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You’re a student, and you’re reading this column as you wait for your name to be called out so you can walk across the stage, wave to your parents, and sit back down. Or you’re the parent, waiting for your child’s name to be called out so you can jump around, clap your hands, and sit back down. It doesn’t matter — that official farewell to academia will only take a few seconds; we have a lot of sitting around ahead of us.

The first thing I would like you to do is pay very close attention to the speeches made by students, faculty, administrators, special guests and anyone else who stands behind a podium. I can guarantee you that at least one of these speakers will allude to Sir Isaac Newton’s aphorism to challenge Robert Hooke, an academic enemy. By all accounts, Hooke was a very, very small man.

They’re not going to tell you this story, but it’s true. You have several hours to use your mobile telephone’s Internet capabilities to study this.

The traditional meaning of the sentence will not be changed — you have reached this point in your life through the efforts of those who came before you, which is a very admirable idea. But its author also plagiarized an earlier saying to attack a diminutive competitor who had been accusing him — of plagiarism.

The meaning you know doesn’t change, but now you know the story behind it. The second thing I want you to do is jot down how much time you spent sitting down for this ceremony. Please include the travel time, the hour or two you’ll spend at a restaurant celebrating afterwards, and if you’re a student, all the time you spent in classes and tests and study sessions to earn the grades to reach your current chair.

You will spend a large part of your life sitting down. Hopefully you will have things to entertain you as you sit (maybe similar columns that also try to explore the meaning of life), and if you don’t, that’s not a reason to worry. You have a mobile telephone with Internet capabilities; you have the person sitting next to or in front of you; you have two eyes and two ears and a mouth; you have a mixture of modern and outdated tools at your disposal. If by some rare chance you have tired of reading this column for the 1-4th time, I will ask you to use these tools and learn a story. Perhaps the group of handsomely dressed people at your side has not read this column and won’t want to share a story with you. That’s fine; you’ll have plenty of other chances to just sit.

There is a story to everything that passes you by, to everything you encounter and touch and experience beyond what you hear or see. I will ask you to find out what these stories are, and if for any reason you tire of sitting, I will then ask you to become part of that story.

For now, though, I will advise you to remain sitting for just another second. I believe they’ve just called my name.

**Santisi recalls good times**

Senior to return to team as graduate assistant next year

**SERGIO BONILLA**
Sports Editor

Alyse Santisi was a freshman when the volleyball team finished with a 3-23 record.

As a defensive specialist for the Golden Panthers volleyball team, she has been part of the program’s recent success over the past two years.

She graduates FIU with a bachelor’s in sports management and hopes to still contribute to the team next year as a graduate assistant.

A couple of hours before her last final as an undergraduate student, she sat down with The Beacon to reflect on her time at FIU and her plans for the future.

Q: During your four years at FIU, what was your fondest memory?

A: I have enjoyed seeing the growth of the volleyball program. I think one of my fondest memories would have to be the first day of practice my junior year in college.

It was when we finally had the five new freshman recruits all together. The level of play and the commitment of all of the girls was great. It was really cool to see how well we gelled together. Finally after a couple of tough years, to see that FIU volleyball is going to be something special.

Q: Where do you see yourself after graduation?

A: I’m going to start my masters at FIU in exercise science, and I’m going to be a graduate assistant for the volleyball team. That’s cool because I love the girls and it’s going to be an influence on them in a whole different way.

I’m looking towards taking my sports management degree and apply that to my main two jobs, which will be setting up community service projects for our team and then running a big tournament in April.

It’s going to be the Play for a Cure Tournament. We did it last year; we’re going to do it for another person with a terminal illness or something of that nature.

Q: What is the reason for the volleyball program’s turnaround?

A: One good thing is good recruitment. Coach did a good job of promoting a program and finding ways to make it more appealing to you.

She found some of the best players she can find in the world that were eligible to play college volleyball. It’s not only physical abilities, but she did a good job of picking girls with the right attitude and that just want to work and play hard. The key to our success is that we care about each other. We worked hard to win.

Q: What are your plans after you obtain your master’s?

A: I want to start a program in volleyball. I’m thinking since I will have a background in coaching and exercise science.

Maybe develop some of kind of fitness conditioning volleyball based program that could help develop young athletes all the way up to college athletes. It will be for volleyball players teaching them proper technique, proper movement. And also condition their power and speed.

Q: What is the most important thing you’ve learned at FIU?

A: One thing that stands out to me is the growth of the volleyball program. I’m looking forward to seeing how well we gelled together. Finally after a couple of tough years, to see that FIU volleyball is going to be something special.

Q: How have you been able to contribute to the team next year as a graduate assistant?

