University accreditation reaffirmed another ten years

GABRIEL ARAÑAS
News Director

The Southern Association of Colleges and Schools has reaffirmed the University’s accreditation for another ten years during their Dec. 6 Board of Trustees meeting.

“This decision represents the culmination of several years of planning and documentation for our Compliance Certification Report, Quality Enhancement Plan and March 2010 site visit,” said University Provost and Executive Vice President Douglas Wartzok in a letter to the University community.

Members of SACS visited the University campuses back in March as part of the University’s reaccreditation bid.

The SACS on-site team, we are confident that our QEP will become a national model for global learning in higher education,” said Hilary Landorf, director of the Office of Global Learning Initiatives, during an interview with Student Media in April.

According to Wartzok, the University’s strong commitment to the QEP, along with ongoing assessments of student learning outcomes for each degree program contributed to the University’s successful reaffirmation.

The University’s next SACS milestone will be the fifth year interim report, which is due in March 2016.

According to Wartzok, this report will document the progress of the QEP and the continued compliance with the SACS principles of accreditation, including a degree program assessment of student learning outcomes.

University to see 3,600 graduates during commencement

ALEXANDRA CAMEJO
Asst. News Director

“Commencement will mark the end of your time as FIU students and the first day of your lives as FIU alumni,” said FIU President Mark B. Rosenberg, in a letter addressed to and commending the upcoming graduates of the fall semester.

With majors ranging from English to chemistry and interior design to Asian studies, approximately 3,600 graduates will be awarded degrees throughout six commencement ceremonies on Monday, Dec. 13 and Tuesday, Dec. 14 at the U.S. Century Bank Arena, located at Modesto Maidique Campus.

Whether they finished their studies in the fall or during the last summer term, Rosenberg acclaimed student efforts when he said, “the hallmark of a Panther is the ability to turn the impossible into the inevitable.”

Several notable Worlds Ahead graduates will join the over 140,000 University alumni.

Jacques Bentolila will be receiving his doctorate of education in exceptional student education, as a member of a select group in the highly competitive Urban Special Education Academic Leaders doctoral cohort.

Yarimar Rosa, the only FIU student-athlete in the school’s history to receive the All-America recognition four times, will be graduating with a bachelor’s in international business.

In the true spirit of being world’s ahead, Michelle Ramirez, recipient of a doctorate in physical therapy, has already made an impact in underprivileged countries throughout Latin America by setting up several health care clinics in rural villages in Nicaragua and Honduras.

For more details about FIU’s fall commencement, honorees and other Worlds Ahead graduates, visit http://commencement.fiu.edu/.

Student gains musical experience during four year stay

Nayla Mehdi is graduating this fall with a Bachelor in Music Technology from the College of Architecture and the Arts.

Originally from Lebanon, Mehdi crossed the pond from Saudi Arabia in the hopes of gaining her college education at Florida International University. After scouting different schools, Mehdi felt the warm and welcoming greetings from the faculty and staff. Impressed by the humble visit, Mehdi made her way into the program in 2007.

In her years at the Wertheim School of Music, Mehdi experimented and heavily involved herself with several clubs like the Electro-Acoustic Recording Society. She also spent her time performing for experimental ensembles like the FIU Laptop Electronic Arts.

FLEA would go on to perform and garner attention across the community. Mehdi says the club’s main focus is to engage the community into a newfound style of music. Along with her peers, she would perform at several international Electro-Acoustic Music festivals such as the New West Electro-Acoustic Music Organization and the Society for Electro-Acoustic Music for the United States.

Other festivals include Sub-Tropics and the annual festival held at the FIU School of Music, FEAST. More recently, Medhi and her ensembles played at Art Basel for the second year in a row.

Mehdi has focused her attention on gaining experience. This past year, she worked at the annual Youth Fair producing live audio for the

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Ready to graduate: all objectives achieved during stay

Men are defined using different methods. In college, you are often judged according to whom people think you are. I have never been one readily available for others' acceptance though I understand the value of popularity.

