanca" (a Cuban exit permit, or "white letter"), which Cubans

have long needed to set off on foreign trips. Even then, the United States is claiming that the visa requirement for Cubans remains unchanged. So, while the difficulty of obtaining an exit visa has now been erased, it seems to me that entering the States will now be the more challenging aspect for Cubans.

The way Cubans have entered the United States for years has been through a "springboard" process, in which they travel to a third country, such as Mexico or Canada, and thus spring into the United States.

While some may prefer to just stay in the first country, odds are that most will end up in Miami.

This situation is eerily similar to what occurred during the Mariel Boatlift from April 15, 1980 to Oct. 31, 1980. The mass exodus of Cubans, many of which were deemed "undesirable" by the government, during that time had a significant impact on the city of Miami's economy, and the same could occur again.

Another thing to note in the fine print- not just anyone can leave Cuba now. Those regarded as "important" to the country, such as doctors or engineers, will not be allowed to emigrate.

According to Juan Carlos Espinosa, associate dean and fellow of the FIU Honors College, "The main thing that doesn't change [in reference to the policy] is the fact that the Cuban government still controls who comes

in and out of the country. Cuba still violates the Universal Declaration of Human Rights."

How, then, will these changes in policy affect us as a community here at the University? At this point in time it is a bit too early to tell what may happen in the long run, although seeing as there are a large number of Cubans that attend the University, there may soon be a large number of students heading to Cuba to visit their relatives.

"A lot of students with immediate family in Cuba can now have them enter the States much easier," said Espinosa.

A situation like this causes me to go as far to think that the United States may have to revise the Cuban Adjustment Act and/or the wet foot, dry foot policy.

The wet foot/dry foot policy states that anyone caught between the two nations of Cuba and the United States on the waters ("wet foot") would be sent home or to a third country. If one were to make it to shore, they would get a chance to remain in the U.S., and would later qualify for "legal permanent resident" status, and finally U.S. citizenship.

It is too soon to truly decipher the long-term effects of such a change to this policy. For now, Cubans may relax knowing that it will be that much easier to go and see their primos.

-opinion@fiusm.com

SEND US YOUR LETTERS

Have something on your mind? Send your thoughts (400 words maximum) to jonathan.szydlo@fiusm.com or drop by our offices at either GC 210 or WUC 124. With your letter, be sure to include your name, major, year, and copy of your student ID. The Beacon will only run one letter a month from any individual.

DISCLAIMER

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EDITORIAL POLICY

Editorials are the unified voice of the editorial board, which is composed of the editor in chief, management, and the editors of each of the five sections. The Beacon welcomes any letters regarding or in response to its editorials. Send them to jonathan.szydlo@fiusm.com.

PROFILE

Marching band members 'focus on the details'

DANIEL URIA
Staff Writer

"Focus on the details," these are the words Teacher's Assistant Emily Widrick chose to open practice with as FIU's marching band prepared for their performance during the University's football game against Western Kentucky University.

While the dazzling choreography and crowd moving music may appear routine to the average student, Widrick insists that what students see on the field is no easy task.

"Not a lot of people can play an instrument and march around the field," Widrick said.

Sharpening these skills and the band's ability to perform these steps in sync is a result of endless hours of hard work.

Before the football season even begins, the band kicks off its preparation with a grueling week of band camp. A full week of practice sessions running from 8 a.m. until 10 p.m. Once the



JONATHAN SEGAL/BEACON FILE PHOTO

The FIU Marching Band played at a home football game against Akron in early September.

season begins, the band practices on Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays from 6:30 a.m. to 9:15 p.m.

These practices exhibit the athletic aspect of being a member of the marching band as they begin with organized stretches and a run around the football field in

order prepare the band members for hours of marching around the field carrying heavy instruments.

"[On game days], we do a morning rehearsal from eight to ten and then we normally come in about three hours ahead of time to get ready before the game even starts," Widrick said.

Then, after all of the preparation, the band gets their chance to shine.

"Our main job is to support the football team," Widrick emphasized. "To, in a close game, give them that edge. In a game where we're behind, [we aim] to give them a boost of effort so they can do a better job."

Game days are some of the most memorable days for members of the band as they get to go out and do something that they love for a crowd full of people.

"When you stop playing and you hear the energy you get out of people," said Rodrigo Tàvara, freshman and bass drum player. "The energy you give, you get back tenfold."

