University to provost: It’s not goodbye, it’s see you later

CAMILA FERNANDEZ Staff Writer

University members only had kind words to say about Provost and Executive Vice President Douglas Wartzok — knowledgeable, inspirational, tireless, a leader.

President Mark B. Rosenberg said Wartzok, who is stepping down from his provost position, exceeded his expectations.

“The easier my life is, the harder the provost is working, and I’ve had an easy life,” Rosenberg said to the Faculty Senate on April 8. Given his experience as graduate dean at the University of Missouri, Rosenberg convinced Wartzok to take the provost position five years ago. “He also was Pres- ident [Modesto] Maid- ique to get me enthusiast- ic. Between the two of them, it was pretty hard to resist,” Wartzok said. “With the wonderful diver- sity of our student popu- lation, and being an urban university with a major metropolitan area that can be a rival, New York for creative activity, it was a pretty easy decision to make.” Wartzok, who has been at the University for 42 years, served as the dean of graduate studies and vice president of academic affairs, before his appoint- ment as interim provost in 2009 and provost in 2010. This appointment had a condition: Wartzok would only fill the position for up to five years.

Now leaving to Australia on sabbatical, Wartzok said he is ending on a high note, being recently appointed to the Ocean Studies Board of the National Academies. He said he hopes to return to the University in 2015 in a different position. He said FIU is “a university of the future.” “I have no intention to go anywhere else other than FIU,” Wartzok said.

According to Rosen- berg, Wartzok was instru- mental in the growth of the University, generally with undergraduate students. “He makes my job easier, no question,” Rosenberg said in an inter- view with Student Media. “He is a personification of a world class professor.”

Wartzok noted the University’s national accreditation, biggest criti- cism about FIU in 2001 — the graduate program had grown rapidly, but there was a lack of a “central administration of graduate studies and, as a result, a decline in the quality of education,” the bill says.

Thus, the Senate Government Council at Modesto Maidique Campus recommends that FIU actively advocates for the reloca- tion of the Fair and Expo so that the University may expand into the space the fair currently occupies. It asserts that FIU must continue to expand and create new build- ings to accommodate its 50,000+ student body.

An inability to meet the demands of the diverse student body’s academic interests and research needs will inevitably result in a decline of student popu- lation and, as a result, a decline in quality of education,” the bill says. However, the Miami-Dade’s lease to the nonprofit through 2049 with extensions to 2085 stands in the University’s way of obtaining the 86 acres at Tamiami Park. According to President Mark B. Rosenberg, MMC will be out of footprint in seven years. In October, he said “small steps” had been taken to acquire the fairgrounds.

“It’s a process and it’s important that we get it right,” Rosenberg said. “We want to make sure that with our partners at Youth Fair, it can be win-win.”

But now county leaders and Miami-Dade representatives in Tallahassee are working to help FIU strike a deal with the Fair and Expo. The Senate found it crucial to join in support.

Three sites have been explored for the fair’s possible relocation and Rosenberg said the University would possibly contribute up to $80 million for construction cost.

Miami-Dade has not made such a pledge.

Although the fair season has ended and new senators are taking their seats for the next academic year, SGC-MMC said it will provide greater support by actively advocating for the relocation of the Fair and Expo in the future.

Senate Speaker Nicholas Aquart also recognized five “outstanding senators” in the Senate’s last meeting. Housing Senator Daniel Irigoyen, Graduate Senator Tiffanie Stewart, Lower Division Senator Mary Corbin, Business Senator Stefan Bahad and Engi- neering Senator Jolene Fan were recognized.

“They wrote at least one piece of legislation and attended multiple events,” Aquart said.

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Mark B. Rosenberg President FIU

Tuition tracker: higher sticker price, less aid

ROHAN JANI Staff Writer

Students have been awestruck by rising tuition, but pair a higher sticker price with a decrease in financial aid and you have low-income students — 59 percent of FIU’s undergraduates — struggling to make ends meet.

Tuitiontrack.org is a tool that shows what students really pay for college at more than 3,000 colleges and universities in the U.S., including factors like family income and financial aid and categorized by socio-economic status.

Plug FIU into the “track” bar and you get the sticker cost of attending for four years, as well as the average net price — the amount students actually paid based on family income. The net price subtracts federal, state, local and university grants and scholarships.

A color-coded timeline displays data from 2008 to 2012. The main trend: sticker price is rising and so has the net price for low-income students, who are receiving less aid.

