University graduation rates ‘not strong’

NATALIA LOPEZ
Contributing Writer

According to the Associated Press, the state of Florida ranked 10th in the nation with one of the highest graduation rates, but year after year Florida International University’s rates continue to drop.

In response, a new plan has been implemented to help increase these rates.

“Our graduation rate is not strong,” said Dr. Kandell Malocsay, FIU’s Director of Retention and Student Success. “This problem has become FIU’s number one priority.”

Of the incoming freshmen that began at FIU in fall 2002, only 18.6 percent had graduated in four years. By 2008, however, the data shows that this number doubled to 40 percent.

Consuelo B. Boronat, Director of Assessment & Evaluation for Student Affairs and Undergraduate Education at FIU, explained what the University has done and is planning to do to facilitate the process of graduation.

Boronat explained that the goal is for the students to move through their degree as quickly as possible.

“What seems critical is for students to go to school full-time or as close to full-time as possible so that they graduate quickly,” said Boronat.

The bridge advisor program is one of the steps FIU has taken to assist students in graduating at a smoother and faster pace.

Charlie Andrews, Director of the Advising Center reported that FIU began hiring bridge advisors in the year 2009.

Bridge advisors help students make the transition into the junior year and to be fully accepted into their major. These advisors will be helping students choose majors that are suitable to a student’s interest, personality, and capabilities.

Currently, the goal is to have 32 lower division advisors and 14 bridge advisors, at least one per college. Three selected advisors were assigned to the Business, Arts and Science, and Education programs in 2009 and an additional five bridge advisors were added this past June to the School of Journal and Mass Communication and the Engineering programs.

Bridge advisors were also hired at the Transfer and Transition Office to help transfer students from Miami Dade College. Next year FIU will be hiring six more bridge advisors.

The current ratio is one advisor for ...

Can YOU HEAR ME NOW?

MARIELLA ROQUE
Staff Writer

The Higher Education Opportunity Act was reauthorized and changed in a way that might mean cheaper textbooks for college students in the United States in 2008.

The act requires publishers to provide university faculty with the wholesale price and retail price of selected textbooks. It also obligates the institution to give students options to save money on textbooks.

“My textbooks eat up my lunch or flying you out at their expense,” Peterson said, “It’s a covert way of bribery.”

“Ten percent of [textbook selections] is that companies have ways to bribe professors to buy their books like taking you to lunch or flying you out at their expense,” Peterson said, “It’s a covert way of bribery.”

Some publishers sell their textbooks at a higher price by giving online and CD-ROM options to university students that purchase the product.

“We should have stricter policies against textbook bribery,” Peterson said, “I brought it up at the Faculty Senate but the administration said it wasn’t a problem—I feel it is.”

Textbook purchasing varies from directly buying from the bookstore to selling one’s book to another student or looking for more affordable prices online.

“There should be a better trading system between students,” Mejia said.

New act to help students save on textbooks

MARIELLA ROQUE
Staff Writer

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Weird News

Pig wrestling canceled

According to the Associated Press, a county fair in north Montana was forced to cancel its pig wrestling contest after the 30 porkers escaped from fair officials. The wild pigs, which spend the year on a 10-mile free-range property along the Marias River, are usually captured the day of the scheduled event reported Fair office manager Shirley Knutson. But this year, fair officials were only able to locate one boar, despite flying the river.

The event was postponed until Saturday, but neither the organizers nor any officials could locate the absent pigs. Embleton says next year, organizers will devise a new plan to locate and capture the animals earlier in the week.

Anglers mourn the death of “the marriage wrecker.”

Anglers are mourning the death of a carp believed to be Britain’s largest freshwater fish, which tipped the scales at 70 pounds and was nicknamed “the marriage wrecker.”

According to Reuters, Two Tone, a mirror carp who weighed 67 pounds, 14 ounces, was found floating on the surface of Connington Lake in Kent, England where it lived. It was believed to be about 45 years old and to have died from old age.

The fish, named for its skin color, was only caught once or twice a year and no one knew of its age. Despite increasing the number of advisories and major faults, the student body at FIU will be expanding in the next few to ten years.