Freshman Daniela Contreras uses game day performances as an outlet for her creative energy.

"I'm an energetic person," Contreras said. "So coming out to football games and being able to show my school spirit and go crazy with everybody else is a good way to let out all of my excitement and

focus it on something really fun."

But the excitement and creative release of game day performances are not the only benefits that students receive from being a part of the marching band. Through the hours and ultimately months of work that go into putting a quality band on the field, the members of the marching band get to develop a bond with other people who share their passion.

"[The marching band] really does become a family," Widrick said.

The family atmosphere is part of the reason why Alyssa Armas, sophomore, joined the band.

"I wanted to have a new hobby, something that you get together with a bunch of different people that you have something in common with," Armas said.

Widrick summed her feelings about being a member of the University marching band in a few words: "It's stuff that you can remember for a long time."

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University ranks 54th offering safe sex education programs

CONSUELO NARANJO
Staff Writer

From theory to the practice, thousands of college students around the nation face a sexually active society.

Trojan, the condom company, recently released its college list in the Trojan Sexual Health Report Card for 2012 where the University ranks 54th out of 141 undergraduate institutions offering safe sex education programs.

The results were based on the level of sexual health information and resources available to students on campus.

The institutions were judged on 12 categories, such as accessibility of condoms, contraceptives, STD and HIV testing, sexual assault services, outreach programs, sexual education classes and health center service hours.

Vincent Avecilla, a Ph.D., candidate in environmental & occupational health, supports the idea of sexual education around campus.

"The best way to prevent a sexually transmitted disease is to be fully educated on how an individual can contract one and

to always use protection when engaging in sexual activity," Avecilla said.

In 2002, the National College Health Assessment reported that one of four young adults contract an STD. The assessment also found that only 54 percent of students regularly use condoms during vaginal intercourse, 29 percent during anal intercourse and only 4 percent during oral sex.

According to the Cornell Daily Sun, it is estimated that about 20 million people have an active Human Papillomavirus, or genital warts, infection. College students are the most vulnerable individuals to suffer from HPV.

"Students need to be more educated about sexuality through awareness. Useful information is available at health centers at the University. Do not be shy to come and ask questions," Avecilla said.

Nursingschools.net also presents shocking statistics concerning STDs in young college students, estimating that 19 million new STD cases occur every year. Almost half those infected are between the ages of 15 and 24 years old. The website also found that 7 percent of infected college students are unaware of their condition.

Even though there are extremely unhealthy and personal risks when having an active sex life, Anthony Perez, a senior majoring in philology, describes sex as a biological need.

"Sex is an important part of our lives and is fundamental in a sentimental relationship. It is a way to express love, kindness and respect," Perez said.

Amanda Humbert, social work graduate student, reinforces that peer pressure and social media can play an important role in a college student's sex life.

"Our world is glorified on the focus of



ANDRES BEDOYA/THE BEACON

Most condoms are about 85% effective for birth control, according to WebMD.com.

sex, it is all over the Internet, music, movies and books," Humbert said. "I perceive sex as being the most intimate physical act you can do with someone, for that reason I decide to practice abstinence."

Humbert also explained the difficulties and sometimes the discrimination abstinence people deal with.

"I am considered rare, and being abstinent is not easy at all, but it is possible," Humbert said. "Abstinence is the safest way to guard your heart and prevent pregnancy and sexual disease. Relationships are not just about sex, true love waits."

-consuelo.naranjo@fiusm.com

The best way to prevent a sexually transmitted disease is to be fully educated on how an individual can contract one and to always use protection when engaging in sexual activity.

Vincent Avecilla
Doctor
Doctor of Philosophy (PhD), Environmental
& Occupational Health

ASSOCIATED PRESS

Disney announces weekly park surprises for 2013

BETH J. HARPAZ
AP Staff

Social media will be a big component of a new program announced by Disney Wednesday in which the company's parks in California and Florida will feature weekly surprise themes and events.

The "Limited Time Magic" program will include impromptu concerts, dance parties, colored lighting, character meet-and-greets, new menu and merchandise items and other events at Disneyland in Anaheim, Calif., and Disney World in Lake Buena Vista, Fla., near Orlando.

