The people you meet teach you the most

CHARLIE GRAU
Senior Staff Writer

Often, I am asked what my favorite sport is, and I always say, “People.” I collect people.

–Dick Schaap
Journalist

During my two and a half years at FIU, I had a chance to meet an assortment of characters: a university president, a porn star, a presidential candidate, comedians, future pro athletes, a New York Times war correspondent and more. That’s quite a list for someone just 23 years old. But then there’s another group of people I got to know. The people that helped make me who I am today. The people we end up calling friends, professors or colleagues.

It’s this collection of people that make up FIU, not a diploma, but the experiences you accumulate along the way. These are lessons you can’t get from books.

SUSANA RODRIGUEZ
Life! Editor

After four long years I’m finally done – not almost or sort of finished, but done. No more parking lot traffic jams or four-hour lines at the registration office for me. I’m a graduate now.

In four years I’ve learned about Italian Renaissance art, 19th century French painting, Dante’s Divine Comedy, John Donne’s sonnets and everything Shakespeare ever wrote. But that’s just book learning, good for graduate school or starting a career. In terms of life skills, it’s FIU that’s taught me everything I need to know.

EDDITH SEVILLA
Asst. Life! Editor

I graduated high school in 1999. Ten years later, I am finally getting my bachelor’s degree. I’ve often asked myself why I allowed 10 years to pass me by. Most times I can’t come up with an answer that justifies the decisions I have made. Other times I remind myself that life takes you where you go, as the good ‘ole Green Day song goes. Today I am wearing a blue cap and gown, and I’m in disbelief that this day has finally come. For many years when I struggled with chemistry, statistics and algebra – my intended major was nursing – I despised. When the going got tough, my college diploma seemed like a fantasy. And as I watched most of my high school classmates graduate, I knew that time was really precious. It’s never too early to start making the line at registration to sort out your schedule or squeeze in those classes for the last time. But the best advice is to always be punctual.

PUNCTUALITY IS RELATIVE

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THE FIFTH UNIVERSITY PRESIDENT

Former chancellor, professor appointed to top job

JULIO MENACHE
Staff Writer

Mark Rosenberg, former chancellor of the Florida Board of Governors, has been named FIU’s president, succeeding Modesto A. Maidique as the University’s fifth president.

The decision was made at a 11:30 a.m. meeting of the Board of Trustees on April 25.

The other two candidates, Ronald Berkman, FIU provost and vice president of Academic Affairs, and Carlos Santiago, chancellor of the University of Wisconsin, dropped out of the race yesterday and this morning respectively.

Berkman accepted a job in Ohio as chancellor of the Cleveland State University.

In a written statement, Santiago said he has decided to “continue the important work that we have started at the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee.”

Many of Rosenberg’s supporters were ecstatic to hear the news.

“I am happy for FIU,” said Hilda Mitrani, director of Multilingual Media & Marketing Inc., who formed a Facebook group looking to gain student support for Rosenberg. “Mark is a wonderful leader. He knows our community and he is a part of our community.”

Rosenberg, who had showed interest in the job as early as November, was not in the initial list of 15 candidates who submitted resumes for the presidency in early April.

It wasn’t until April 14, three days before the official deadline to submit names, that Rosenberg was included in a list of 34 candidates to be submitted to the Presidential Search Advisory Committee.

Rosenberg, who has served as provost for the University from 1998 to 2005 and...

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THE BEACON
Vol. 21, Issue 92
www.fiu-ms.com
Monday, April 27, 2009

Congratulations Graduates!

ROSENBERG, page 2

PROestival

TRANSITION OF POWER: Mark Rosenberg, right, and University President Modesto Maidique, left, embrace after Rosenberg was announced as Maidique’s successor.

Congratulations Graduates!
Mistakes prepare you for future challenges

GRAU, page 1

The guilt of the accident consumed him for some time and it took almost a year for him to realize the positives that came out of his accident.

“I have to tell people now. I’m not ashamed of it anymore. It opened my eyes to what I have,” he said.

And talk about it he has. Now Bonilla openly talks his accident with friends and warns them how one “stupid mistake” can change our lives forever.

More mature and responsible coming out of the wreck, Bonilla stands with us today reaping for graduation. Beyond the lessons he learned in his journalism classes, he learned not to put himself in positions that can really hurt him.

“It was a good thing that it happened because until I got bitten really, really hard, I wasn’t going to stop pushing.”

College gives us the chance to grow, change and make mistakes—even if they’re as big as a car accident. The margin for error is shrinking for us, but let me tell you in a little secret.

“We’re still going to make mistakes and we’re still going to keep on learning.”