A: I’m going to start my masters at FIU in exercise science, and I’m going to be a graduate assistant for the volleyball team. That’s cool because I love the girls and it’s going to be an influence on them in a whole different way.

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Q: What is the most important thing you’ve learned at FIU?

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Sharing the spotlight
Father and daughter graduate on same day

CHARLIE GRAU
Editor in Chief

When Daniel Cazalis and his daughter Begoñe came to the United States from Cuba, life was no easy task for them.

Daniel, a professor who teaches math, computer science, and statistics at FIU, delivering pizzas for Dominos and Begoñe, got a job scooping ice cream at Haagen Dazs. Even though she was too young at the time to work.

“My dad was working a lot. He did everything from building roofs to deliveries, everything to help provide for us,” Begoñe said.

Both father and daughter will be among the thousands of FIU students graduating on Dec. 17 and 18 at the Pharmed Arena.

I was assuming that I would graduate before her. But she was really fast and really on time and I was dragging for many years,” Daniel said.

Daniel will be receiving his doctorate in computer science. This will be his second, his first was in applied mathematics and computer sciences. This will be his second, his first was in applied mathematics from University of Rio de Janeiro.

Begoñe will be receiving her bachelor’s degree in journalism with a minor in French and philosophy.

“I’ll graduate after this exam,” Begoñe proudly announced in class last week, while the 15 or so students in her computer science and statistics class merely cheered and clapped and smiled. Wait. It didn’t really happen like that. I never made any announcement. I did think about it, though. Who doesn’t?

The truth is, my last exam was less of a heroic act and more of a mental torture.

I remembered the first exam I took here. It was for microeconomics. During the previous class, the guy who sat next to me – let’s call him Tom – asked to borrow my book to study for the same test. The bookstore had run out, he explained, and added that he would make some photocopies and meet me two hours later outside the library.

I was too naïve to say no or to ask his phone number, and too shy to go with him. So I let him walk away with my book. Two hours later at the library, Tom was no show.

I waited a couple of hours in case he had taken longer, in case there was a line at the copy center, in case he had run into some trouble, but would still make it back.

But he didn’t.

I was 17 and living all by myself. In just one afternoon I went from feeling invincible to feeling like an idiot. I was going to fail my exam and probably the class. I was never going to make it past that semester and in a few more months would be moving back home. I couldn’t sleep the night before the test.

Miraculously, the few pages of notes I had helped me pass the test. After class, Tom smiled and said he had waited “forever” for me. Yeah, yeah, I said, took my book and never spoke to him again.

Even though it’s too soon to digest the changes approaching, I am sure about something: the girl walking through the graduation stage this week wasn’t the innocent girl who anxiously waited for her book outside the library six years ago.

That girl came here feeling she could devour this world, believing she knew it all, yet it only took an encounter with Tom to realize how much there was still to learn.

Although it took more downs than I wished, I can’t describe how much I grew here in my column only, I’ve learned to take each challenge as it comes.

Perhaps the saddest part of leaving FIU is leaving my innocence here, but I know that if I ever walk around, I’ll be able to find that girl in the face of other freshmen.

As for Tom, I wonder whether he is reading this.

Classmate Salutes
Family, teammates major reason for Santisi’s success

SANTISI, page 1

A. What I’ve learned through high school up to finally graduating college is that I can do a lot more than I think I can do, but it takes a lot of hard work.

I’ve learned that through being a student-athlete and having to deal with time management and having to deal with the need to be successful under pressure and when you’re tired.

I think playing a college sport makes you such an incredible person and a better person to be successful in real life.

Q. How was your family involved in your college experience?

A. My family has been huge, huge in my success as both a player and a student. I always wanted to do what my older sister did. She played volleyball for one year so she got me into playing volleyball.

Then my twin sister and I played together. She’s the reason why I was successful when I was young because we would practice everyday outside just constantly touching balls and getting reps.

While other girls were hanging out with their friends, me and my sister were playing volleyball. The support from my mom and my dad is so awesome. Basically what my older sister told me is to do what I love and have fun. I do the best I can. This school has taught me that the best that I can is all that you can do. So always try to do the best you can.
Fall 2007 Commencement Candidates

College of Architecture and Environmental Studies

- Bachelor of Architecture in Architecture
  Taurian John Osborne
  Jennifer Perez
  Elisa A. Rodriguez
  Steven P. Williams

- Bachelor of Science in Music Education
  Odalis Cardad Cordero
  Jennine Marie Fuentes
  Yecci Garcia
  Sara Marie Gill
  Richard Weston Langley

- Master of Architecture
  Patricia E. Callejas
  Brian K. Losego
  Jason Emanuel Pistana
  Daphne Rosas
  Seth David Yeslow