FIU President, Mark B. Rosenberg, decided that over the next five years, the student body will increase from 40,000 to 50,000 students. Over the next five years, this number will increase by yet another 10,000 students.

Health department pending approval

The opportunities that it will bring to the College of Medicine to work hand-in-hand with professionals is exceptional.

Kenneth Jessell
Chief Finance Officer,

Health department pending approval

Miami-Dade County Health Department begins to establish an Academic Health Department within the University for students as well as the surrounding community.

The merger, which has been in initial discussion for about five years, will increase joint teaching, research and clinical training opportunities for medical students in the University while also opening doors to internships and academic grants.

The department will include an academic facility and a clinic, which are both still in its design stages.

The opportunities that it will bring to the College of Medicine as well as Nursing and Public Health and Social Work, to work hand-in-hand with professionals in the Miami-Dade County Health Department is exceptional,” said FIU Chief Finance Officer, Kenneth Jessell, at the presentation of the project during the Finance and Audit Committee meeting of the FIU Board of Trustees.

According to a press release, the Academic Health Sciences Center is expected to generate $60,000 new jobs and have an annual economic impact of more than $8.9 billion by 2025.

At the moment, offices for the organization are located in eight different locations across the county. Even though there are universities who have ties to local public health departments, this would be the first partnership that results in the construction of a building within a college campus.

“Our students would have access to internships, to clinical trials and research with MDCD that they would not easily have without this opportunity. In addition, the health professionals group, the University president, the trustees, and the chancellor helped in getting the appropriate language in both the house and the senate, which then passed. That will allow for the construction of this facility.”

An academic health department is “an organized partner between schools of public health, medicine, nursing, and allied health sciences with the 1940’s under various organizational structures.”

Within the University, the MDC Health Department will house its offices and provide educational teaching along with an environmental laboratory and a nutrition/breast feeding program.

“We will have a fulltime breast feeding clinic, where mothers will come to learn how to breast feed while

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WEIRD NEWS

the later life of an individual that if we could get more folks to breast feed, we will definitely have a direct impact on the issue of childhood obesity.”

Dr. Rivera, the administrator of the health department since 2002, said that she was inspired by Dr. Mark Rosenberg about the idea of the merger while he was still provost of the University and has been developing the

Contact Information

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MAKE YOUR TEXTBOOKS PAY

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Free two-day shipping available to customers who qualify for our free Amazon Student program.
A few weeks back, a minor report for The Miami Herald who had been covering a relative to the significant beat that he was nonetheless extremely passionate about posted a 2,700 word rant on his blog. This rant roused as a clearing of the air for his readers and a “scree” you to his now former employer.

In this blog, he took the time to let his readers know that he fought for them and tried to do his best to give them the coverage he felt they deserved. He showed numerous examples of what he considered an institutional bias inside of the halls of one of the most revered universities.

Normally, this wouldn’t be relevant to this paper at all. The Miami Herald has worked against FIU due to an ingrained bias towards Florida International University. It is in the best interest for the some 100,000 plus alumni of this University to want to pick up their paper and read about FIU. Why would they actively work to undermine such a potentially valuable audience? After all, despite whatever high-minded aspirations the heads of journalistic institutions around the nation pay lip service to, at the end of the day, The Miami Herald is a business. Yes, it is a business that should hold itself to a higher standard of ethics and morality, but in an era where every newspaper is fighting to survive, the bottom line is that money trumps all.

And readership equals money. The Herald isn’t going to go out of its way to alienate such a large audience. It would be self-defeating, it would be bad business, and it would never fly amongst the higher ups.

Forgive my cynicism, then, but the real issue here has nothing to do with The Miami Herald. They are a business. While every college journalism student learns in their basic intro to Journalism classes about the importance of ethics and fairness in reporting, when newspapers are losing the business and being forced to cut corners to save money, those things fall by the wayside.

Putting the sad decline of the American newspaper aside, we have before us a group of fans who honestly believes a major celebrity gossip brand, we’re too far gone from that higher standard, which may never have existed in the first place. This is where my cynicism comes from, and why I struggle to sympathize with those who can’t see the dollar signs when this issue is brought up.