Disney will use Twitter, blogs, websites and other online activity to let park visitors know what's happening. Guests might also be asked to vote on which characters they'd like to see or be sent on scavenger hunts with hints to figure out what's new or different.

"It's a fun, lighthearted, new way to get people engaged," Leslie Ferraro, executive vice president of global marketing and sales for Walt Disney Parks and Resorts, said at a news conference in Manhattan.

Disney erected a 25-foot-tall castle made of ice in Times Square to symbolize the fleeting nature of the weekly surprises, and water ran down the turrets as the ice melted Wednesday morning. Blase New Yorkers hurried past without giving it a second glance but some fans and tourists donned mouse ears and took pictures.

Each "Limited Time Magic" theme will last a week. Plans include celebrations of July Fourth, "Pirate Week," 3-D chalk art, "Long Lost Friends Week" featuring lesser-known Disney characters.



More than friends



Dear Nick,

I have been hanging out with a friend more frequently and he has been flirting a little with me. Now I'm starting to have feelings for him, what should I do?

F.P.
Junior
Advertising Major

Nick Scheidt, M.S. is a Doctoral Psychology Intern at FIU Counseling and Psychological Services. He is a Clinical Psychology Doctoral Candidate from Carlos Albizu University. Once he completes his internship at FIU,



Nick plans to work as a Psychologist, Writer, and Professor. Do you have questions you would like to Ask Nick? Send an email to: ask.nick@fiusm.com

Dear F.P.,

Sometimes flirtation is innocent and nothing more, it is often just an affectionate form of communication. It takes a leap of faith moving from flirtation to dating. Once you take that leap, a friendship is a fantastic place to start a romantic relationship. Reciprocate his attention and build on the friendship. Communicate with him openly about your interests, values and



goals. Great relationships are like a well-built house. The foundation is a strong friendship; the walls are trust and respect.

Only when you have the essential foundation and walls can you build the roof of romance and passion. Starting with passion in a relationship is like building a house starting with the roof, a house without walls is not a comfortable place to live. Good luck building a solid relationship.

Be Well,

Nick

CALENDAR

FALL 2012 EVENTS

MONDAY, NOV. 5

PHOTOSHOP: SPECIAL EFFECTS

WHEN: 10-11 a.m.

HOW MUCH: All registered FIU students can attend this FREE software workshop. No prior registration is required.

WHERE: MMC PC-414

MSMIS INFORMATION SESSION

WHEN: 6:30-7:30 p.m.

HOW MUCH: RSVP via <http://bit.ly/TtqpW6>

WHERE: MMC CBC 232

JLSA: SOUTH FLORIDA CENTER FOR JEWISH ETHICS: DISPUTE RESOLUTION: TRUTH AND ADVERTISING IN AMERICAN AND JEWISH LAW

WHEN: 12-2 p.m.

WHERE: MMC RDB 2006

WHERE THE JOBS ARE: GOVERNMENT EMPLOYMENT

WHEN: 12-1 p.m.

HOW MUCH: No registration is required.

WHERE: MMC GC 230

HOW TO CHOOSE A MAJOR

WHEN: 2-3 p.m.

HOW MUCH: No prior registration is required.

WHERE: MMC GC 230

ENGLISH CONVERSATION CIRCLE

WHEN: 3-4 p.m.

HOW MUCH: No prior registration is required for this event.

WHERE: BBC Library 1st floor Writing Center

TUESDAY, NOV. 6

ROCK THE VOTE EVENT

WHEN: 11 a.m.-2 p.m.

WHERE: BBC Panther Square

CHRISTIAN LEGAL SOCIETY

WHEN: 12-1 p.m.

HOW MUCH: Free

WHERE: MMC RDB 2005

TUESDAY TIMES ROUNDTABLE: "HOW GUNS WON- FIREARMS AS A HEALTH ISSUE"

WHEN: 12:30-1:30 p.m.

HOW MUCH: No RSVP is required.

WHERE: MMC GC 150

BBC MINDFULNESS MEDITATION

WHEN: 12-1 p.m.