And the prices may have been even more expensive. Luisa Havens, vice presi- dent for enrollment, told the Miami Herald that FIU’s net prices are “misleading” in statistical value, determining a “miscalcu- tion” in 2008-2009 statistical analyses.

Federal figures show the net price for the University’s poorest students at $1,866, while Havens said it was really $5,822. Havens was unavailable for comment; however, students shared their financial struggles.

Political science and psychology senior Sadaf Chaudhry said, although she is an outlier, having her tuition paid in full by scholarships and grants for most of her college career, she had to pay some money out-of-pocket this semester, experiencing the decrease in aid first hand.

“I did notice that there have been reduc- tions in funding and that credit costs have increased in the past few years,” Chaudhry said. “It’s becoming more difficult to achieve a bachelor’s without having to be knee-deep in student debt, and I’m very concerned about other students when I know that they not as fortunate as I am.

Senate supports University’s push for fairgrounds

MADISON FANTOZZI News Director

In the Senate’s last meeting of the academic year it passed its final piece of legislation 19-1: a bill supporting the University’s efforts to obtain the fairgrounds.

Senators were eager to sponsor the bill, which reads “the University’s mission...is inhibited by its inability to expand to incorporate the land held by the Miami-Dade County Fair and Expo.”

According to the Senate, the Fair and Exposition “only contrib- utes to the community by occup- ying the land reserved for it from mid-March to early April,” while FIU “provides year-long benefits to the community.”

Thus, the Student Government Council at Modesto Maidique Campus recommends that FIU actively advocates for the relocation of the Fair and Expo so that the University may expand into the space the fair currently occupies. It asserts that FIU must continue to expand and create new build- ings to accommodate its 50,000+ student body.

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“They wrote at least one piece of legislation and attended multiple events,” Aquart said.

They are the senators of the year on April 14.

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Pakistan: Taliban factions clash, killing dozens

Intelligence officials and militant commanders in Pakistan say clashes this week between Taliban factions in the northwest have killed dozens of fighters. One senior Taliban commander put the number of dead at 25. Other intelligence officials put the number as high as 43. There was no immediate way to independently confirm the death toll in the remote and dangerous area.

Syria death toll from rebel infighting rises to 68

Pope Francis asked for forgiveness Friday from people who were sexually abused by priests, and vowed that there will be no going back in the church’s fight to protect children. Francis made the off-the-cuff remarks after coming under criticism from victims’ advocacy groups for a perceived lack of attention to the problem and ongoing demands that he sanction abusers who were shielded for pedophiles. In his remarks to members of the Interna
tional Catholic Child Bureau, a French Catholic network of organizations that protects children’s rights, Francis said he felt “called to take it upon myself” and “ask forgiveness” for the evil that some priests had committed against children.

Pope asks for pardon for sex abuse by priests

The death toll from infighting between rival Islamic rebel groups in an eastern Syrian town has risen 68 killed, with some shot after being captured alive, activists said Friday. The number as high as 43. There was no immediate

CORRECTIONS

In Vol. 25, Issue 84, the article “Panther pitcher awarded C-USA Pitcher of the Week” was written by Alejandro Solana, not Ruben Palacios.

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

Wurtz leaves FIU after 42 years

It has such a Latin influence,” said Michelle Vires, marketing director of the College of Architecture and the Arts. “Whether Cuban or not, the Cuban culture is something we embrace. It is part of our identity.”

The schools are working in tandem with the Cuban American Student Organization.

Berruo will give a brief historical lesson on how the Cuban revolution and other Afro move
tments have influenced Jazz music.

“I appreciate events like these,” said Chris Castro, saxophone player and graduate student pursuing a degree in classical education. “They expose students to successful people who can serve as an example.”

Vires referred to the event as “entertainment with education,” not only for music students.

“Music connects you with people who are different,” Vires said. “All of our events are community centered, which is why our entrance fees are so low.”

Tuition tracker shows low-income students are hurting the most

regardless and still be in debt for it,” Hamouda said. “On the contrary, with larger tuition rates we have more qualified professionals and services in school, more tutoring centers, better healthcare options and so on.”

Students who have to work are in a really tough situation since employment opportu
nities for young adults are scarce in this economy too.”

According to the tracker, 59 percent of FIU undergraduates are low-income and receiving Pell Grant money.

Fatima Hamouda, a junior in religi
ous studies, argues that there are more positives to high tuition than negatives, however.

