FIRST TIME’S A CHARM

President Mark Rosenberg will preside over six commencement ceremonies scheduled for Dec. 14 and 15 where more than 5,500 students will receive their degrees. This will mark Rosenberg’s first commencement ceremony since becoming the University’s fifth president in August, following the 23-year tenure of former president Modesto A. Maidique. “Commencement is my favorite event of the year because of the energy our students and their families radiate,” said Rosenberg in an interview with news.fiu.edu. “Our community’s future is tied to the success of our graduates. They’re well prepared for the challenges ahead.”

Prior to becoming president, Rosenberg served as the chancellor of the Florida Board of Governors, the governing body that oversees Florida’s 11 public universities. Rosenberg also served as the University’s highest academic official, provost, for eight years prior to taking up post on the BOG. Rosenberg was selected as president after an exhaustive national search by the University’s Board of Trustees after Maidique’s retirement in 2008 that he would be stepping down as president.

Rosenberg, FIU to graduate thousands

We are here by the efforts of many

Think of those who made graduation possible as you walk across that stage

One day in Nicaragua, my older brother, who was just five years old at the time, told my mother his class practiced military drills during physical education. My uncle was scared to death and could not bear the thought of my brother holding an assault fire to help the Sandinista communist movement of the 1980s. My uncle had been nearly beaten to death a few years past for serving as a guard for the Sandinistas. To this day, the pistol whip he received on his head impairs his hearing.

My mom could not take the same risk with her son. A few months later, she was six months pregnant climbing walls she was six months pregnant with while crossing the Dominican Republic.

The night I was born, I cried nearly everyday of breast-cancer surgery and my mom was pregnant with while crossing the Dominican Republic.

During this holiday season, Tommy’s family could have no better gift than to be reunited with him,” said FIU Police Chief Bill King in a written statement issued by the University. “We encourage anyone with any information about him to please contact us.”

Daniels was last seen on Nov. 2 in a pizzeria in West Miami-Dade County and was reported missing on Nov. 11. FIU Police are working in union with the Miami Beach Police Department with whom Daniels made contact on Nov. 5. At the time, Daniels was not in the missing persons database, according to the statement released by the University.

King stated that people have contacted the department to report possible sightings of Daniels and that some of his family in Miami were searching the city, trying to find him.

Daniels is a 6 ft. 5 inches tall, weighs 230 pounds and has brown hair and eyes. Those with information regarding Daniels’ whereabouts can call FIU Police at 305-348-2826 or 305-348-2033. Julia Cardenuto contributed to this report.

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Law student, family member die in accident

Jorge Valens
Asst. News Director

A University College of Law student was killed in a head-on collision while in the Dominican Republic. Jorge Pupo, a second year law student, and family member Jorge Pupo were both killed instantly in the crash occurred in Santo Domingo’s Juan Pablo II highway, according to the Miami Herald. The report

Many students reflect on lessons learned during college years.

University police are continuing the investigation into the disappearance of College of Law Student Tom Daniels. Campus police are “rebuilding” their efforts in search of missing third-year law student, according to the University.

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U.S.-born Hispanics see gains in education

HOPE YEN  Associated Press

Young Hispanics born in the U.S. are less likely to drop out of high school in poverty than Hispanic immigrants of their age, but they have higher exposure to gangs and violence, an independent research group says.

The study released Friday by the Pew Hispanic Center paints a mixed picture of assimilation for a fast-growing group of U.S. citizens starting to wield their political rights: more education and job advancement, but also social problems.

The survey and analysis of census data found the high school dropout rate among all Hispanic youths ages 16-24 was 17 percent, roughly three times higher than white youths and close to double the rate for blacks. But when looking only at second-generation Hispanics born in the U.S., the dropout rate falls to 8.5 percent, roughly the same as youths of all races.

U.S.-born Hispanics also had improvements in economic well-being. About 29 percent of young immigrant Hispanics lived below the poverty line, more than twice the rate for young whites in a similar age range (13 percent) and three times the rate for black Hispanics (28 percent). But among second-generation Hispanics, the figure living below the poverty line improves to 19 percent.

On the other hand, the American-born youths were twice as likely as their immigrant counterparts to have exposure to a gang or have gotten into a fight or carried a weapon in the past year. About 40 percent reported either being a gang member or knowing a friend or relative who was, compared to 17 percent for those who were foreign-born.

“It is clear that many of today’s Latino youths, be they first or second generation, are straddling two worlds as they adapt to the new homeland,” according to the Pew report.

As the U.S. becomes younger and as growing numbers of children and grandchildren of Hispanic immigrants are being born in this country. Currently, Hispanics account for 18 percent of U.S.-born citizens. Due to high birth rates, these U.S. citizens will fuel a doubling of the overall Hispanic population to 30 percent by 2050.

In electoral terms, Latinos have had less clout at the polls than their numbers would suggest. “Their share of the electorate has not grown nearly as much as their share of the population,” said Paul Taylor, director of the Pew Hispanic Center. “Now, with the coming of age of this big generation of U.S.-born children of immigrants, that’s all about to change.”

Pupo served as treasurer as the law fraternity

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added that the drivers of the second case were injured and released from a local hospital.

“One’s death is for all of us a hard reminder of what most matters in life,” said college of law dean R. Alexander Acosta in an email to law students. “These emails are always difficult to write, as words fall during these circumstances.”

Acosta added that Pupo had recently completed his Evidence and Administrative Law Exams and was “taking a break with family” in the Dominican Republic.

Pupo was a member of the college’s law review and the treasurer for the Phi Alpha Delta law fraternity.

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College was only the last item in a long list of necessary sacrifices

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But several things that helped me won’t be written on the diploma.

My parents’ working two jobs for minimum wage and little respect will not be mentioned on the diploma.

My mother helping me learn vocabular
y words after working 10 hours on her feet won’t be written. My dad taking me to the library to help me improve my reading skills after he got out of work at midnight the day before will not be present. My parents, never stopping in hope in my education. I could earn the same education as any other family will not be shown on the diploma either.

All these sacrifices will never leave my thoughts though. As I venture into a job market in the midst of a recession and plagued by hiring freezes, I will look to those sacrifices for motivation. Nothing we earned in the U.S. was gained easily or without experiencing some type of pain. The struggles I face ahead pale in comparison to what my parents faced 23 years ago. And because of what I’ve been taught in school, I know my family, I cannot accept giving up.

And no one graduating today should even contemplate giving up. Everyone has their own story, but everyone graduating at the U.S. Century Bank Arena today made it to the stage with help from someone. Think about someone who you move on from the next chapter of your life, and remember those people if you even think about holding off on your dreams.
Congratulations 2009 Grads!!

Your hard work paid off. Although you have graduated, you will always be part of the FIU family. Follow your Alma mater through the best source for FIU news, life and sports: www.fiusm.com
IF YOU ARE LOOKING FOR OPPORTUNITIES, WE HAVE OVER 100,000 MILES OF COASTLINE TO FIND THEM.

You’ve always known that you were born ready. You take the lead. You go full throttle. You seek out challenges and overcome obstacles. The U.S. Coast Guard is made up of leaders like you. We don’t ride wakes, we leave them. If you’re ready to get two years’ free tuition, medical benefits and a monthly salary of around $2,200, then you might be one of us. Jump in. Visit gocoastguard.com.

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