College says view of Islam, not hijab, got Christian teacher suspended

While Islam and Christianity are both monotheistic, we believe there are fundamental differences between the two faiths, including what they teach about God’s revelation to humanity, the nature of God, the path to salvation and the life of prayer.

Wheaton College
Wheaton, Illinois

FIU president to head national STEM committee

President Mark Rosenberg will lead a committee that examines the way science and technology education is taught in higher education.

"It’s a special privilege to be asked to lead the nation’s top experts who will identify national indicators for science, technology, engineering and math education at the university level," Rosenberg said in a statement.

The opportunity recognizes the leading national role being played by FIU faculty in STEM education for urban communities, and is an unprecedented opportunity to impact national STEM education in decades to come.

It’s a special privilege to be asked to lead some of the nation’s top experts who will identify national indicators for science, technology, engineering and math education at the university level.

Mark Rosenberg President Florida International University

FIU master chef competition returns

Tyler Paul
The Miami Herald TNS Staff

"I thought it was a joke when I saw it. No way would this happen," Thompson said.

"At some level, I understand the frustration, and also the pain," he added.

"It’s a special privilege to be asked to lead some of the nation’s top experts who will identify national indicators for science, technology, engineering and math education at the university level," Rosenberg said. Rosenberg has STEM experience. He oversaw the 2012 creation of Florida International University’s STEM Transformation Institute, which fosters research and development of educational practices, as well as the Mastery Math Lab, a computer lab where students receive help on assignments.

Rosenberg’s committee - part of the National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine - will carry out the national study to analyze and measure improvements in the quality of STEM education. The National Academy’s Board of Science Education will conduct the study, in partnership with the Board on Higher Education and the Workforce and the Board on Testing and Assessment.

The study will take around 2 1/2 years and will focus on the first two years of undergraduate education.

College says view of Islam, not hijab, got Christian teacher suspended

Wearing a purple streaked hijab, Sarah Thompson, 20, a junior from Indianapolis, said she didn’t have Hawkins as a professor because she, like me, a Christian, are people of the book," she posted on Facebook Friday.

"I want to affirm the things you see in Dr. Hawkins, the values. Those are things I’ve seen firsthand as well."

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If Wheaton College professor Larycia Hawkins had simply donned a headscarf to support her Muslim neighbors without explaining herself, she still might be administering final exams this week.

Instead, Hawkins, a tenured political science professor at the private evangelical Christian college west of Chicago, has been placed on administrative leave after proclaiming on social media that Christians and Muslims share the same God.

"I stand in religious solidarity with Muslims because they, like me, a Christian, are people of the book," she posted on Facebook Friday.

"As and Pope Francis stated last week, we worship the same God."

That explanation concerned some evangelical Christians, who read her statement as a confirmation of Christian and Muslim theology, even if they supported her symbolic gesture.

"While Islam and Christianity are both monotheistic, we believe there are fundamental differences between the two faiths, including what they teach about God’s revelation to humanity, the nature of God, the path to salvation and the life of prayer.

Hawkins’ suspension comes amid national turmoil over anti-Muslim rhetoric on the presidential campaign trail and protests about the treatment of African-Americans on American college campuses. It also has a familiar ring in Illinois, where the state’s flagship university revoked a tenured faculty position from a professor who had posted a string of anti-Israel comments on social media.

Unlike the University of Illinois, a public institution, instructors at Wheaton must sign a “Statement of Faith” agreeing to 12 evangelical beliefs, including the literal truth of the Bible, the necessity to be born again in coming and the bodily resurrection of the dead. Students and faculty also pledge to abide by a community covenant, abstaining from premarital sex, drinking and homosexual behavior.

"Wheaton College faculty and staff make a commitment to accept and model our institution’s faith foundations with integrity, compassion and theological clarity," the college said in a statement. "As they participate in various causes, it is essential that faculty and staff engage in and speak about public issues in ways that faithfully represent the college’s evangelical Statement of Faith.”

Protesters on Wednesday insisted that Hawkins had not violated the college’s statement of faith. Dozens of students gathered on the front steps of the college’s administration building to deliver a letter to President Philip Ryken and Provost Stan Jones, demanding Hawkins’ reinstatement.

"Dr. Hawkins is an essential part of the community here," said Wyatt Harms, a senior political science major, who has taken several of Hawkins’ classes. "She’s a refuge for so many students on campus."