Besides the obvious costs that college tuition is expensive and that people would have to apply for small amounts of grants and scholarships, most people would have to apply

Tuition, Page 1

and that they are struggling so much.”

According to the tracker, FIU’s sticker price was $15,870 in 2008-

2009. In 2011-2012, this price was $17,565. While aid increased from 2008 to 2009 in most cases, it has since been on the decline.

Thus, while all students are paying more, those who need financial help the most have been impacted at a more intense rate.

Jasiel Lopez, a freshman in management and administration, thinks the largest argument right now is over the distribution of financial aid and how students are most affected by it when it comes to low versus high income families.

“Most students with very low income generally receive financial aid that they need, and then there are students with higher-income parents who might not require the aid but take it anyway, while leaving the lowest-
tier students unqualified for aid,” Lopez said. “Low-tier students need aid the most and a lot is left on the table.”

Lopez commented on personal experience.

“I have to work to be able to afford my tuition,” Lopez said. “Students who have to work are in a really tough situation since employment opportu
nities for young adults are scarce in this economy too.”

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PROVOST, PAGE 1

Wurtz said that as provost, he understood that there was too much focus on research and graduate education and not enough at the undergraduate level, however.

“I thought that I needed to compensate for my background in graduate work and pay a little more attention to the undergraduates,” Wurtz said.

Besides accomplishing the highest award for undergraduate educa

tion and the Associa
tion of Public and Land-grant Universities’ Most

Successful Progress Report for outstanding improve

ment in six-year gradua
tion rate and major gradu

eate education award from the Council of Graduate Schools, Wurtz has also been an influential figure

for his colleagues right here at FIU;

“Provost Wurtz has provided outstanding leadership to us. I would like to thank him for the clarity he brought to every

issue at hand and for his quick responses to every question we have,” said Lakshmi Reddi, dean of the Graduate School.

With his popularity of wearing Birkenstock sandals, Chief of Staff Birgitta Rausch-Montoto described him as “a humble, low-key leader” who has held a very powerful role.

“He has probably been the hardest working indi

vidual I’ve ever worked with,” Monotto said. “He is very focused and very engaged; just in tune with what he’s doing. He inspired me to be a

better leader.”

After committing to only five years as provost, Wurtz and his wife Susan Wurtz, Head of Cata

logging for FIU Libraries, are looking forward to hiking in the Blue Moun

tains west of Sydney and in Austria’s Salzburg Alps, where they have climbed the Horn of Mount Buffalo.

“We love to travel, and even though we have trav

eled some during these past five years, most of that travel has been in conjunc

tion with a conference or a meeting that Doug needed to attend,” Susan Wurtz said.

Wurtz plans to return next year for FIU’s 50th anniversary and hopes that much more will be accom

plished. But until then, he said there is much to do in Australi

a.

He has arranged for his sabbatical at Macquarie University in Sydney and is planning on writing papers in his area of research – marine mammals and marine policy.

“Being Provost is a job that you work on every day of the week, every weekend and usually about 18 hours a day. So it’d be nice to do a little some

thing different,” Wurtz said.

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I have no intention to go any place else other than FIU.

Douglas Wurtz

Provost

FIU
Jack of all trades: Why an English major

Sanjeev VARRY
Staff Writer

Everyday more and more people are starting to realize the benefits of eating healthy and green food. People, especially youth, are seen to realize the benefits of eating healthy and realizing the benefits of eating healthy… Then, without a single thought, they dump those amazing products straight into plastic bags.

It is not uncommon to come across people who spend their sweet time picking out the most organic and healthiest of food options that American supermarkets have to offer… Then, without a single thought, they dump those amazing products straight into plastic bags.

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I was taking these classes because for as long as I can remember I’ve enjoyed reading and learning about history. I wanted to enjoy my college career, and instead of having a major that would secure me one sort of job, I wanted to have a major that would allow me to try all sorts of different jobs. I wanted to become a jack of all trades and learn many different facets of life rather than pigeon hole myself into a single sort of career.

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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.

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Dance Marathon fundraised $72,000 for local hospital

**GISELLE CANCIO**
Staff Writer

Children like Shannon from Boca Raton, have their lives saved by Children’s Hospital, thanks to the Children’s Miracle Network and those who fundraise for it. FIU students came together this past weekend for 17 hours in honor of 17 million children at the 17th annual Dance Marathon.

