Ben F. Badger, Jr.  
Asst. News Director

When Omar Bill Buchanan III started his college journey in 2000 he had no idea how long his quest would be or how many twists and turns would be involved.

Buchanan started at West Point, an extremely prestigious military academy that requires the recommendation of a senator or house representative to enroll.

The farm boy who grew up in Meadow, Fla., received not only a recommendation from Rep. Daniel Miller, but also received a ringing endorsement from Sen. Connie Mack III and Sen. Bob Graham. His plan was to become the next great military legend, but due to an accident while playing football, Buchanan was forced to leave West Point.

In addition to the rigorous curriculum, there were physical requirement as well. “I could have forced the door open for a few more months,” Buchanan said. “But I didn’t.”

After leaving West Point, Buchanan spent the next year in several odd jobs including skydiving. But he would have an epiphany while working on a farm.

“One day I was working on a farm and looked over to my uncle, who was just 60 at the time, and I said I have to get out of here,” Buchanan said.

With nothing more than a transcript and his possessions Buchanan moved to South Florida, knowing only a handful of people. One of his first stops was FIU where he was accepted on financial aid.

In the spring of 2007, FIU did not ensure that our student athletes have all the resources and support to graduate, and get their degree.

The successful spring semester has ever graduated in a single semester, which caps off a very successful academic school year.

For Athletic Director Pete Garcia, it’s business. “That’s why we’re in business,” he said. “Our number one priority is to ensure that our student athletes have all the resources and support to graduate, get their degree, and get ready for the outside world.”

The successful spring semester.

ATTLEZICS, page 2

TOP LEFT: Former SGC-UP Chief Justice Bill Buchanan will be getting his Bachelor degree in religious studies.

Johnathan Ramos

Asst. Sports Editor

In the spring of 2007, FIU did not meet the minimum requirement that student athletes are supposed to set in the classroom.

The Golden Panthers were penalized by the NCAA academic progress rate and dealt with the loss of nine scholarships, the most in Division I.

What a difference a year makes.

FIU is set to graduate 44 student athletes at the conclusion of this semester, the highest number the University has ever graduated in a single semester, which caps off a very successful academic school year.

For Athletic Director Pete Garcia, it’s business. “That’s why we’re in business,” he said. “Our number one priority is to ensure that our student athletes have all the resources and support to graduate, get their degree, and get ready for the outside world.”

The successful spring semester. ATHLETICS, page 2

Pay attention: life may throw you a free drink

Xavier Villarmarzo

Staff Writer

I remember it like it was yesterday. It was one of the very few times in my life when I woke up refreshed and energized. My mom had already picked out the perfect outfit by the time I got out of the shower. I can still remember the smell of my new, blue plastic Power Rangers lunch box, which had already been filled with a sandwich, frozen Kool-Aid cooler, a banana and a Little Debbie brownie.

Then came the annoying pictures: outside the house with the new outfit and book bag, with my sister and parents outside the school, etc.

Yeah, my first day of college was much like yours. I was already anxious and excited, but it didn’t really hit me until I went inside my first class that I had no idea what I was going to do with my life.

Six years and three major changes later, I leave no wiser academically than I did when I walked in. Of course that’s not hyperbole, but I really did realize that college is as much about the experience as it is about the degree, if not more.

Whether it’s developing your first crush in class and going so far as to make a study group to talk to her, being frustrated at a class you just can’t seem to grasp, hating your professor, going

Athletics’ graduation rates rebound

Athletics’ graduation rates rebound

Athletics’ graduation rates rebound

Athletics’ graduation rates rebound

Athletics’ graduation rates rebound

Villarmarzo, page 2

We all have a story to tell, now it’s time to find an ending

Geoffrey Anderson, Jr.

Lifestyle Editor

First, a word to the graduates: For many of us, college was the best of times and it was the worst of times. As we sit here together at commencement waiting to get on stage, I can honestly say that these past few years at FIU - four or five for some, six to eight for others and more than that for the unlucky - will remain in our minds for quite some time.

Maybe you’ll recall all the times your face lit up when you found a lone parking space on campus (thank you, Miami-Dade Youth Fair). Perhaps you’ll remember all the new friends you made each semester, the same ones you never saw again after finals week.

Most likely, you’ll just look back and be glad that last-minute term papers and cramming are things of your collegiate past (unfortunately, your procrastinating, Andrew Anderson, Jr., page 2
Involved student prepares himself for life after FIU

BUCHANAN, page 1

Involved student prepares himself for life after FIU

Student athletes have higher Fall GPA then regular students

ATHLETICS, page 1

follows a Fall semester that saw FIU’s student athletes have a higher cumulative GPA (2.90) than the student body. Also in the Fall, 41 percent of student athletes earned academic honors and 59 of 352 athletes made the dean’s list. Less than one percent of Fall classes were dropped.