Chanting “Reinstate Doc Hawk!” dozens of students pumped handmade signs in the air and squeezed through the front doors of the college administration building. Ryken told protesters he appreciated the “peaceful spirit” of their demonstrations.

"I really want to affirm your right to disagree with a decision by the administration," he told the students. "I also want to affirm the things you see in Dr. Hawkins, the values. Those are things I’ve seen firsthand as well."

"At some level, I understand the frustration, and also the pain," he added.

Wearing a purple streaked hijab, Sarah Thompson, 20, a junior from Indianapolis, said she didn’t have Hawkins as a professor but has several Muslim friends after spending a summer in Indonesia.

"I thought it was a joke when I saw it. No way would this happen," Thompson said.

"She’s very, very talented. She could go teach at any school, but she chooses to stay here. It’s a special privilege to be asked to lead some of the nation’s top experts who will identify national indicators for science, technology, engineering and math education at the university level."
In a Japan seemingly obsessed with sex, few seem to indulge

Japan is well known for many things, and its obsession with sex is one of them. It has one of the most robust pornographic and adult-toy industries in the world and airs TV commercials for items as banal as candy that feature sexually suggestive themes. It even has an annual fertility festival that parades down a busy street on a Sunday afternoon. And yet nearly half of singles in Japan have no interest in dating a situation that many experts predict will help encourage by the spark and attitude Abedini displayed during spending three and a half years to full health, according to a researcher based in Tokyo: “41.6 percent of males in their 20s have simply no interest in sex. They may even have an aversion to it.” Says Aumu Ochiai, a researcher based in Tokyo: “41.6 percent of males in their 20s have never dated anyone.”

According to a survey of never-married people by the National Institute of Population and Social Security Research, 27.6 percent of single men and 22.6 percent of single women have no interest in engaging in a relationship with the opposite sex. Researchers cite those statistics to argue that a significant portion of Japanese simply has no interest in sex. They might even have an aversion to it.

“If all women were in solidarity, this is profound theological implications.”

Students also launched a social media campaign to support Hawkins, #ReinstateDocHawk, and an online petition that’s gathered nearly 900 signatures.

“Dr. Hawkins has and continues to be an powerful choice. Especially in the United States are discriminated against,” he said. “He ate with people whom others rejected. Jesus calls us to love our neighbors, and the Muslims are our neighbors.”

“Rev. Hawkins’ gesture as extraordinary and an apt Advent devotion.”

“By placing her on leave, the school says it doesn’t believe Muslims and Christians worship the same God,” he said. “The college had no choice.”

“I think that, as an evangelical school that has a statement of faith, it is wrong for us to call Muslims brothers and sisters in Christ,” she said.

Hawkins’ gesture but said as a professor at the Idaho pastor who was released last weekend after

Rep. Robert Pittenger meets with freed Idaho pastor, finds him in ‘good spirits’

The Idaho pastor who was released last weekend after spending three and a half years in an Iranian prison is in good spirits, and both well aware of the freedoms he now has with him Tuesday. U.S. Rep. Robert Pittenger, a North Carolina Republican who spent six years working to get Iran to release Saeed Abedini, of Boise, had never previously met the subject of his efforts. He said he was encouraged by the spark and attitude Abedini displayed during their 90-minute talk. “He’s really doing well,” Pittenger said. “He’s in great spirits, and it was wonderful to see.” Pittenger was photographed at the hospital with Abedini, who was wearing a black Wounded Warrior Project sweatshirt and smiling.

Pittenger, an evangelical Christian, declined to provide many details of their conversation. He said the two did pray together, though for “Prayers are private,” he said.

“in a time of real vitriolic rhetoric, by fellow Christians sometimes, and people who aren’t Christian who conflate all Muslims with terrorists” and that saddens me,” this is not so much about theology as it is about orthodoxy,” added Volf, who recently wrote “Flourishing,” a book about the importance of religions taking up common causes. “She has not denied any of the Christian claims that God was the holy trinity, that God is the real Muslim? How is TSA going to screen that?” Hawkins is the same concern many faculty members have expressed since the hijab controversy surfaced late last year, drawing scrutiny facing the Muslim community.

“Dr. Hawkins and others want to follow the example of Jesus, who went to those who were discriminated against,” he said. “He ate with people whom others rejected. Jesus calls us to love our neighbors, and the Muslims are our neighbors.”