“It’s a big philanthropy and community service project where we raise funds and awareness for all the children across the nation that are taken in by CMN,” Silvia Vidaurre, ice breakers like ride that pony and red light green light, color and write notes to each other; all while standing. In between teaching the line dance, dancers were able to play different board games like candy land and jenga, play different It wouldn’t be a marathon without the miracle children.

“Miracle families who have been impacted or affected by an illness and have been helped by the foundation come and share their story and serve as an inspiration to the committee and dancers,” Joana Garcia, Dance Marathon Advisor, Assistant Director in the Center for Leadership and Services Office, said. “This allows everyone to see who they are fundraising for and really allows them to put a name and face to the cause.”

One of the Miracle Hospital within hours of birth.

Esophageal atresia is a condition when the esophagus is too short, keeping infants from swallowing their food.

The gap in Shannon’s esophagus reached from the bottom of her neck to her diaphragm, which meant immediate treatment was necessary.

The only bump in the road was that a procedure like this had never been done before in South Florida.

Her father says “Dr. Burnweit came up to me and said, I actually just read about this procedure but it’ve never done it; if you allow me to, I can try it on your daughter,” he replied to her “That’s the only chance I have so I’ll trust you.”

Four long stitches were attached to each end of the esophagus and drawn to the outside of her body.

Throughout the procedure, the doctor didn’t realize she had to secure the string with something, so she yanked two buttons off of her lab coat and tied the string around them.

Each day, the string on the buttons was pulled from the outside of Shannon’s body until the pieces were long enough to be sewn together.

“When the day came to remove the buttons and sew her esophagus together, I knew that was the best day of my life,” her father said. “I still have the two buttons and they will be sewn on her wedding dress in the same places they were on her body.”

She is now a healthy and happy ten year old and loves ballet, soccer and ice skating.

Shannon is one of the many miracle children, who came to the marathon and reminded everyone to stand for those who can’t. $72,000.95 was raised and that will be donated directly to Children’s Miracle Network Hospital to help children like Shannon survive.

“It’s because of what you do that allows a guy like me to be a Dad,” said a miracle father, who was standing with his now 14 year old son, a survivor of acute myelocytic leukemia.

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Plastic Pinks discuss the growth of the garage rock scene in Miami and their contribution

**JUNETTE REYES & DIEGO SALDANA-ROJAS**
FIUSM Staff

In collaboration with WRGP Radiate FM’s program Local Radiation, FIUSM has had the chance to interview several up-and-coming, as well as, established acts on the Miami scene.

Some of these artists include Panic Bomber, Smurphio from the local electronic funk band known as Afrobeta, Jean Jacket, The Cornerstoners, Flight Williams from the collective rap group known as Outta This World, Juan Turros and Michelle Forman of ¡Suénalo!, DJ and producer Jesse Perez, The Halfways, Millionyoung, Eagle Chief, vocalist Juan Rozas from Tremends, Lavola, The Vili-fiers, and Hunters of the Alps.

This time around, FIUSM got to sit down and interview lead vocalist June Summer, rhythm guitarist Augie Pink and lead guitarist Luigi Toni La Roka of Plastic Pinks.

Plastic Pinks is additionally made up of bassist Charlie De Jesus and drummer Nicholas Ochoa. They will be performing this Saturday, April 12 at Churchill’s Pub alongside several other local acts.

Tell us a bit about yourselves.

June: In the case of Augie and myself, we’re actually brothers. We’re actually from Puerto Rico. We moved here about three years ago.

Luigi: I’m Italian.

June: But the band actually started here in Miami. We’ve been together for a year, something like that.

What kind of music do you play?

June: We play, if you want to call it, garage rock. Rock and roll mostly.

Luigi: Or as we like to call it, rad city sticky pop.

Augie: It’s actually because of the sticky melodies we play.

What are some of your musical influences?

June: To be really honest, some of it came from Davila 666. That is Puerto Rican garage rock band that is really successful.

Augie: Ty Segall.

Luigi: Black Lips.

June: I grew up listening to The Drive In. So I really love post punk music. I like death rock music as well. So I guess we just try to incorporate all of that into garage rock music.

In terms of garage rock music, do you feel there has been a revival?

June: It has been happening, yeah. It’s been really good. One of the main things that has been happening lately is actually that, especially here in Miami. It has been growing pretty big. In Atlanta, it’s getting pretty huge as well.

Augie: Yeah, Atlanta is huge. They have The Cothangers and The Black Lips.

Where does the name come from?