The small but vocal fans who have voiced these concerns about The Miami Herald represent the most die-hard of the fan base, and every fan base needs people like that. In many ways, they represent the potential FIU has for a large fan base some day. But until your everyday FIU student or alumni begins to care in a significant way and specifically until it affects The Miami Herald’s bottom line, they’ll continue to pay that other school more attention.

FOOTBALL NOTEBOOK

Griffin is frontrunner for kicking duties

Although the quarterback race is still up for grabs, the competition for the team’s starting kicking job is clearing up. But nothing is guaranteed yet, according to head coach Mario Cristobal.

After Friday’s practice, Cristobal announced that sophomore Jack Griffin is the front-runner for FIU’s field goal duties.

“Of this point and time, Jack Griffin is the leader in terms of field goal kicks,” said Cristobal.

According to Cristobal, the kickers have been attempting around 25 to 30 kickoffs a day for his now former employer. He is one of two kickers on the roster and has been attempting around 25 to 30 kickoffs a day, according to Cristobal.

As of this point and time, Jack Griffin is the leader in terms of field goal kicks,” said Cristobal.

Cristobal added that he is working hard to improve his kicking, and that the kicking staff is trying to figure out the best way to use him.

Cristobal also mentioned that he is working on his technique, and that he is looking to improve his accuracy.

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Summer festival stays away from the mainstream

By the Chairperson.

Church describes seeing this form of collaboration as being very rewarding and one that makes him proud. Church describes the three to four week period required to prepare each show as a balancing act.

“We actually should be offering our theater students an Introduction to Rubik’s Cube 101! I think if you learn how to successfully align all the right colors together, you will be well ahead of the game when it comes to scheduling rehearsals and production calls,” he said.

As for the remainder of the money raised, it goes back into the ATF account for future productions and projects.

Some of the profits are going towards bringing in author of “The Secret Confessions of Anne Shakespeare,” Arlis Ryan, for an event sponsored in conjunction with SGA and SPC.

As for the future, Church expresses his plans to convert the program to $1200.

“Theater has an opportunity to directly impact social change. To do just this little bit for the terrible suffering taking place in Haiti was very rewarding. We are committed to finding future causes and having similar fundraising efforts for our community,” Church proclaims.

While the main reason for the money raised, the Alternative Theater Festival also reached out to the Hope for Haiti drive. One dollar of every ticket sold this summer was donated and matched, meaning the $600 raised by the company will be converted to $1200.

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**Alternative Theater Festival a success in its fourth year**

**FESTIVAL, page 5**

To desire to develop new playwrights. “Next summer, I will recommend that out of the three productions we include an FIU student-written play.”

Doing popular titles is convenient for the box office, but we are keeping to a mission that doesn’t always play to the commercial choice like what is known as ‘summer stock.’

One of the plays showcased this summer, “Prodigal: the Execution of William Excaliber said, “I had to close myself off to the box office, but we are keeping to a mission that doesn’t always play to the commercial choice like what is known as ‘summer stock.’”

British band past its prime

HECTOR MOJENA Staff Writer

Blurt, Lush, Muse, Soaked, Verve (pre-The.), Pulp, Ride, Curve: if you grew up with them, you learned toward the sounds of British rock music in the 90’s, chances are you listened to these bands intensely while skimming the pages of some worn out music rag like NME.

Mostly syllabic band names were all the rage way back when, so buying patches and pins to prominently display on your book bag would have meant you could point out the band with the maddening vagueness just catchy enough for you to get a whole arena singing but not deep enough to hold your attention.

Maybe he has realized what a disaster Muse has become, with what clashes about taking down the powers that be.

Muse, you guys are the powers that be. You guys sold out Wembley Stadium. Your powers that be. You guys sold out Wembley Stadium.

What about Muse’s second record? Maybe they should stop writing cookie cutter Thom Yorke imitations and come up with their own bold, original vision.

On Origin of Symmetry, the bands trick us to a suite of songs that can simply be described as frustrating.