At St. Martin’s Episcopal Church in Chicago on Sunday, a parish Hawkins occasionally attends, she was honored for her act of solidarity. During the service, parishioners shared their own stories of how they were reaching out to their Muslim neighbors. Hawkins said she expected the embrace from the welcoming neighborhood church. She didn’t expect the backlash from her own evangelical brothers and sisters.

“At a time of real vitriolic rhetoric, by fellow Christians sometimes, and people who aren’t Christian who conflate all Muslims with terrorists,” said he was intrigued by her idea to make sure Christians and Muslims “unite under the hijab everywhere she went until Christmas, including on her flight home to Oklahoma, where voters in 2010 overwhelmingly approved a constitutional amendment banning Shariah, or Islamic law.

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Fighting for women's reproductive rights

This past Friday, Roe v. Wade celebrated its 43rd anniversary. This marks 43 years of women having the freedom to control their bodies and reproductive rights; yet nearly half a century of Roe v. Wade’s legacy has not stifled the aggressive division between pro-lifers and pro-choicers. The old horror stories of botched abortions are still very much alive today, and even bathroom graffiti is not blind to it.

In a FIU restroom, there is a stencil of a coat hanger; underneath, the hashtag #reproductiverights. Adjacent is a comment by the lack of diversity yet inspired by the many stories and identities that coexist with us!
The Beacon – 3 Wednesday, January 27, 2016
Contact Us
Nicole Stone
Opinion

When asked where the line between a woman’s rights and the fetus is, FIU’s Philosophy Professor Laurie Shrage stated, “Legal personhood begins at birth, and I think this is the right moment to grant our offspring the full moral and civil rights of personhood—when they are detached from another human’s body. Before birth, fetuses deserve our protection and respect, as incipient human life, but not as separate persons.”

As far as whether or not abortion should be legal, she said, “Supported another life with one’s own limited bodily resources should be voluntary, and therefore our society should ensure that pregnancy is undertaken and continued voluntarily in all cases, where possible.

When we draw the line between those abortions are morally and legally acceptable and those that are not, we need to balance all these considerations and competing interests.”

Abortion is something that is done when there is little chance you will survive the pregnancy or when you don’t want to go through an entire pregnancy just to abandon the baby to the foster care system. In the United States alone, there are already hundreds of thousands of children in foster care, waiting to be wanted, to be adopted. Abortion will be performed whether or not it is legal. It has been proven in the past, and the black market can attest. However, if women’s reproductive rights are allowed, abortions can continue to be safe, medical procedures performed by trained, trustworthy professionals in a sanitary environment.

Families can continue to grow in a planned manner. Family planning will assist in placing a cap on overpopulation and those who just like sex and don’t want the children won’t have to raise accidents. Not everyone is fit to be a parent, and no one should ever be forced into that role.

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Many of those involved in the film industry have high hopes of hearing their name called at The Academy Awards. Since its inaugural award ceremony in 1929, The Academy has applauded and awarded the most significant achievements of the motion picture arts and sciences. This year however, The Academy seems to have taken more than two steps backward with a rather startling homogenous list of nominations across the board.

When the Los Angeles Times conducted a study of the Oscar voters, results revealed that voters were far less diverse than average moviegoers. The study indicated that 94% of the Oscar voters are white and 77% are male, while Latino and black voters make up just about two percent. The demographics of the Oscars make a clear reflection of the lack of diversity between this year’s nominees.

As a young adult who has dedicated a lifetime to the performing arts, I am flustered by the lack of diversity yet inspired by the conversations and communications that have arisen. I find that the Oscars boycotts delve beyond the vanity and allure of the awards, instead give light to issues that are prevalent in our society and the dynamics that many find difficult to address.

I contend that the Oscar boycotts were not intended to discredit the talented individuals who were nominated. They alternately serve as a symbol of progression and a call to enact change.

Academy President Cheryl Boone Isaacs mentioned that “these new measures regarding governance and voting will have an immediate impact and begin the process of significantly changing our membership composition.”

Although The Academy’s notable measures to create diversity are significant, the conversation must continue— and far beyond the film industry. The film industry is one component to the film industry.

As a student newspaper, we are concerned primarily with academics and students’ ability to safely and freely express themselves.