Augie: The first thing everyone says is pink flamingos, everyone says that.
Plastic Pinks believe more local venues should cater to garage rock scene in Miami

The local garage rock band named Plastic Pinks is comprised of lead vocalist June Summer (left), rhythm guitarist Augie Pink (right), lead guitarist, Luigi Toni La Roca (center), bassist Charlie De Jesús and drummer Nicholas Ochoa.

The concert on Wednesday night brought two musical talents together, that people would never say in the same sentence. The two acts were Capital Cities and Jaxon DeRulo. Capital Cities brought along a first time opener in Scavenger Hunt, who was decent in my opinion, but no one that I would rave over or become a groupie for. I honestly only knew a single song by Capital Cities, before they came to campus, but some of their music I could see myself listening to at a party with friends. I do appreciate the trumpet player, who I believe is the best member of the ensemble, being involved in a music genre where he is not sitting inside of a concert hall or in an underground jazz club during prohibition. My favorite part of the night was the headliner in DeRulo. I would have his song Ridin’ Solo on constant repeat all of the time in high school. I’m not sure why, but that, along with Ice Box by Omario were two of my favorite songs back in the day. He had a twerking competition on stage with six FIU females to get the crowd going. In my opinion, it worked. His dance crew was one of the better that I had seen in a while. Some of his newer songs such as Talk Dirty were pretty good as well, but overall, for the concert, I am only going to go with a 3.5 out of 5 because the disc jockey opener was unknown and I had trouble finding a reason to want to listen to Scavenger Hunt.

The Beacon – Monday, April 14, 2014

Plastic Pinks believe more local venues should cater to garage rock scene in Miami

The local garage rock band named Plastic Pinks is comprised of lead vocalist June Summer (left), rhythm guitarist Augie Pink (right), lead guitarist, Luigi Toni La Roca (center), bassist Charlie De Jesús and drummer Nicholas Ochoa.

The concert on Wednesday night brought two musical talents together, that people would never say in the same sentence. The two acts were Capital Cities and Jaxon DeRulo. Capital Cities brought along a first time opener in Scavenger Hunt, who was decent in my opinion, but no one that I would rave over or become a groupie for. I honestly only knew a single song by Capital Cities, before they came to campus, but some of their music I could see myself listening to at a party with friends. I do appreciate the trumpet player, who I believe is the best member of the ensemble, being involved in a music genre where he is not sitting inside of a concert hall or in an underground jazz club during prohibition. My favorite part of the night was the headliner in DeRulo. I would have his song Ridin’ Solo on constant repeat all of the time in high school. I’m not sure why, but that, along with Ice Box by Omario were two of my favorite songs back in the day. He had a twerking competition on stage with six FIU females to get the crowd going. In my opinion, it worked. His dance crew was one of the better that I had seen in a while. Some of his newer songs such as Talk Dirty were pretty good as well, but overall, for the concert, I am only going to go with a 3.5 out of 5 because the disc jockey opener was unknown and I had trouble finding a reason to want to listen to Scavenger Hunt.

The Beacon – Monday, April 14, 2014

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The Beacon – Monday, April 14, 2014
C-USA honor roll shows that FIU needs some work

FIU is finishing up its first season in Conference USA and finishing up the 2013-2014 academic year with exams next week. April 10, C-USA released their list of athletes who are present on the Academic Honor Roll for that time period. This list of 3,213 male and female athletes from different schools that have competed in Division-IA sports had over 150 names - 154 exactly - that are familiar to FIU.

Regardless of the amount of players on a team, having an entire roster on the honor roll by the conference is a fantastic accomplishment.

The tennis program, led by Head Coach Katarina Petovic, had all six tennis players named to the list. I do acknowledge that six is a small number, and it may not be as impressive, if say, they had a team of 24 and all of them got on, but, it can’t be taken away from them that as a group.

They all worked hard in the classroom, as well as on the courts, to be successful.

More than expected

The football program had 10 players named to the list.

This is honestly more than I expected. After knowing that 17 players were academically ineligible for the 2013-2014 season, I had only expected four or five student athletes.

It is terrible that on the list of 71 students, only 10 were named to the list. As a physical education major on the coaching track, I know that in the future, I will not find it anywhere near acceptable for only 14 percent of my athletes to have good grades.

I do acknowledge as well that it was a special circumstance with a new coach, losing some better players, and other various actions that happened, but this coming year, the grades of the football team should be looked at under a larger microscope.

