NORFOLK ST. COACH TAKES HELM OF MEN’S BASKETBALL

EDUARDO ALMAGUER
Sports Director

Shortly after the 10-day deadline that Executive Director of Sports and Entertainment Pete Garcia set to hire a new men’s basketball coach, news broke that Anthony Evans will be filling the vacant position.

Several news outlets reported that Evans is to take the reins to the FIU program about two weeks after former Head Coach Richard Pitino left to the University of Minnesota. As of press time on April 15, repeated attempts to reach Athletics Media Relations or Garcia were unsuccessful.

Evans headed the Norfolk State University men’s basketball program for six years and is currently coming off a 21-12 season in the Mid-Eastern Athletic Conference where his team was a spotless 16-0 in the conference.

He owns a 99-94 overall record while leading the Spartans, with a 47-22 record in the last two seasons. Last June, Evans signed a three-year contract extension with the Spartans through the 2016-2017 season. His base salary was $175,000.

Evans’ best season came in the 2011-2012 season where he led his squad to a 26-10 season, a MEAC championship and a defeated No.2 Missouri in the first round of the NCAA tournament before losing to Florida.

Evans comes into FIU with high expectations after Pitino revamped a program that hadn’t seen a winning season in 13 years. The Panthers capped their most recent season with their first trip to the Sun Belt Conference in program history, before losing to Western Kentucky.

Evans, however, has experience turning programs around too, bouncing back from three straight sub-.500 seasons from 2008-11 before his superb 2011-2012 season.

Several basketball players were waiting to see who the new coach would be before deciding whether to transfer. Junior guard Malik Smith, however, opted not to wait, asking for his release after Pitino’s departure.

While no players were available for comment, junior forward Tymell Murphy expressed excitement via Twitter.

“Anthony Evans is from Brooklyn,” Murphy tweeted. “We can win again.”

Evans began his coaching career at Ulster County Community College in New York in 2001 and followed that up with two years at Delhi Tech. He then became an assistant coach for the at Norfolk St. from 2003-2007 where he eventually took the head coaching gig.

NEWS@FIUSM.COM

NEWLY ELECTED PRESIDENT A MEMBER OF PREVIOUS REGIME

VENIZUELA’S new president has been elected, however, a recount of the votes was requested.

With 50.7 percent of the votes, Nicolas Maduro, former vice president who was trained to keep Hugo Chavez’s legacy alive, will lead the country for the next six years.

Henrique Capriles, leader of the opposition, obtained 49.1 percent of the votes, but claimed the results were not accurate and asked for a recount of the votes.

BARBARA MOSQUERA
Sophomore Communication Arts major, restrained herself from listening to the results, but found out about Maduro’s victory through her Facebook newsfeed.

“I was sort of expecting it, but I still feel disappointed about it,” said Mosquera.

The National Electoral Council of Venezuela announced the results at midnight on April 15. After an extended period of counting the votes, Maduro went on national television and celebrated his victory addressing Chavez’s followers.

EXPANSION PROPOSED FOR VIRTUAL EDUCATION IN FLORIDA

JENNIFER SANS
Contributing Writer

Students and professors are showing apprehension toward rapidly expanding virtual education.

The House of Representatives is pushing a proposal for one state university to be Florida’s “preeminent research institution” that would establish a “fully online arm,” according to The Miami Herald.

The university has an online education branch that allows students to take courses and receive full degrees in select areas of study. Students and professors question, however, the expansion of academic programs such as FIU Online.

“Students need to be really self motivated in order to succeed in online courses,” said Patricia Bishop, professor in the Department of Mathematics and Statistics. This can be an issue for students who are procrastinators, but decide to enroll in online courses.

“As long as I kept up with all of the work I was assigned, it was fine, but I think online courses definitely aren’t for lazy students,” said Jonathan Harris, sophomore hospitality management major.

There can also be problems involving communication in online courses.

“I constantly had problems understanding the material and the professor was impossible to get in touch with. It caused me to fall behind in the work,” said Celia Sidani, sophomore English major.

Although there are students who tend to procrastinate, based on student surveys conducted in 2012 by the Florida Virtual School, only 13 percent of students who took the survey claimed they were not “highly motivated and self-disciplined.”