FIU’s student-athletes have benefited from a budget increase at the Student-Athlete Academic Center (SAAC), and a commitment from administration.

“It is a combination of the coaches we have hired and the administration,” Garcia said. “But the overall credit goes to [FIU President] Modesto Maidique, who has been very supportive since the day he hired me.”

Garcia credits Maidique for having pushed the program forward.

“Does he want to win?” He wants to win at the highest level. He is very competitive and wants to win at everything, and nobody can underestimate his commitment to the students and student-athletes at this university,” Garcia said.

“When he hired me he asked me what we need to be successful on the field and in the classroom,” Garcia concluded. “I have applied it and now you see the results.”

In Garcia’s eyes, the academic success of athletes is just a small part of the administrations vision for the university.

“My wife graduated from here some years ago and it was nothing more than a commuter school,” he said. “Now it’s starting to take the shape and attitude of a regular university.”

Six years in college is a double looper of emotions

VILLARMARZO, page 1

to class when it seems like the world is coming down or skipping class to get drunk at the beach, everyone’s experience may seem different on the exterior, but it’s really not.

For me, though, my time at FIU will definitely be the most memorable six years – that’s right, six years – of my life. It was a double looper of emotions – to use an FIU/Miami-Dade County Youth Fair reference – with many people, places and things to thank.

First, passing your first test, failing your first test, dropping your first class, being rejected by multiple women, pulling an all nighter to write a paper, making new friends, losing old ones, finding love, losing love, there won’t be another six-year span in which so much happens for the rest of my life.

It’s very popular to say that once you graduate college you’re entering the real world at birth, and everything that happens after is all part of it. There is nothing more real than the ebbs and flows of life. The only difference is that people equate increased responsibility with growing up and completely ignore all of your irresponsibility that made you who you are now.

So, fellow college graduates, we shouldn’t consider ourselves grown up just yet, because at 21, 22, 23 and (in my case) 24 years old. We’re still growing up. Even our parents are still growing up, although you’ll never get them to admit it.

This was supposed to be a sports column, considering I’ve worked with the sports section for three years, so I’ll shut up in my argument.

FIU Athletics, as well as the University as a whole, is growing up just like we are. With the University being about three decades old, we’re finally seeing a strong commitment to Athletics just in the past 18 months. Yes, FIU has a law school, a world class business school and will be opening a medical school in a little over a year, but none of that can give the school as much notoriety – and as much donations – as nationally-recognized athletics program.

Now that I’ve satisfied my sports requirement, I’ll leave you with some advice you’ll probably ignore: keep your head up and eyes open – like Tupac said – and never be afraid to take a look around you, because you’ll definitely find something interesting.

It may be good sometimes, it may be bad sometimes, it may even be something sometimes, but I guarantee you one of those times it’ll be a free beer. And who wouldn’t want that?

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College of Architecture and The Arts

-Bachelor of Landscape Architecture
  -Julian Bernal
  -Andrea Kallimani
  -Ember
  -Emmanuel J Hidalgo
  -Alison A Robbins
  -Bruno Sanabria

-Bachelor of Architecture
  -Edgar Albandoz
  -Marina Paula Amaya
  -Glenda Karen Amayo
  -Mehran Azghandi
  -Patricia A Callejas
  -Marina Valentina Calvo
  -Claudio Carbonnell
  -Fernando R Cleves
  -Chad T Constantine
  -Emile O Dajer
  -Robert L Dajer
  -Julio Enrique Estorino
  -Carlos Fuoyo
  -Michael A Goodman
  -Ruben Daniel Gutierrez
  -Douglas R Krull
  -Quinten Ely
  -Lightbourn
  -Mike Lopez.
  -Ricardo Enrique Matos-Lopez
  -Edward Alan Mendez
  -Laurent Joseph Mermet-Marchel
  -Andy Tszang Ng
  -Tanya E Nogueiras-Pelez
  -Isaguel Padilla
  -Jason Emanuel Pistana
  -Maria Ivelles Rios
  -Marla Rivera-Cirino
  -Cesar Sorste
  -Francisco Jesus Waltersdorfer
  -Isaac T Wechsler
  -Seth David Yeslow
  -Brian L Zambrano

-Bachelor of Fine Arts in Design
  -Sonia Ahmad Chaudhry
  -Susette Auxiliarida
  -Garcia
  -Irina V Mitina
  -Bindu Madhavi
  -Megallapiu