Overall

It concerns me that more student-athletes were not a part of this list. I would encourage these players to look at the title that they are able to carry. The first part of their title is student, and with only this small percentage of athletes getting recognized for having a high cumulative GPA, it will stun me that if not only they, but their coaches as well do not make a push for near 100 percent of eligible players to be named to this list within the coming years.

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Recreation center benefits St. Jude

Children’s Research Hospital

GISELLE CANCIO

Staff Writer

Students were able to step up, dance it off and shake it like never before at the Recreation Center at the new event at the Recreation Center called “Just Dance.”

“Just Dance is a fund-raising event for St. Jude’s and also the Recreation Leadership Team,” President of the recreational Leadership Team Kristopher Alvarez said. “Just Dance was chosen as the name because it incorporates our popular PantherFIT classes including Zumba, The Grove, Body Work and Cardio Funk.”

Zumba is considered a party at recess time. It’s fun class inspired by Latin dance and includes both Latin and international music. There’s no time for breathing when doing Zumba.

Cardio Funk it determines anywhere from 500-600 calories. “I think it’s cool that the rec center is putting on events for the students,” said sophomore chemistry major Maria Pinto said. “The $10 didn’t bother me because some of these classes cost $2-2.50 anyway and it was going to a good cause, plus it was for a good workout so I hope to see something similar to this again.”

Alvarez and Maria Roman were on the planning committee for four months trying to make this event come to fruition.

Four instructors agreed to teach the classes at a time outside of the norm: Nakreisha Cauney, Maria Roman, Nihat Alhenn and Danny Gonzalez.

The instructors collectively agreed to mesh their classes together in order to make it a better experience for the students.

The Recreation Center plans on planning and executing more events like “Just Dance” so that students who didn’t get a chance to attend this one can attend another.

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“I’ll be here for every event they put together like Just Dance,” junior finance major Stephanie Stuart said.

It also adds to the fact that the C-USA Commissioner’s Academic Medal List, which honors those who have a cumulative GPA of over 3.75 had 19 FIU student-athletes and 18 of those are female.

Men’s Basketball, led by first year Head Coach Anthony Evans, only had three athletes named to the list: junior forward Adian Diaz, junior guard Marco Porcher Jimenez and freshman guard Dominique Williams. However, Head Coach Cindy Russo had 12 of her 15 athletes’ names on the list.

Between baseball and softball, there were a combined 24 of 58 athletes.

This may sound pretty good, but when you break it down, 11 of the 18 in that list were from the softball program while the other 13 of 40 are from baseball.

105 of the names out of the 154 were female.

That is a large number, and something that is a great accomplishment to achieve.

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Panthers continue climb in national rankings with Buck-Crockett at helm

Oscar Baldizón

FIU sand volleyball is in the middle of an impressive winning streak and fully prepped to crash the party which will be like at Nationals. The Panthers haven’t lost since the first week of the season and currently hold a 13-2 overall record. Coming off a 4-0 victory. The more experienced Boha, Orlando and Trifunovic came in with quick doubles and singles points to shutout their season with no love for the Owls. Trifunovic came in with quick doubles and singles points to shutout their season with no love for the Owls.

Next step is Norfolk, Virginia for the 2014 Conference USA Championships commencing April 16. Boha is not a stranger to the level competition so I feel she has the greatest potential. Not Conference USA but Conference USA Tennis Championships the Panthers have swept FAU for a 4-0 victory. The more experienced Boha, Orlando and Trifunovic. Now sitting at 11-6. This seems to be just the tip of the iceberg that makes any leader proud. The tennis team has now closed out the season against rival school, Florida Atlantic University, with a win to put them at 11-6. This seems to be just the tip of the iceberg as they were able to achieve. The tennis team has now closed out the season against rival school, Florida Atlantic University, with a win to put them at 11-6. This seems to be just the tip of the iceberg as they were able to achieve Conference USA Commissioner’s Honor Roll. While I say “they” it is imperative to state that every player on the team has received the award. Lone senior Giulietta Boha, sophomore Carlotta Orlando and Aleksandra Trifunovic, freshmen Tina Nagode, Tina Mohoric and Valentina Briceno.

The purpose of school is for the education. Some problems arise when the success of a student-athlete is putting the athletic side ahead of school. This problem can be assumed canceled by the young tennis team while they have a great balance of all they take part in. To bring more awe to the situation they are all international students meaning they are able find this balance away from home and what they have known their entire lives. Having the talent and success won’t be of significant surprise. The team is small in numbers and young in experience. These Panthers are still developing under Petrovic to be at their full strength.