FLVS is the largest online learning school in Florida.

There may be students who are not highly motivated, but according to Interim Chair of Online Review, Brian Peterson, the online branch at FIU is still growing to offer more courses and degree programs online.

“There is a proposal for something called FIU Global. It would be a program in Latin America exclusively online. It may not happen, but it is something being discussed for the future at FIU,” said Peterson.

Since the University is international, online learning is becoming one of the ways the University can expand internationally.

Implementing online education in order to expand the University would mean saving lots of money on the cost of building schools in different countries.

Peterson said the online programs can also benefit older students who are working and have families because it is much easier to work online instead of going to a class.

Peterson said that online courses and hybrid courses have been helping clear out the crowded parking garages at FIU because students are not driving to the campus as often.

Even though there are benefits for some students to take online courses, there is a fear among teachers that online education could replace the traditional classroom setting and cause massive unemployment.

“I have this fear myself. There’s something called Massive Open Online Courses, where 160,000 students can be taught by just one professor. The grading is mostly automatic machinery. It could wipe out many, many jobs for professors and that worries me. I’m concerned for the future of FIU because of that,” said Peterson.

Teachers’ unions that oppose the possibility of expanding online education have this fear, but online education is becoming more common around the world.

“Many universities are taking this path in education. We have to compete as a university,” said Peterson.
Teaching students English bleak

CHRISTINE ARMARIO
AP Writer

Dana Lopez started school in Miami last fall not knowing a single word of English.

The 8-year-old girl from Barcelona, Spain, with dark blond hair was placed in the Coral Way Bilingual K-8 Center, the nation’s oldest bilingual school. For half the day, she receives classes in English; it’s the English for the rest.

During language arts, she gets pulled out with three other native arrivals for extra help on grammar and phonic.

After seven months, she’s one of the most active participants in class.

“In five months, like that, I learned it,” she said.

Dana’s success is exceptional, but the language challenge she faced is increasingly common across the U.S. educational map.

Nationwide, nonwhites are expected to become a majority of the population within a generation, and schools are at the cutting edge of that historic shift.

School-age children who speak a language other than English at home are one of the fastest-growing populations. Their numbers doubled between 1980 and 2009, and they now make up 21 percent of school-age kids.

There were 4.7 million students classified as “English language learners” — those who have not yet achieved proficiency in English — in the 2009-10 school year, or about 10 percent of children enrolled, according to the most recent figures available from the U.S. Department of Education.

This is part of a new reality that our public schools are facing,” said Robert Linquanti, an expert in English learner students for WestEd, an education research agency based in San Francisco. “It’s been coming for a long time but now it’s hitting a tipping point.”

Of all the challenges facing minority students and their schools, English learners are arguably the most disadvantaged. It’s hard to find enough teachers who are qualified to instruct them, and there’s little consistency in the programs used to teach them.

The country is divided over the best way to educate them, with bilingual programs gaining steam, but also provoking a sometimes heated debate with those who favor an English-only approach. English learner students are more likely to be in poor, overcrowded schools and in many places represent an added cost to already cash-strapped school districts.

For many years the children have stayed in special language programs, the further they fall behind in other subjects. In several states, their graduation rates are at least 60 percent, and as low as 29 percent in Nevada, according to federal data.

Just 7 percent of fourth-grade and 3 percent of eighth-grade English learners scored “proficient” or above in a nationwide reading exam, and thousands languish for years in ineffective English-as-a-second-language programs.

On a scale of one to 10, the education of the nation’s English learners is “below five,” said Gary Cook, a specialist with the Wisconsin Center for Education Research.

“They are our success,” Cook said. “If they really can’t meet the educational expectations of what’s coming — that is, the need to be knowledge workers, not necessarily physical workers — then we’re in a world of hurt.”

VENEZUELA, PAGE 1

Students decided to participate in the elections by going to the Venezuelan consulate in New Orleans, which became the closest to Miami after Chavez decided to shut down the one in Brickell.

Sherezade Rodriguez, senior digital media editor at Miami Today, said she and her family faced an English language barrier upon arriving in the United States.