WHERE: BBC Academic 2 Room 246B

To have your event featured, email us at calendar@fiusm.com

FIRST TIME EVER OFFERED: REL 4312: THE JEWS OF ASIA AND AFRICA

Course taught by Research Professors Tudor Parfitt and Nathan Katz

Wednesdays, January 9 – April 17, 2013, 6:45-9:15 p.m.

at the Jewish Museum of Florida-FIU, 301 Washington Avenue, Miami Beach



The Jews of Asia and Africa will explore populations such as the Lemba of Zimbabwe, the Beta Israel of Ethiopia, and the Ibo of Nigeria, all in sub-Saharan Africa. Asian communities will include the Jews of Kochi, Mumbai and northeastern tribal peoples of India; Shanghai, China, a home in the 19th century to Sephardic Jews seeking business opportunities and refuge in the 1930s-40s to European Jews fleeing Nazi persecution; and a "Judaizing" movement in Papua New Guinea.

For students to gain different viewpoints, the course will feature guest speakers, including a visiting member of Zimbabwe's Lemba Jewish community, and employ different methodologies, from genetic anthropology to participant/observation findings.

For more information, contact nathan.katz@fiu.edu



FIU Arts & Sciences
FLORIDA INTERNATIONAL UNIVERSITY

WOMEN'S BASKETBALL

Coach disagrees with premise of lowering rims



ANDRES BEDOYA/BEACON FILE PHOTO

Coaches have argued that the possible lowering of rims in women's basketball could lead to more scoring and more exciting gameplay.

RUBEN PALACIOS
Contributing Writer

The rims in women's basketball probably will never be lowered, but it sure makes for an interesting conversation.

Recently, Geno Auriemma, head coach of women's basketball at the University of Connecticut suggested that he would be in favor of having the rims lowered for women's basketball, which currently sit at 10 feet.

Auriemma said that lowering the rim would be exactly the same as lowering the nets in women's volleyball. Lowering the rims would be the right thing to meet Title IX, the law behind gender equality in sports, especially in collegiate sports.

"Let's say the average men's player is 6-5 and the average woman is 5-11," Auriemma said in an interview with the Associated Press. "Let's lower the rim seven inches. Let's say 7.2 inches to honor Title IX. If you lower it, the average fan likely wouldn't even notice it."

Cindy Russo, head coach of women's basketball at FIU has a different outlook on the matter. She says lowering the rims would be too costly to ever come into effect because you have to lower rims at all levels in which women play, including high school.

"The cost would be catastrophic around the nation. They won't do it. I don't think it will even get to the NCAA," Russo said.

Coach Russo also says the change would not

benefit the players because they would have to alter their games, and relearn it again from a foundational standpoint. This would take away from the game instead of benefiting it.

"I think we have a good game," Russo said. "I don't think it's going to ever happen."

Another reason why lowering the rims is being suggested is because of the thought that higher offensive production would increase fan attendance. Russo does not believe an increase in offensive production would affect attendance at all, because offensive production is not the reason fans are not in the seats. FIU averaged only 368 fans in home attendance last season with All-American Jerica Coley, the Sun Belt Player of the Year, on the team. That mark was 10th in the conference.

"I think they look at it as a lesser game," Russo said.

Lowering the rims, Russo says, would take away from a game that is based on fundamentally sound play. In her opinion, the game should stay fundamentally sound and should not consider lowering the rims because making this game like the men's is not something she necessarily thinks is a good thing.

"Our game is a little different, but I prefer to watch women play than men because for them everything is power, strength and jumping. If anything they should move theirs up. Not ours down," Russo said.

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INTRAMURAL SOCCER

Raiders smash Free Agents in Halloween battle

JOLSON DIAZ
Contributing Writer

The Raiders were in for a trick instead of a treat for their indoor soccer match against Free Agents on Halloween at the FIU Recreation Center.

The game got off to a delayed start because only three players showed up for the Raiders and four for the Free Agents. At the end, the

Free Agents took the upper hand, defeating the Raiders 7-3.

The first couple of minutes showed promise for the Raiders. They took an early 2-0 lead and their defense was moving well throughout the court. From there on out, the Free Agents took over.

The Free Agents offense came to life as Fabian Mahech, Christopher Lee, Daniel Salami and Christian Rojas all contributed to

the cause each scoring points of their own.

Being outnumbered by one player caused frustration on the court for the Raiders and it showed in both their offense and defense when they allowed seven straight goals from the Free Agents.

"The [Raiders] are a great team, I won't deny that," said Mahech. "If they had played more calmly, and were able to adapt to each other a lot easier, they could've won. We

talked to each other to keep our composure because when things get hectic. You make rash decisions."