With Boha leaving there will have to be a new leader to step up and maybe even a team captain. To me, Orlando and Trifunovic are the first prospects to this responsibility but there is still possibility for a new member of the team to take some control and lead the team where they want to go.

On or off the courts the women’s tennis team is something to applaud. The championships will prove who wants what more.

State University, the University of North Florida and Florida Gulf Coast University.

The Panthers only dropped six sets for the entire weekend and properly honored their seven seniors on the final day; Jessica Mendoza, Maryna Samoday, Ksenia Sukhareva, Camila Rosado, Jessica Gehrk, Maja Rosko and Elly Citron.

Now sitting at number six nationally FIU has continued their steady rise up the national standings from where they started the season; nine overall.

Much of that success can be attributed to tremendous depth as a result of a splendid first year recruiting class. Three of the freshmen Head Coach Rita Buck-Crockett brought into the program this year start in top three pairs teams.

Aren Cupp, Marina Boulanger, and Giovanna Pasos all came into FIU with the talent to compete and have been put in the best positions to succeed. “We got a lot of good players this year. It’s a great mix of players that have proven themselves before and freshman that are more than ready to compete. As a coach, it’s great because it creates such a positive environment with the freshman being able to push everybody to be better,” Buck-Crockett said.

Pasos currently partners with senior, Jessica Mendoza, on the No. 1 pairs team at FIU. Mendoza brings plenty of experience and leadership from a history in both sand and indoor volleyball as she was the floor captain for FIU’s indoor team this past year as well. After finishing third at the AVCA Championships last year she is continuing to meet expectations.

The pleasant surprise of the year has been her partner, Giovanna Pasos. Hopes were high for the Brazilian from the moment Buck-Crockett got her to sign to play at FIU way back in November. But no one could have expected her to step into the number one spot and be so effective immediately.

“Just the fact that I was having a bit of a rough time, the American game is much more physical while the Brazilian style focuses more on technique. Conditioning was tough but we have such a great team and everyone works together so well it’s easy to overcome any obstacles we face,” Pasos said.

The stage is set for FIU to continue its ascent into the national spotlight and they will have their chance to square off against top 10 competition they could meet again at this year’s AVCA Championships. Both Georgia State University and Florida State University will be at the Fiesta this weekend, with a shot at redemption from an early season loss to FSU on the line for the Panthers. “We were peaking at the right time, I can see the team starting to reach to the next level, and now we will have one more push and hopefully everything lines up for a selection to Nationals,” Buck-Crockett said.
Silence to voice out concerns in the community

RAUL HERRERA
Asst News Director

University students will take a vow of silence, taking a stance against the abuse of members of the Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgender community.

“We’re going to have day of silence on both campuses,” said Edwin Serrano, graduate assistant at the Biscayne Bay Campus LGBTQA-Initiatives at FIU’s Multicultural Programs & Services.

Serrano informed Student Media that the purpose of this Day of Silence, on April 17, is to “stand for folks that have been abused” in the LGBT community, and that it will “let folks know about the issues LGBTQA individuals face.”

“Such an effort reflects on how powerful silence can be and how we can make our voices stronger,” Serrano said. “It’s a way of turning silence on its head, as reclaiming silence as a tool.”

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Serrano pointed to recent deaths of transgender individuals, saying that ignorance is to blame for the loss of members in the community.

“We really just want to stand tall and show our support by really choosing not to speak the entire day,” he said. “It’s very educational, very engaging and interactive.”

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“When asked out by Student Media, Vega was unavailable for comment.

In a second interview, Serrano pointed to more details, including that the event would take place between 10 a.m. and 4 p.m., and would end with “Scream for Ice Cream,” where participants would “break the silence.”

Serrano said that this kind of abuse “happens worldwide.”

He later referred to the Gay, Lesbian and Straight Education Network’s Day of Silence website, which calls the protest “a day of action in which students across the country vow to take a form of silence to call attention to the silencing effect of anti-LGBT bullying and harassment in schools.”

The GLSEN does not specify whether or not their program applies to American schools, or extends to schools in countries where violence against LGBTQA individuals is encouraged. Serrano said that he believed that other countries may be doing such activities.

The Federal Bureau of Investigation reports that in 2012, there were 5,790 "single-bias" hate crime incidents in the US. Of these, 48.3 percent were motivated by racial bias, 19.6 percent were motivated by sexual-orientation bias, 19.0 percent were motivated by religious bias, and 11.5 percent were motivated by ethnicity/national origin bias.