I often prefer my work precede your knowledge of me since personal boasts require spontaneity and familiarity. Speaking self-definition conflicts with the nature of a genuine southern beau. I am no philosopher, but I do define my time at FIU using four words. Achieving is an action. It is not static. In many cases, achievement tells you when to leave. Rugby becomes another spectator sport. The goal was to play-achieved. The realization all groups are not worth joining, in spite of their appearance.

The goal was to let them know you are here achieved. Raise the G.P.A. Make more A’s than B’s while eliminating lower grades. Join Public Relations Student Society of America.

Making sure I handle my responsibility; achieved. Leadership is given, not declared. Reliability, consistence, trustworthiness and quality are characteristics of people in charge.

From the first semester on campus, bringing a formal leader was a welcome request. The high esteem my schoolmates give me honors my presence and I gladly accepted the duty. But, all leadership does not come from those in positions of power.

In some instances, I’ve done more work as a member than you may as a leader. When other people tell you how hard you are working, that’s a signal you are viewed as a leader.

Excellence consists with purity, not perfection. To tell you I always made A’s would be a stretch. My intent is always pure and my effort exhaustive which often displays itself with an A on the transcript, or a great recommendation letter.

There is no shame in the word “cannot;” knowing your limits helps you magnify your strengths. Stating you can’t when you haven’t attempted to do will always keep you behind the curve. Intention dedicates time.

Trust me, it is possible to take 12 classes in two semesters while main- taining a job and community involve- ment, but I wouldn’t recommend it.

Success is commencement. At the point in life you can face a new beginning, your preparation meets either a proud triumph or defeat that teaches something.

There were many minor successes on the way to graduation. Logging into Pantherathome daily to ensure no surprises impede financial aid is how I often celebrated the holidays.

The future reveals no hints to the present. Preparation for the present occurred in the past. It guides the decisions but the true results may hide until long after the decision has been made.

For everything I could have been during my tenure at FIU, none make me more proud than achieving lead- ership, excellence and success. I take these lessons learned into the worlds ahead.

Golden Panther by chance, eventually finds his place

It’s funny how fast four years blow by. I still remember begrudgingly walking on the Biscayne Bay Campus my first year, upset that I had to come to FIU.

Little did I know that I’d leave with a greater apprecia- tion for this school and all it’s done for me. I didn’t come to FIU because of an unfortunate mishap that stopped me from going to Florida State University after being accepted, but yet it almost feels like this was the right move.

To all of you graduating this semester: congratulations. You survived energy drink- filled nights, myriads of papers, and likely one or two classes you didn’t care for.

I’m sitting here in the middle of the Graham Center’s atrium on a cold December morning with a gingerbread latte realizing that just as fast as it started, my undergrad career is over. It’s like reaching the end of a video game and seeing the credits roll.

The End.

While I’m glad that I no longer have to stay up late cramming for exams or finishing up major research papers (for now), I’m getting a bit nostalgic about the place.

From exploring the muddy bottom of the Everglades in waist-high water in Ecology of South Florida’s lab to covering a hotly contested school board election as part of the Liberty City Link for the South Florida Times, I can’t help but think I’ve done far more here than what I would have done at Tallahassee.

I even got to see the football team clinch the Sun Belt Conference championship for the first time ever. Amazing stuff.

Future plans for Mehdi include a lot of musical experimentation, with a particular focus on live audio engineering. She will be applying to schools like Dartmouth and New York University with a focus on expanding her musical knowledge.

“Definitely, the main focus is broadening and learning as much as I can,” she says, “there’s just no limit to what you can do in this industry.”

Mehdi credits Matthussan, not only for the impressive growth of the program, but the unrelenting push for musical excellence she has given her another lasting impression.

Mehdi found musical enlightenment experi- menting with music after years of studying.

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