There is reason for concern over the chilling effect behavior that makes one aware that anyone might have a firearm in a classroom - legal or not. There are a variety of classes at FIU that can contribute to heated debates. However, the filmic world is inherently dangerous, but students could be uneasy about participating discourse knowing someone could be armed in class.

In the case of an active shooter, the planned argument that a gun-owner would be able to defuse the situation is not comforting. Instead, it seems a delusion of grandeur to say all gun-owning civilians would have the training to judge whether a situation required deadly force.

As a student, I would rather that statute didn’t pass.”

Casas was concerned that more guns would only worsen dangerous situations by causing more issues for first responders. Students carrying guns, though, may not be the biggest issue.

FIU has been trespassed by potentially dangerous people in the past - from sex offenders to mental patients. Many of these were covered by FIUSM.

Anyone can walk onto the campus of a public university - students, police and staff have no idea who might be carrying a weapon, or where they might be coming from.

At the end of the day, student safety should be the main concern of legislation and police action. Anything that could potentially endanger our student body should be thoroughly discussed and investigated, and we hope to do just that.

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Oscar boycotts delve beyond film industry

ON THE SCENE

GABRIELLE GARCIA

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Graffitti located in the Deuxieme Maison first floor women’s bathroom adds to the University discussion on reproductive rights.

Send Us Your Letters
Have something on your mind? Send your thoughts (400 words maximum) to opinion@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 unsigned 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 sections. Send them to opinion@fiusm.com.
Freshman and transfer students share hopes for University

Hallelujah for Panic! at the Disco’s new album, ‘Death of a Bachelor’

It’s rare to find a band with as interesting and perturbed a history as Panic! at the Disco. However, it seems that Urie knows exactly what he’s doing and where Panic’s music is heading.

Language and Culture Assistant Program positions available

GUETHSHINA ALTENA
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Language and Culture and Assistant Program manages the Spanish Ministry of Education, Culture and Sport, and the Education Office of the Embassies of Spain in the US and Canada.

A representative of the Consulate General of Spain in Miami will visit to discuss the program with students interested. All legal resident of the United States and Canada are eligible.

The program provides North American students who are native speakers of English or French with the opportunity to assist teachers in the English or French programs in elementary, secondary or language schools in Spain (11 to 16 class periods a week) according to the Ministry of Education website.

The application for the year of 2016-2017 are now open until the April 5 deadline at 5:59 p.m. There are no fees for the application process. At the information session, after the first 30 minutes of presentation, candidates will be able to find out more information on the program and will get the opportunity to speak individually with the representative and ask questions.

For more information, visit the Office of Global Learning Initiatives, Green Library 466 for more information.

MODERN ART EXHIBITION

Sketching in museums is a long, honored tradition in art studies; from novices, to amateurs and professionals this fundamental part of the art process has led to bolstered inspiration and sharpened technique.

Sketching in the galleries, event of the year Friday, Jan. 29, from 7 p.m. to 9 p.m. These sessions are hosted the last Friday of every month, according to the Ministry of Education website.

Chris Mellissinos speaks to Dorothea LaFrieda and Claudia Starosta, docents at the Florida Art Museum, Thursday, Jan. 28, from 1 p.m. to 3:30 p.m.

For more information, visit the Office of Global Learning Initiatives, Green Library 466 for more information.

The album itself consists of 11 songs, each unlike the other in marvelous ways. A song like Crazy=Genius resembles a jazz ensemble while Golden Days serves as the backdrop for a starry-eyed, romanticized summer night.

The best part of Death of a Bachelor is Urie channeling his role-model, Frank Sinatra, for over the top, incredible vocals in songs Death of a Bachelor and the final track, Impossible Year.

With such emotionally driven vocals and a piano melody serving as the backdrop in each song, it’s impossible not to have goosebumps break out while listening.

Being one of the first few albums released in 2016, Death of a Bachelor has definitely set high expectations for any other album coming out this year. Well deserving of its 4/5 star reviews from multiple music magazines, such as Alternative Press and Clash, it is definitely an accolade Urie should be proud of.

You can catch Panic! at the Disco on tour this summer co-headlining a tour with Weezer. The tour will be stopping in Florida on June 14, at the Bayfront Park Amphitheater, and June 15, at the MidFlorida Credit Union Amphitheater in Tampa.