The intramural soccer matches scheduled for Thursday night between 6 pm and 8 pm were all declared forfeits with Beta Theta Pi, Tre Betia, Goon Squad, and Los Medianoche all picking up 5-0 victories by default.

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Let down season does not adequately represent team

For those of you who believe that FIU football team doesn't want to win, this is for you. For all those who believe they can just walk on the football field and start because they're good at flag football, this is for you.

For people who believe that the football team does not work hard at all or have Panther pride, this is for you.

The famous Don Shula said, "Success is not forever and failure isn't fatal". In this 2012 FIU football season, the Panthers were supposed to top the Sun Belt Conference, but it did not go that way. Despite this, it does not mean they are not fighting every Saturday night to gain every yard

or make every tackle.

Head Coach Mario Cristobal will not let them slack off at all, it is just not in the nature of the FIU football team. Plus when the team did fail, they always bounce back and play even harder. It is just the mentality of the coaches and players of the football team.

I played for the football team for the 2007-2012 seasons. I've experienced the hard times, tough practices, and have experienced all the disparaging remarks made when a team is disappointing.

I played in the abysmal 2007 season where we won only one game. Through every loss we never gave up. We pushed each other harder, we practiced harder, and we trained even harder. Sometimes the same people that criticized the team tried to join and eventually quit because they could not handle our regimen. College football is



JASEN DELGADO/BEACON FILE PHOTO

One bad season does not show how much the team has grown over the past 10 years.

not easy and it is not something that anybody can just do.

College football can also turn on a dime.

I played on the 2010 team that won its first bowl game and conference championship trophies. I played for the team that had the

best football record that FIU has ever had. Despite the success we had, though, fan support was still bad. We were not getting respect from our own school and that hurt us because we literally bled for FIU.

Even though this season hasn't gone the way it should have, that does not mean the football team is horrible.

They still show promise and they still work hard. I would love to see the fans stop complaining and stand behind them instead of throwing them under the bus. Other schools have a strong fan base with their football team because they treat them like family.

Even though we are a new school it's time to build a stronger tradition for our team and be the new big thing in Miami.

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Sophomore changes diet, cuts 30 pounds to make team

BRANDON WISE
Sports Director

In a season of uncertainty, with only four Panthers still on the roster from last season, FIU is hoping to change many doubters' minds. One of those people is Joey De La Rosa, a 6-foot-11-inch sophomore, who joined the Panthers in December of last season.

When De La Rosa arrived at FIU under Head Coach Isaiah Thomas, he weighed about 270 pounds and he admittedly came in out of shape. When new Head Coach Richard Pitino stepped in, De La Rosa was issued a challenge from the first time head coach.

"When [Pitino] took the job, he said 'Joey, you are 270 pounds, you are 18 percent body fat. If you want to come back and play for me, you need to be below 11 percent body fat.' So he put me through this program and I had to be in the weight room on the treadmill every single day," De La Rosa said. "When I went home, I had to watch what I was eating. I couldn't eat the same. I couldn't eat a lot of junk food."

After playing for Montverde Academy, De La Rosa chose to join the Panthers. In fact, he had to make that choice twice.

When Thomas was fired from the program in April, several basketball athletes who played under Thomas requested to transfer.

Some did, too.

De La Rosa had the option of leaving for another program. However, because he bounced around three different high schools prior to FIU, De La Rosa decided to "stick to the plan." He also emphasized it was his decision to stay and Pitino did not have a big influ-

ence on his choice.

Before being given the task of getting himself back in shape, De La Rosa's diet was simple: eat whatever kind of food he wanted, he had.

"I really didn't care about anything," De La Rosa said. "I just ate fast food like McDonald's, Burger King, and sandwiches every single day."

His new diet cuts out ice cream, white rice, white bread, and soda. He began to eat more vegetables and drink more water.

Pitino is impressed with his transition because of De La Rosa's approach to his new lifestyle.

"We've certainly pushed him to do it, but he's taken the initiative to do it. He's a dreamer," Pitino said. "He thinks one day he will be playing at the highest, highest level and I love that about him. He's going to work extremely hard and listen to everything you say. He still has a way to go."