In that sense, listening to a song like “Bliss” or “Plug in Baby” for more than 90’s, chances are you listened to these bands intensely while skimming the pages of some worn out music rag like NME.

Muse’s next three albums play as a musical Hindenburg-burst disaster of overcooked 70’s progressive rock and melodramatic popoque pop.

On Absolove, the band manages to rip off just about every band that was around around its release. We have Radiohead (Blackout), Rage Against the Machine (Hysteria), late era REM (Endlessly).

If late period R.E.M. is something you aspire to, it’s time to stop making records. Black Holes and Revelations and their latest, The Resistance, keep the histories and throw out the vaguely palatable aspects of their sound for fist pumping mall rock.

These days, Matthew Bellamy would rather scream about fighting the power and I guess that’s the only way to defeat. I don’t know who he is fighting exactly, but his lyrics have always retained a maddening vagueness just catchy enough to grab a whole arena singing but not deep enough to hold your attention.

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Google's new motto: “Don't be honest”

When it comes to catching car thieves, FIU police will literally stop at nothing.

After a recent car burglary, an FIU graduate student asked an FIU police officer what they would do in the same situation. According to the student, the officer told her that campus police had “no interest in capturing the culprits, since they want to maintain the ‘crime free’ status of the campus.”

It's amazing how a couple of million Android phones sold changes things.

In the proposal, Googolz, made it clear that wired Internet services, such as DSL and Cable Internet, are going to be subject to net neutrality; no content or bandwidth discrimination and complete transparency.

ISP's will be able to "address traffic that is unwanted by or harmful to users, the provider's network, or the Internet," according to the agreement. A similar mention earlier in the document also mentions that ISPs will be prevented from interfering with "lawful" content.

I don't feel comfortable with the idea that a corporate entity is determining what is "lawful" or "wanted" by the users, who pay for the service. Aside from this minor nit pick, wired Internet access has dodged a large bullet. Sadly, I can't say the same for wireless.

When it comes to wireless Internet, the one accessed and/or members of the University community.

Even more frightening is that when the student asked the police Chief King has denounced the comments... What do I really care, if we are connected to the outside world.

The lines between mobile and wired Internet service are blur, which would take us another step toward a connected, convenient life where all our devices, all our phones sold changes things.

As for the students within the University, we will have to rely on our underfunded police department, or just stop owning automobiles.

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Cafeteria to be remodeled

BRIAN CORREIA
Contributing Writer

The Student Government Council at Biscayne Bay Campus has initiated a project to further enhance the cafeteria at BBC. This new section of the cafeteria will be named the “Panther Den.”

The “Panther Den” renovation start date has not been determined yet, however, the goal for completion is set for August 31, which will be shortly after the start of the fall semester for students.

The purpose of the “Panther Den” is to create an ambiance for all students on the campus as well as to increase the demand for SGA which will ultimately increase our services provided to the students,” Christin ‘Cici’ Battle, SGC-BBC president said.

This project was initiated due to the number of complaints received by students to SGC who do not feel that the cafeteria is open long enough and does not offer enough different vendor services.

Once the “Panther Den” has officially opened, SGC has planned a marketing campaign geared towards students to share their feedback on the cafeteria services currently being offered. Since SGC-BBC is only in the planning and development stages of the renovations, many questions regarding the funding for the project, are still undefined. However, SGA is responsible for collecting the student activities and services fee, which is posted on all students’ tuition costs, and distributing those funds to the University’s various student organizations.

“At this time, we are still awaiting back quotes from various vendors for all the different types of amenities being offered at the ‘Panther Den.’” Battle said.

Once the “Panther Den” has opened, SGC is planning to have a special ribbon cutting day to help increase students on campus to utilize the cafeteria services more.

“It is increasingly challenging around finals time to find a quiet and low traffic area for students to study for upcoming exams,” Franklin continued.

Gregory Ram, junior nursing major (left) and Maria Reynaga, junior international relations major, work together to make a sand pen during Campus Life and Orientation’s Welcome Back Barbecue on Aug. 23 in Panther Square.