Music Notes is a column that covers South Florida bands. For suggestions or commentary email life@fiusm.com

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The Wolfsonian-FIU will be hosting the Galleries event of the year Friday, p.m. These sessions are hosted the excluding November and December.

Sketching in museums is a long, honored tradition in art studies; from novices, to amateurs and professionals this fundamental part of the art process has led to bolstered inspiration and sharpened technique.

“Lots of classical artists have been very common” said Heather Cook, the Wolfsonian. The museum will provide participants with sketching tools, such as pencils, sketch paper, a clip and sharpened technique.

“We had gotten so much of the art process has led to bolstered inspiration and sharpened technique.” said Heather Cook, the Wolfsonian. The museum will provide participants with sketching tools, such as pencils, sketch paper, a clip and sharpened technique.

The activity is led by Carlos E. Prado, a museum artisan at the Wolfsonian.

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Eating healthy should not be extremely costly

SDA HEALTH

It’s likely that one of the variables that quickly comes to mind when considering healthy eating is increased spending on food. Of course, this usually deters many who desire to eat healthier. Generally speaking, analyses show that diets rich in calorie-dense foods are less costly than diets that consist of fruits and vegetables. Healthy diets, however, may be acquired through different levels of spending.

In 2010, there was a study published by the American Journal of Clinical Nutrition, which sought to evaluate components of a dietary pattern that may prevent cardiovascular disease (CVD) among women residing in the United States. Those conducting the study used an index, called the Alternative Healthy Eating Index (AHEI), to measure the adherence of the healthy eating pattern. The healthy eating pattern was defined as one that helps to prevent CVD.

The individuals that scored the highest had higher intakes of fruit and fruit juice, vegetables, nuts, beans and whole grains and lower intakes of high-fat dairy, grains, sweets and snacks. These individuals also had lower rates of diabetes and hypertension.

Greater spending on nuts, beans and whole grains was associated with a higher AHEI score and greater spending on red and processed meat, high-fat dairy, sweets and snacks was associated with a lower AHEI score.

You can greatly improve your health without spending an increased amount of money on food while also lowering your risk of CVD.

Consider adopting an alternative healthy eating pattern that focuses on reducing the consumption of red and processed meats while increasing your consumption of fruits, beans and whole grains. It may very well be the best investment you can make on your health without breaking the bank.

SDA health is a weekly column written by members of the Student Dietetic Association. The column focuses on healthy eating and the importance of nutrition or to suggest a topic, email life@fiusm.com

Career Services to host ‘What to wear’ workshop

GUETHSHINA ALTENA
Asst. Entertainment Director
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65 percent of bosses indicate that clothes could be a deciding factor between two almost-identical candidates, according to the undercover Recruiter’s website. What to wear to an interview is more crucial than most people think.

It has been proven that 33 percent of bosses know within the first 90 seconds of an interview whether they will hire someone according to the same website. Professional wear is one of the main components to make a good first impression.

Career Services, partnering with Student Affairs, is hosting a “What to Wear” event Wednesday, Feb. 3 from 11 a.m. until 2 p.m. in Graham Center Room 230.

The workshop will teach students about the do’s and don’ts of career fair fashion. Knowing the proper attire when attending career fairs is the key to making a good impression during an interview. Plus, what one wears helps develop what an employer thinks of making the decision that consideration during that hiring process.

The event will also help students better understand how their outfit may affect employer’s views of them. All interested students are welcome to attend, especially students who plans on attending the upcoming Career Fair that will be hosted later this semester.

McKay’s new movie doesn’t come up short

When news first broke that Michael Lewis is about the 2007-2008 global financial crisis was being adapted into a movie written and directed by “Anchorman” and “Step Brothers” director Adam McKay, the reaction was a collective: WTF?

Even more intriguing was the fact that the movie would star such high profile Hollywood names as Brad Pitt, Steve Carell, Christian Bale, and Ryan Gosling.

The result of this unlikely collaboration is a unique and utterly original telling of the build up of the housing and credit bubble that eventually led to “The Great Recession” which ended in 2009.

Making a movie about this type of subject matter would be hard enough, but getting people to understand the material and actually be entertained by it, is a whole other set of challenges.

The Big Short” chronicles some of the key individuals who believed the credit and housing bubble would burst, and how they controversially took advantage of the situation by betting against the banks.

If the terms “subprime mortgage loan” or “credit default swap” sound painfully dull to you, you wouldn’t be alone.