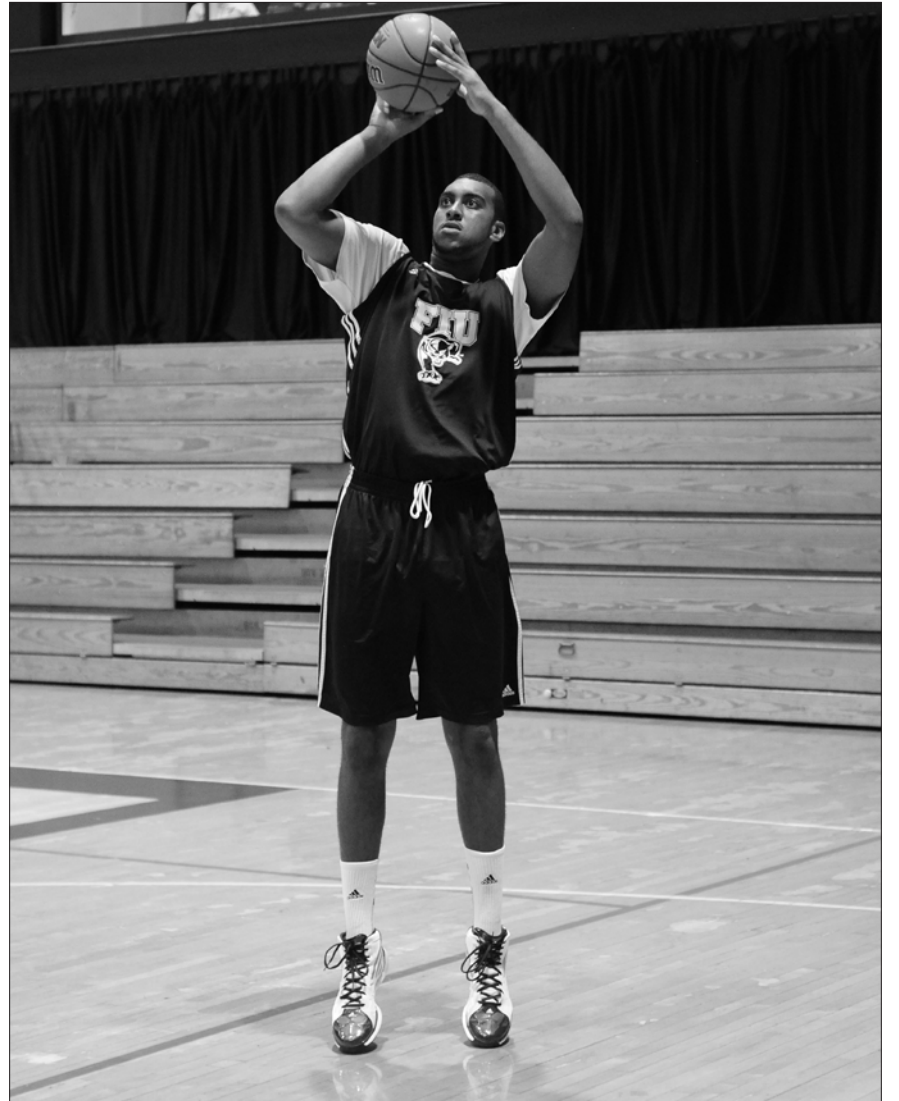
Now, the Brooklyn native comes in 30 pounds lighter and at 11 percent body fat. That change in weight and size led to improvement in his skills on the court as well.

"When I play basketball, you see a complete change in the way I run and explode from the floor," De La Rosa said. "I don't feel that much weight just holding me down, I can jump and actually get off the floor."

He has no plans on putting that weight back on again.

"I started seeing change in my body and I started feeling great," De La Rosa said. "I didn't want to go back to the old Joey."

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JASEN DELGADO/THE BEACON

Joey De La Rosa (above) dropped 30 pounds and six percent body fat over the summer in the hopes of getting in better shape and the possibility of starting this season.

ASSOCIATED PRESS

Spelman College chooses fitness over athletics

JUSTIN POPE
AP Staff

Sports began on American college campuses as a way for students to blow off steam and be healthy. Over the last century and a half, athletics have transformed into something very different: a handful of elite athletes, showered with resources and coaching, competing against other schools while the rest of the student body cheers from the stands.