- Master of Fine Arts in Visual Arts
  Jennifer R. Benjamin
  Amede John Eugen Caze
  Michael Denis Gerber
  Carlos A. Marquez
  Mila Milosevic
  Adrien Neal
  Jacqueline Perez

College of Arts and Sciences

- Bachelor of Arts in Economics
  Steve Jose Villatoro
  Garnell Benefry
  Shalom Davber Mayberg
  Maria J. Metzfel
  Grace A. Quintanilla

- Bachelor of Arts in French
  Monica Arguelle
  Dennis Carabina
  Elmelyn Gianni Cross
  Anna P. De Sena
  Catherine A. Duarte
  Oliver Peyton Gans
  Lisbel Garcia
  Omar Gonzalez
  Laura Meredith Holcombe
  Faustino Lopez
  Daniel C. Moluzo
  Parth Hemsawmi Nanavati
  Kevin Anthony Owre
  Jeffrey Juan Soto lòngo
  Tamara L. Young

- Bachelor of Arts in History
  Christina V. Acosta
  Greta M. Acosta
  Saintine Angelou
  Monica Albarello
  Vanessa M. Alfonso
  Shaylor Argota
  Maritza L. Amedo
  Halis Lorentz Batiste
  Carolina M. Benitez-Mata
  Matthew Dominic Bucemi
  Erika M. Cabrera
  Allison Patrice Coombs
  Diana M. Cruz
  Mynor J. Davis
  Brownyw R. Drout
  Andres Fajardo
  Arlene Garcia
  Daniel Garcia
  Karina K. Gavillet
  Darling Gabriela Gutierrez
  Jessica D. Gutierrez
  John Isaac Harvey
  Eric Hauquen
  Francine A. Henry
  Lindsay J. Jackson
  Victoria S. Jarrett
  Gabriela Jimenez
  Stephanie Ann Kelly
  Raynaaloban Kinchen
  Stephanie Larroso
  Margarita Leon de la Barra
  Jillian Lobato
  Tracy Rachel Lozana
  Anthony Charles Malone
  Bryan I. Martinez
  Daniel C. Martinez
  Sarah S. McElroy
  Nedeezia G. Monteagro
  Christian Montinos
  Shannon Marie Montesino
  Rey Parla
  Michelle M. Rodriguez
  Ronaldo L. Rosales
  Vachel Guardo
  Sabrina A. Santospino
  Susan V. Schwartz
  Maria S. Sanchez
  Robert T. Sanchez
  Marissa B. Shook
  Leslie L. Solano
  Maria V. Soto
  Tonya D. Vela

- Bachelor of Arts in Political Science
  Yilien Jackmiz Abad
  Diana Teresa Alfonso
  Michael Anthony Alfonso
  Andrea Alvarez-Villegas
  Adrian D. Arango
  Diley B. Ballbuna
  Lorraine Y. Bell
  Sunelia Blanco
  Veronica Borrego-Garcia
  Elvin Mario Burgos
  Jeiny C. Cabanes
  Geoffrey O. Chang
  Victor Hugo Chano
  Erika Clavareza
  Kelsy Adeliss Cruz
  Nicole D. Dimatil
  Andrea De Safo
  Eric H. English
  Omar Jose Fatumada
  Fritz Edwando Fernando
  Sofia E. Francesca
  Ariel Alberto Fernandez
  Megan H. Gong
  Kevin D. Gonzalez
  Jacob J. Davis
  Michael Anthony Alfonso
  Yilien Jackmiz Abad
  Diana Teresa Alfonso
  Mendy A. Arango
  Jeinna M. Aznar
  Rysa M. Barrios
  Karen M. Rodriguez
  Alwan J. Rahaman
  Geovana E. Rojas
  Anika M. Salcedo
  Yelmie P. Velez
  Emily Shafiel
  Alejandro M. Sierra
  Madeka Keioko Singleton
  Krystle Nicole Smith
  Alain Ralph Souvenir
  Renata Thomas
  Angeles Taryn Tustos-McKee
  Lasondra R. Unsdell
  Lewis Velken
  Regina Y. Walden
  Clarice M. Zayas

- Bachelor of Arts in Philosophy
  Chi N. Nam
  Sarah Lynn
  Eileen Megias
  Tiffanie L. Robbins
  Sacha G. Sullivan

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  Adrian D. Arango
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  Emily Shafiel
  Alejandro M. Sierra
  Madeka Keioko Singleton
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  Alain Ralph Souvenir
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  Angeles Taryn Tustos-McKee
  Lasondra R. Unsdell
  Lewis Velken
  Regina Y. Walden
  Clarice M. Zayas
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