The global financial world is not for everyone.

It takes a certain type of person to get out of bed in the morning and be excited about these complex terms and concepts.

This is exactly why McKay was attracted to this particular story in the first place; the real life characters that Lewis describes in his book are full of idiosyncratic and peculiar behaviors, all while being some of the smartest men in the industry.

By telling the story of the financial crisis, what caused it through the eyes of these absurd personalities, we are better able to understand what’s actually going on while still being invested in the characters.

Bale, Carell, Pitt, and Gosling star as the odd group of Wall Streeters who correctly predicted that the markets were going to go down.

Gosling also acts as the narrator who sporadically breaks the fourth wall and talks directly into the camera and to the audience.

This technique is used as a way to help the audience follow along while also providing the necessary comedic relief along the way. Other types of gags throughout the film to further help the audience understand what the characters are talking about.

This includes a scene of actress Margot Robbie, naked in a bathtub, explaining to us what exactly a “sub prime mortgage” is.

As you continue to watch the movie you start to realize not only how important this crisis was, but also how little you knew about it in the first place.

The financial crisis of 07-08 is considered by many of the world’s leading economists to be the worst financial crisis since The Great Depression, yet many everyday Americans do not understand the causes or repercussions of such a global economic failure.

McKay succeeds in striking a balance between the financial complexities presented to us with the amount of comedy and drama carefully intertwined.

Bale and Carell give stand out performances among the ensemble cast as quickly and eccentric Wall Street executives who not only predict the downfall of the housing economy but also try and exploit their findings to their own financial gains.

The film has pushed McKay out of the slapstick comedy world and into the unfamiliar territory with Oscar nominations for Best Picture, Best Director, and Best Adapted Screenplay.

While “The Big Short” may not your average comedy, it stands out as an interesting and unconventional biographical study of one of the most uninteresting topics imaginable.

Sick Flicks is a weekly column that provides movie reviews on newly released obscure or independent films. To offer suggestions for dave, send an email to life@fiusm.com
GUARDS UP

FIU’s men’s basketball team (11-9, 5-2 in Conference USA) completed their Lone Star conference slate Saturday, Jan. 23, in a 79-69 victory over the University of Texas at El-Paso.

Senior center Adrian Diaz scored a team-leading 20 points and junior guard Donté McGill scored 14 points in the last 20 minutes as the Panthers held off a surging UTEP team in the second half.

FIU was efficient on offense, making 53 percent of their shots from the field and 44 percent from beyond the arc. The Panthers’ defense was also excellent, holding the Miners to 41 percent shooting from the field and 33 percent on three pointers. Both teams committed 12 turnovers, although FIU came away with eight steals. The Panthers scored 16 points off turnovers.

Prior to Saturday night, UTEP was undefeated in conference play at home. Both teams entered the contest knowing how important getting the win was; FIU was playing to avoid returning to Lime Court at 500 and UTEP was attempting to build some momentum after defeating Florida Atlantic University 71-56.

UTEP held the early advantage from the tip, getting up 7-2. The Panthers fought back going on a 10-0 run and leading 12-7. They went on another 10-0 run later in the half to gain a 38-25 advantage. Senior forward Davion Draper was key to the Panthers’ success on both ends of the court; he scored 17 points to go along with 10 rebounds, 6 assists and 3 steals. At halftime, FIU commanded a 41-28 lead.

The Panthers extended their lead in the beginning of the second half. With 10:43 left in the game, however, UTEP launched a 24-6 run in which the Miners’ leading scorer Lee Moore scored 12 points and his team stifled the Panthers’ offense. The run shrunk FIU’s lead to 70-67, but the Panthers’ offense was jumpstarted by a three-pointer from Eric Nottage. FIU secured the lead by making 4-6 free throws in desperation time and took the game 79-69.

FIU retained fourth place in the C-USA standings, moving one game back behind Marshall University (6-1) and Middle Tennessee (6-1), and two games behind University of Alabama at Birmingham (7-0). Next up for the Panthers is a two-game home stand against the Charlotte 49ers and the Old Dominion Monarchs. Tipoff against the 49ers is set for 7 p.m. Thursday, Jan. 28.