On Thursday, Spelman College — a historically black women's college in Atlanta with a far-from-big-time NCAA athletics program — announced how it plans to return to the old model. The school said it would use the nearly \$1 million that had been dedicated to its intercollegiate sports program, serving just 4 percent of students, for a campus-wide health and fitness program benefiting all 2,100.

"When I was looking at the decision, it wasn't being driven by the cost as much as the benefit. With \$1 million, 80 student-athletes are benefiting," said Dr. Beverly Daniel Tatum, Spelman's president. "Or should we invest in a wellness program that would touch every student's life?"

Spelman's decision won't influence the Georgias and Ohio States of the world — where sports have become inextricable from the identity of the university. But it could attract notice at a broader band of colleges struggling with budget cuts and agonizing over whether the cost of college athletics is compatible with their missions.

For Tatum, there is also an element of social responsibility. She said a campus analysis found that almost one out of every two students has high blood pressure, Type 2 diabetes or is obese.

"I have been to funerals of young alums who were not taking care of themselves, and I believe we can change that pattern not only for them but for the broader community," Tatum said.

The Division III school has been part of the Great South Athletic Conference in seven sports, including basketball, softball and tennis. Tatum said the school was sending a letter to the NCAA saying the school would be withdrawing from the conference and would no longer have an athletics program. Instead, the school plans to expand wellness programs and renovate fitness facilities.

David Ridpath, an associate professor of sports administration at Ohio University, called the announcement eye-catching and predicted it could serve as a model at similar schools.

"I don't really look at this as a complete anomaly," said Ridpath, who is also president-elect of the Drake Group, a national faculty organization advocating for changes in college athletics. "I think there might be other schools that try to get out of the rat race and get back to the original view of we need to worry about the mind and body of our students."

Spelman is unusually well-suited for such a move as it will likely face little uproar from alumni. Tatum acknowledged that Spelman's student-athletes were disappointed when they were told last spring, but said she was hopeful it would not discourage them or future students.

"They are passionate about what they do and want to keep doing it," Tatum said. "Students who really want to be at Spelman will still come to Spelman. Athletics has been important to those students who have participated but to the overall campus community it has not been a major emphasis."

The cost of athletics can be particularly painful at HBCUs, which have struggled to maintain enrollment in recent years, due to the weak economy and tighter credit requirements that have made it harder for some of their often low-income students to get loans to pay for college.

Earlier this month, all-male Morehouse College — Spelman's sibling institution in Atlanta — announced it would furlough faculty and make other budget cuts due to lower-than-expected enrollment.

The economics of college athletics vary widely from big-time programs to Division III schools where intercollegiate athletics are little more than another extracurricular activity. At most places, they lose money for the college and typically, schools say that's fine. They

argue there's educational value in athletics, and they run all sorts of programs to benefit students that aren't expected to pay for themselves, from jazz bands to the English department. It's part of the college experience.

But athletics are a part of the experience for only the tiny percentage of students who participate directly. According to the NCAA, there are about 400,000 student-athletes nationwide, but there are 18.6 million undergraduates.

The median Division I athletic program, including those without football, is losing about \$10 million annually, according to NCAA figures.

At programs like Spelman, the losses are less severe but expenses are rising rapidly. For Division III schools with foot-

ball programs, expenses from athletics have nearly doubled since 2004 to \$2.9 million for the median school. At schools without football, such as Spelman, costs have more than doubled to about \$1.4 million annually.

At Spelman, the wellness initiative includes spending money to help renovate the school's Read Hall, which was built in the 1950s, to make it a state-of-the-art fitness facility, with expanded hours and programs.

"We are trying to meet students where they are in terms of their interest, but also helping them understand that the elements of wellness ... are the kinds of things that are going to help them avoid the kinds of illnesses that are killing African-American women far too early," Tatum said.

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OFFICE OF VETERAN AND MILITARY AFFAIRS

Another challenge for veterans: University life

MARIA BRITOS
Contributing Writer

Transitioning from the war to the classroom isn't such an easy task for veteran students, but the Office of Veteran and Military Affairs aims to help them.

For veteran student Mario Larin, coming to the University was a difficult transition.

"The biggest thing is having to deal with the younger generation," said Larin, who was a Marine Corps sergeant and is now pursuing a degree in international business.

He came back from duty 10 years ago and in 2010 started to study at the University.

Larin works in the Office of Veteran and Military Affairs and he is one of the many veteran students at the office on work study.