-Bachelor of Landscape Architecture
  -Matthew Ryan Anders
  -Marc P Bell
  -Silvia Alexandra Bolivia
  -Karol Colindres
  -Ruben Armando Colon
  -Medina
  -Sheila Hylton
  -Paola Iglesias
  -Courtney Darnell
  -Jennifer
  -Anwar S. Morales
  -Jaime Oswaldo Ruiz

-Bachelor of Arts in Architecture
  -Kristyn Michele DeRosa
  -Giselle Fernandez

-Bachelor of Arts in History
  -Stephanie Cevallos
  -Edgar Canull
  -Annae Amara
  -Eddy Arturo Lopez
  -Lydia A Lopez
  -Margarita Mirabal
  -Ines D Morales Victorl
  -Robin Lisle Moses
  -Carlos A Martinez
  -Elizabeth M Perez
  -Elena Natalia Richards
  -Grace Mora Saavedra
  -Christine Marie Skjong-Nilsen

-Bachelor of Arts in Dance
  -Santessa M Butler
  -Liat Englard
  -Shakee B Horstman
  -Maria Magdalena
  -Guzman
  -Jedidiah M Quiones
  -Crystal Sepulveda
  -Jaeline Vilarino
  -Danielle Williams

-Bachelor of Arts in Music
  -Maria P Garcia
  -Robert Hampson Keller

-Bachelor of Arts in Theatre
  -Lina M Escobar
  -Hess J Wesley
  -Amber C Wilson

-Bachelor of Fine Arts in Art
  -Carmen V Carvajal
  -Domingo Castillo
  -Henry W Genelus
  -Anna I Goraczko
  -Diani Safdeye

-Bachelor of Fine Arts in Theatre
  -Jose Luis Grau
  -Jacqueline Martinez
  -Brenden R McCune
  -Francesca Toledo

-Bachelor of Music
  -Amy I Alvarado
  -Erick A Bolivar
  -Enrique Caboverde III
  -Jesu Eun-Kalil
  -Norberto Canacho
  -Maria A Duarte
  -Aymara Fernandez De La Vara
  -Jill S Fetscher
  -Margaret Haje
  -Steven M Hernandez
  -Sheyla Mirabal
  -Stephanie Mon omnipot
  -Diana Carolina
  -Morailes
  -Eric Lawrence Murias
  -Michelle Palacios

-Bachelor of Science in Music Education
  -Lahazel Elaina Bibvis
  -Joel Norman
  -Edgecombe

-Master in Music
  -Derick Cordoba
  -Rafael Galvan Herrera
  -Michelle Gonzalez
  -Iva Kosovic
  -Carl X Lauderdale
  -Kristen Llorca
  -Carlos A Martinez
  -David D Mendoza
  -Roxana Mendoza- Guevar
  -Marta Milosevic
  -Isabel Mora Rojas
  -John H Normandin
  -Mirjana Petrovic
  -Rafael Marco Ramirez
  -Roanna Kaye
  -Richardson
  -Sanchez
  -Shanique S Scott
  -Liza Seigido
  -Kenneth Burness Sutton
  -Aladiabah Ziliagyi
  -Danieg Venegas
  -George James Willerson

-Master of Fine Arts in Visual Arts
  -Harumi Abe
  -Angelica L Clyman
  -Genevieve C Garrick
  -Frederick G Karrenberg
  -Maria Elena Lino
  -Daniel Craig Mintz

-Master of Fine Arts in Theatre
  -Veronica A Fernandez
  -Frank Antonio Montenegro
  -Victor M Payano
  -Ian S Quartin
  -Robert G Borgmann
  -Shandri R Brito
  -Emerald Prem Brooke
  -Edward J Bylatos
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  -Jenny Cruz
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  -Liza Jurado
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  -Daniol R Le Sante
  -Simon Antonnelette Lee
  -Marlene Libre
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  -Jessica M Martin
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  -Vanessa Lynn Martinez
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  -Angela M Sanchez
  -Edisl S Saint
  -Levi Vitchok Stein
  -Julia Stepanova
  -Christine Tellechea
  -Jessica S Theodorides
  -Juanita Rashata
  -Wainwright
  -Melissa K Ward
  -Malik O Wilkes

-Bachelor of Arts in Environmental Studies
  -Ryan P Deslui
  -Jeremy M Gifford

-Bachelor of Arts in French
  -Anne P Linares-Reeve

-Bachelor of Arts in German
  -Sarah C Cardone
  -Ashley Helena Richards

-Bachelor of Arts in History
  -Eduardo Miguel Acevedo
  -Jorge Manuel Acosta
  -Adriana Alejandro
  -Cassandra Alonso
  -Daniel Alpizar
  -Mekala S Audain
  -Derick Cavada
  -Andrew Charles
  -Dawnyeta Clark
  -Jacob J Davis
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  -Patricia E Callejas
  -Glenda Karen Amayo
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