BIATHLON

Defeats UTEP Miners 79-69

MEN’S BASKETBALL

University defeats UTEP Miners 79-69

DAVID DRUCKER
Staff Writer david.drucker@fiusm.com

The start of the 2016 FIU women’s beach volleyball team is just under six weeks away as the team prepares for the FIU Fort Lauderdale Beach Invitational.

The Panthers have been training and practicing for months and look to be in peak condition by the time the regular season begins.

One of the Panthers’ newest members of the team is senior, Gloria Levorin. Although her name may be recognized from previous years, leaving some to wonder how she is one of the newest members of the team.

Levorin, who played her fourth year for FIU’s indoor volleyball team in November, is joining the beach squad for the first time. In a way, this senior is a “rookie.”

Levorin, a native of Padova, Italy, is one of the tallest players on the team, standing 6-foot-2 and she will be looking to utilize her height as she did throughout her career for the indoor team.

Levorin ranks fourth in block assists (281) and is T-9 in solo blocks (39). Levorin has maintained consistency throughout her career. In all four seasons playing indoor, she has played in 27 or more games. Levorin started in all of the Panthers’ games (30) her freshman year in 2012 and (28) in her senior year in 2015.

The transition from playing indoor to beach volleyball has its challenges. Players go from playing with five teammates in indoor, to just one partner in beach. Also, moving in the sand is much more difficult than on the hardwood, so conditioning is arduous.

“It’s been challenging. Definitely like the physically part, getting used to the different ground and two players on the court,” Levorin said, “but other than that it’s a lot of adjusting. Adjusting to the wind and the new fundamentals.”

Levorin is not the only player making the transition from indoor to beach. Freshmen Katie Friesen, Lina Bernier, Dominique Dodd and Jade Faucette, are all playing for the beach team this season.

Although Levorin is new to the team, she knows she fits right in. “They (my teammates) are great. They help me a lot; I have like 20 coaches on this team, and everybody has some advice to give me during practice,” Levorin said, “it’s very positive and very constructive.”

Levorin will be looking to claim a top-ten spot on the team to compete in the tournaments and matches throughout the season. If she does, she will join one of her teammates and be one out of the five duos.

Levorin said, “I really want to surprise myself and be the best beach volleyball player I can be.”

Coming off the program’s best year a season ago, Levorin knows it has a reputation of winning and succeeding, “I know this team has a lot of high expectations, and I definitely fit in with this,” Levorin said, “I want to get to Nationals too, and once we are there, do the best we can.”

LEonorin Hudson keeps control of the ball from guard Starr Breedlove, a UTEP Miner, at the last home game Saturday, Jan. 23. The next away game will be against the Charlotte 49ers in North Carolina Jan. 28.

Beach volleyball has its challenges. Players go from playing with five teammates in indoor, to just one partner in beach. Also, moving in the sand is much more difficult than on the hardwood, so conditioning is arduous.

“The transition from indoor to sand volleyball is challenging. Players go from playing with five teammates in indoor, to just one partner in beach. Also, moving in the sand is much more difficult than on the hardwood, so conditioning is arduous,” Levorin said, “but other than that it’s a lot of adjusting. Adjusting to the wind and the new fundamentals.”

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Professional soccer team comes to Miami

SANTIAGO ARCHIERI
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Soccer fans in South Florida were as excited as ever when the news that Beckham was taking charge to bring an MLS team down to Miami, but that excitement soon started to wear off. One failed attempt after another, fans are as confused as ever, and still not sure what is going on with the Miami MLS team.

With what might finally seem like a site to build their stadium in, fans something to smile about in the midst of a saddening season for the Heat. Although Hassan Whiteside was at most times the number one option on the floor for Miami, and we saw what he was able to do. His intensity, blocked shots, furious dunks and fans probably gave Heat fans something to smile about in the midst of a saddening season for a franchise that wasn’t going to make it to the playoffs for the first time in five years.

But things were shaken up towards this regular season, the fun and games were done and Heat fans ready to get back to their winning ways.

One thing that has been in the heads of fans everywhere is how Whiteside is getting paid under a million dollars this season, and the offseason will mean big money in Hassan’s pocket, and there are some skeptical thoughts going around about the Heat doing so. Even in this season of ups and downs, Hassan has proven that he is still able to produce at a dynamic level. When the lineup is fully healthy, Whiteside is not getting as many touches and shots as he might need to have a bigger impact on the game.

In games when he shoots double digit field goal attempts, the Heat are 9-5. He is also shooting 71 percent in those games. Just an idea to float out there that he is still valuable when a higher option.