The staff helps student veterans, as well as active duty soldiers, to adapt to the University.

To obtain their military benefits, veterans are required to apply under the GI Bill, which was passed in 1944 to give benefits to veterans including grants for school and student tuitions.

Michael Pischner, the director of the Office of Veterans and Military Affairs, said the University is military friendly and has been making efforts to make the veteran students feel more comfortable.

"We want more veterans to come study," Pischner, who is also a veteran, said. "The University is ranked top 3 within Florida schools with veteran enrollment, and there are currently more than 1,300 veterans registered."

He's very excited for the upgrades and changes that the office is getting.

The Office partnered with the Student Alumni Association to offer a unique veterans chapter to the students.

The Marine Corps Reserve also chose the office to take part in the Toys for Tots Fundraiser.

The Office will collect all kinds of unwrapped toys and other gifts at the Veterans and Military Affairs and Student Government offices until December, as well as in the GC Pit on Nov. 6 and Nov. 7. All the toys will go to children of the community.

Robert Ratner, instructor in the Department of English, is very interested in working with veteran students.

Ratner wants to collaborate with the Office of Veterans and Military Affairs to encourage these students to publish their interesting and personal insights of their military experience on a project called "I Am A Veteran."

Ratner said no subject is more important than war, and he is pleased to teach the veterans and learn from them.

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TICKETS FOR HEAT GAME

Tickets for the Miami Heat vs. Brooklyn Nets game on Nov. 7 are available for purchase at the Recreation Center at the Biscayne Bay Campus on Nov. 5 and 6 from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Tickets are \$30. For more information call 305-919-5678 or email bbcrec@fiu.edu.

ALL ABOARD



PHOTOS BY SANA ULLAH/THE BEACON

Captain Bob Weisman, a professor for a motorboat operations certification course, tested his students in four different exercises, a written exam, slow maneuvering, high speed maneuvering and dock and trail, on Friday, Nov. 2. Weisman taught at the University for 17 years and graduated from University of Florida with a master's in science education and a minor in administration. He has taught this specific course about 28 times.

ELECTIONS 2012

Overseas: Foreign policy not so foreign for students

JACQUELINE ROSADO
Staff Writer

The final topic of debate between the two presidential candidates, incumbent President Barack Obama and former Massachusetts governor Mitt Romney, affected many University students.

Jorge Mendez, international relations alum, said Obama would have more experience to deal with the civil war in Syria, which started in March of 2011 and has since gotten worse.

"Romney has shown again and again that he is unable to comprehend the role of the US president in global politics and conflicts," Mendez said.

The major topics in the debate included the future plans for the troops located in the Middle East, U.S. involvement in the civil war occurring in Syria, keeping Israel as an ally, identi-

fying Iran as a nuclear threat and trade relations with China.

"President Obama is not the foreign policy leader that Democrats play him out to be. When our embassy was attacked in Libya, the president failed to do anything about it," said political science major Steven M. Gonzalez. "If we are looking to have a safer America and a safer world, we cannot elect a person who will cut military spending or who will show weakness at a time when greatness is called upon."

Valerie Aleman, journalism major, said the two candidates focused too much on the U.S. involvement in the Middle East and trade relations with China, and forgot to discuss about other important countries.

"They need to broaden their plans a little more to include those that are being ignored and deserve more attention,"

“They need to broaden their plans a little more to include those that are being ignored and deserve more attention. India, Africa and most of Latin America were completely ignored in the final debate and that disappointed me.”

Valerie Aleman
Journalism major

said Aleman. "India, Africa and most of Latin America were completely ignored in the final debate and that disappointed me."

CNN pointed out that Europe and Africa were only mentioned once each, with India getting no attention. Al Jazeera, the Arabic-language news network, also emphasized that neither candidate mentioned climate change in the debate or in their

campaigns.

"Neither Barack Obama nor Mitt Romney mentioned climate change in three TV debates, despite a summer of record temperatures, historic drought and wildfires in the U.S.," according to Al Jazeera.

International relations major Carlos Coba felt the same way, emphasizing that there should be more focus on the environment by Obama.

"[Obama] needs to focus more on environmentalism, the public sector and getting our troops out of unnecessary wars," said Coba. "Barack Obama can affect our nation by being re-elected and then implementing policies that mirror the ideals that he puts forth when communicating with the citizens."

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