But the activism does not end with just the Day of Silence. Serrano mentioned that the event is part of a larger initiative.

“It is part of our April Pride Month series of events,” Serrano said. “It’s like a mini-component of the Pride Month.”

Students interested in the event can go to light.fiu.edu and dayofsilence.org for more information.

REBECA PICCARDO
BBC Managing Editor

Four professors joined forces in the hopes of innovating journalism and civic engagement to address the rising concern about sea level rise in South Florida, and they just received the funds to do so over the next academic year.

School of Journalism and Mass Communication professors Robert Gutsche, Susan Jacobson, Kate MacMillin and Julian Pinto won a $35,000 grant from the Online News Association Challenge Fund to test their proposed project titled: “Sea level rise in South Florida: How are waters affecting you?”

The purpose of this project is to build this project works with the ideas from Pinto and MacMillin’s work that was featured in WPBT2, “Changing Seas.”

“It was important to stick with that issue,” Pinto said.

The ONA and its partners, the Knight Foundation, the Excellence and Ethics in Journalism Foundation, the Democracy Fund and the Robert R. McCormick Foundation, launched the $1 million Challenge Fund last December to help universities fund projects that bring “innovation in journalism education” according to their website.

This collaboration came about when Jacobson and Gutsche were working on a proposal to bring more application development into the SJMC curriculum while Pinto and MacMillin worked on their own proposal about the issue of rising seas, according to Jacobson.

“When they found out they were working towards the similar goals, the four faculty combined their ideas and created a “super proposal,” Pinto said.

The winners receive up to $35,000 in “micro-grants” to support their local news experiments, and customize their curriculum to create a “teaching hospital model,” the ONA website said.

After the first year of implementation, each project is eligible to compete for a $100,000 award, which would extend their local project for a second year, according to Gutsche.

The purpose of the ONA Challenge Fund is to create a collaboration between faculty, students, news organizations and community members to raise awareness about a local issue.

With the grant money, the SJMC faculty members plan to develop a Web Geographic Information System course to get students involved in “innovative, investigative journalism and citizen science,” according to their submitted project proposal online.

One of the goals of the grant is to take publicly available data and combine it with information gathered through crowdsourcing to create apps that will let the public know how sea level rise projections will affect their area, Jacobson said.

The idea is that the public can type in their local address and get the projections of sea level rise over the next few years, Jacobson said. For this, students, journalists and members of the community must get involved in gathering information about elevation and other factors that will have an impact.

Such an effort reflects on how powerful silence can be and how we can make our voices stronger,” Serrano said. “It’s a way of turning silence on its head, as reclaiming silence as a tool.”

Jacobson said she would help teach this new course, “Mapping Sea Level Rise for Media,” for the upcoming academic year along with the University GIS department to help gather data.

Each project brings together the four project members from the table to make a difference in the reporting and community engagement about this local issue.

MacMillin, who could not be reached for a comment, would use her experience to manage all the content for this project, according to Jacobson.

Pinto’s knowledge of environmental issues will help guide the idea of “crowd hydrology,” which will help get members of the community to build on the public data feeds from the South Florida Water Management District, she said.

“Crowd hydrology,” or crowdsourcing is one of the ideas that made their project proposal stand out to ONA, Gutsche said.

His reporting and progressive pedagogy will help get students to learn about local issues and help members of the community get involved with crowd hydrology and guide them in the journalistic process, Gutsche said.

“This is a progressive pedagogical project,” said Gutsche, who wants students to assess their work as journalists in terms of making a difference.

“We need to ask ourselves is the journalism that we’re doing effective?” he said.

The University’s partners in this project include Jennifer Fu, center head of the GIS department at FIU; Neal Hecker, chief content officer of WPBT2; Alexa Elliott, producer of “Changing Seas”; Caroline Lewis, founder and CEO of Climate Leadership Engagement Opportunities Institute; Jayantha Obeysekera, chief modeler of South Florida Water Management District; Emie Huong, co-captain of Code for Miami and Rebekah Msmoon, lead organizer of Hacks/Hackers.

The array of local partners involved in this project would “make the outcome even more powerful,” Gutsche said.

With the collaboration of Code for Miami, for instance, Jacobson said that she hopes to have future hackathons at the University to “brainstorm on the issue of sea level rise and discuss solutions.”

“We can invite members of the tech community to play with the data,” she said.