On defense, the Heat are stellar at small ball, Chris Bosh at the 5, but you can’t ignore the fact that Whiteside is on his way to breaking the Heat single season blocks record, and is averaging over four a game, all in under 29 minutes per game.

So far, Whiteside has 158 blocks this season, and only one person in the NBA has cracked the 100 mark; Serge Ibaka. I am not here to say that Whiteside should empty their wallets this instant and give Whiteside 130 million. I understand where frustrations come from, but the offseason is coming fast and Whiteside is going to get a bigger piece of the pie. It might not be from the Heat and that is not necessarily a bad thing.

At the end of it all, especially with the salary cap rising, Hassan Whiteside is worth a lot of money. If he has a terrific end to his season, I could personally see another team getting close to the max. Especially after some types of contracts we saw this past summer for big men like Enes Kanter and Billy Thompson, there is some team out there willing to give more than Miami can offer.

If he chooses to leave, he is going to prosper and be a dominant player elsewhere, maybe even as the number one option again. One thing is for sure, enjoy it, because last time Heat fans took a player for granted, it was the end of a dynasty.

Santi’s Arch discusses various sports topics and issues. To contact Santiago, email him at santiago.archieri@fiusm.com.

Megan Tai/The Beacon

Guard Kristian Hudson goes against University of Texas at El Paso Miner Guard Jenzel Nash at the game Saturday, Jan. 23. FIU lost with a score of 57-69.

OVERTHROW

The Beacon – Wednesday, January 27, 2016

Get up to the minute news coverage, instant sports updates, what’s new in student life, music and talk shows, event photo galleries and more at fiu.com.
The other climate pollutants

Veerabhadran Ramanathan and Daniel Press

Los Angeles Times

Among climate scientists, the consensus is that we must become carbon neutral by 2050 to avoid catastrophic environmental disruptions. Negotiators at the recent summit in Paris accordingly focused on curbing carbon dioxide emissions.

There’s a major problem, however, with a CO2-centric strategy. Because carbon dioxide remains in the atmosphere for a century or more, and because we won’t abandon fossil fuels overnight, neutrality by 2050 simply isn’t good enough to keep Earth from warming 2 degrees Celsius, the generally agreed-upon limit. Much less the ambitious goal of 1.5 degrees Celsius that many nations support.

If we’re serious about preventing or at least slowing climate change, have to broaden our hit list; even if we move toward carbon neutrality, we must also restrict methane, carbon soot, ozone and hydrofluorocarbon coolants. These pollutants are about 28 to 4000 times more potent warmers than carbon dioxide, but they remain in the atmosphere from mere days in the case of carbon soot to 15 years in the case of HFCs.

Cutting the emissions of these short-lived climate pollutants, or SLCPs, unlike curbing carbon emissions, will have an immediate effect and can dramatically slow global warming within a few decades.

To put real numbers on it: If we reduce our emissions of methane 90 percent, black carbon 90 percent and fully replace HFCs by 2030, then we’ll cut in half projected global warming over the next 35 years. These steps will delay environmental disaster and give us time we desperately need to radically change our energy diet.

Existing technologies, clean alternatives and regulatory mechanisms such as the 1987 Montreal Protocol that have proved effective for other climate pollutants can be quickly repurposed to deal with SLCPs.

In November, the 197 parties to the Montreal Protocol agreed to work toward an HFC amendment in 2016. Some parts of the world aren’t waiting. India and Pakistan committed to phase down HFCs. Mexico has pledged to cut SLCPs 25 percent by 2030. California has already cut its carbon soot and ozone-forming gases 90 percent and is on track to curbing all four SLCPs.

There’s no downside to this approach. By curbing short-lived pollutants, not only will we obtain short-term relief from rapid warming, but we will also slow sea-level rise, increase crop yields and score a major victory for public health. Indoor and outdoor pollution today causes more than seven million premature deaths annually. Cutting SLCPs can benefit us now, saving potentially 40 million lives over the next 20 years.

What we have in front of us isn’t a choice between pulling lever one (carbon dioxide) or lever two (SLCPs); it’s crucial that we pull both levers with all of our collective might. We have a moral imperative to act immediately with everything at our disposal, not only because there’s no Planet B, as environmental activists put it, but because climate change seriously harms human well-being.

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