And that’s one impression Bonilla has left on me and other people he’s met.

What impressions have you left on people while at FIU? It’s still not too late. Just hurry up because I think they’re about to call your name.

Regardless of the route, you’ve made it this far

SEVILLA, page 1

School friends graduate from college, I feel it for them.

But I’m not the only one. I share this life experience with many who are still with me today, me or who have already sat on this chair. That is not to say that the reason people remain in college for so long is because their paternal lobes don’t function properly. No, in fact there is a number of reasons.

Some of us started our families early. We married and had children before or during college. Others had to pay our way through school, a pricey endeavor that can set everyone back a few semesters or more in this economy. And then there are those who can only dream about college because they’re illegal immigrants residing in this country, or whose student visas have expired.

Of course there are many other reasons why this four-year journey in college can become a very extensive journey like mine. After all, each of us has his or her story.

I remember my first attempt at attending Miami-Dade College many years ago. I didn’t have my green card yet, so when I got my out-of-state tuition bill I decided to forgo college for a few semesters. I never had the luxury of attending college while living off my parents. In fact, a few days after graduating high school, I started working a full-time job to help my mother with our bills.

Throughout it all, a college degree was never an option. It was my goal. Thus, I never had my dream of one day walking across stage in recognition of my accomplishments.

That’s a dream I share with many people: those who see wearing a cap and gown, those who sit on the sides and those who as you read this, are planning out their next four, eight or 10 years in college.

And like those dreamers, I’ve had an array of family members, friends and FIU educators, who have pushed, led and cheered me on. To say that I have accomplished this on my own would be to lie. As I wait here to walk on stage. I’m wondering how many of you share my story. I look around and see your story reflected in the smile of a single mother who went back to school to finally get her degree, or in that of a friend who will not be going to school this summer because he can’t afford tuition. To all of you, know this: When I walk on stage and my name is called out, not only will it represent my accomplishment, but your story as well.

Rosenberg: ‘We are going to build on the strong legacy’

ROSENBerg, page 1

acting president from February to May. "I said this is the honor of a lifetime."

“I’m thrilled that the University and the community have faith in my ability to lead FIU,” said Rosenberg in a recent video interview with the University.

“We are going to build on the strong legacy that Mitch Maidique has graced us with…that this university move to its next level of excellence,” he said.

Rosenberg will succeed Maidique, who has served as FIU’s president for 23 years. Last Thursday, Maidique along with 10 presidents of Florida’s public university system, visited Tallahassee to protest further cuts by the state legislature. The Florida Senate has proposed $250 million cut in state government funding for public universities, while the Senate plan doubles the amount of cuts to $500 million, as well as a $100 million reduction in university employee salaries.

According to an e-mail by Maidique to the University community, FIU could face a $44 million cut in state aid.

“A 38 percent cut to the University’s state support would dramatically alter FIU as you know it,” Maidique said last Thursday. Rosenberg did not rule out the possibility of raising tuition.

“We’re in the budget crisis of our lives,” he said to audience members. “It’s a challenge that we’re facing together. Sadly, the only way to maintain a quality education at this time may be tuition increases. If I am president, however, my first priorities will be finance and budget.”

‘Never doubt the power of your own words’: Be kind yet firm

RODRIGUEZ, page 1

in a few more minutes to study before a big test. Be careful though: Being early lets you pick where you sit, being last lets you pick who you sit next to. If you’re always early you’ll never be stuck in a bad seat, but you’ll also never get the chance to strike a conversation with the sexy someone that catches your eye.

You don’t always have to be the first to arrive, but choose your tardies wisely: Not everyone’s worth your time.

DON’T WASTE TIME

Having a seven-floor library is both a blessing and a curse: infinite resources, infinite ground to cover. Remember: plan the time you spend at the reference desk asking where you can find books you need is one hour you save yourself for later.

Apply this fixed-forecasts rule to traveling and to romantic relationships. You’ll find you’ll have time to enjoy scenic routes on trips and more time to enjoy the one you love rather than wasting it pulling out蝗虫 and the wrong using when you look a somnolent.

DUST YOUR SHOULDERS OFF

Final week proved life can be cruel, what with seeing fellow students write last minute 10-page papers, hold all-night study sessions and take up to three finals in a row. Don’t let it keep you down: smile. They’re the strongest weapons in your arsenal with your frowns being the most destructive.

Consider this the next time life throws one of its soul-sucking curve balls at you. You’ll find rare is the instance that calls for disapproval unless broken hearts are involved.

Even then all you might need is a lawyer to help you make a clean cut.
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