Rodriguez said she learned English in public school and now she faces a new barrier with a different language.

“Venezuelan schools have a great curriculum,” Rodriguez said, “but the majority is Hispanic. Overall, 38 percent of Hispanic fourth-grade students were identified as English learners, as well as 20 percent of Hispanic eighth-grade students, according to the 2011 National Assessment of Education Progress math test.

Latinos student overall have some of the highest dropout rates and the lowest share of the population with a bachelor’s degree. The language barrier does not affect the majority, but for those who enter school as English learners the challenges are even greater.

Asian students represent the second largest group of English learners.

States such as California, Texas, New Mexico and Nevada have some of the largest proportions of English learners in their school-age populations. They are also widely concentrated in low-income, urban schools. A study by the Urban Institute found that 70 percent are educated in 5,000 elementary schools, just 10 percent of the nation’s schools.

The segregation of these students is reflective of both neighborhood segregation and a decision on the part of some districts to group these students together in order to provide them with qualified teachers and bilingual programs that are scarce, said Richard Fry, a senior research associate for the Pew Hispanic Center. But the students also attend school to try to meet the highest rates of poverty, large-pupil teacher ratios and bigger schools.

“They are clearly at risk,” said Fry.
**Abstaining from teaching sex education**

**JUNETE REYES**  
Staff Writer

Sex has always been a complicated and awkward topic for society and even to this day, despite the many years of advancement towards a direction that strays away from heavy conservatism, sex is still a matter that is dealt with delicately. This can be seen especially in the education of safe sex and pregnancy prevention.

On top of that, Financial Aid only offers funding to students who are full-time or at least part-time.

Since I was forced to be a part-time student, Financial Aid deducted money and I was left with a hefty portion to pay for tuition that semester.

What happens to students who can’t even take one class because they can’t afford it? We’re already beaten with loans and debt as it is. I can’t afford to take classes that won’t be counted for graduation just to maintain Financial Aid.

Financial Aid doesn’t last forever and that’s something this school should take into consideration.

How can working students be expected to complete their programs in a timely manner, along with their peers, if they are forced to lighten their schedules because of the University’s lack of cooperation?

**LEAH PRITCHETT**  
Contributing Writer

The balance of work and life seems to be nearly impossible because the University lacks a variety of night classes. Countless students take on the challenge of maintaining a professional life and an academic one.

But it’s pretty much impossible to work full-time and go to school full-time, and granted, those will be some hectic years, but why is FIU making it difficult for me and other students to even sign up for some classes at a reasonable hour?

In order for me to go to school, I must work. I am financially dependent on work to afford school and my expenses. I’ve fallen victim to spending hellish hours trying to sign up for classes on time.

Once I find my way around my FIU, I end up spending more time searching for classes that are at a decent hour.

According to the latest U.S. Census, 71 percent of the nation’s college undergrads are working, and of that 1 in 5 are working more than 35 hours a week.

The University advertises flexible schedules for working adults, but doesn’t seem to adhere to that advertisement and schedule the classes accordingly.

Most of those working adults are going to be working during the day. This means they need to attend classes at night.

I work 40 hours a week. And as many professors like to point out, each hour spent in class requires two-three hours of study time outside of class, for me, that’s almost 20 hours of time on academics-not including time spent getting to class or time spent in class.

In fall 2012 I had no choice but to become a part-time student because the courses I needed to take were at a postponable time and not even offered on the Biscayne Bay Campus.

One program in particular, Continuing Opportunities for Purposeful Education, addresses the situation of sex education but only after the fact—the young teen is already pregnant.

COPE’s purpose is to educate current teen parents or expectant parents in parenting skills as well as health education. It gives off the general vibe of creating a supportive atmosphere for teens that find themselves in this situation, which I totally approve of, but they should also make the effort of further informing teens on where they initially went wrong, so that they can prevent more teenage pregnancies.

It seems to me that it all goes back to the pro-choice/pro-life debate because simply taking a step towards prevention might not be so agreeable with the latter view, especially if one initially takes that stance due to extreme religious reasons and unfortunately by extension, political reasons as well.

It is a touchy subject, I can understand why some parents do not want to think about their children engaging in such adult activities. At the same time, pro-life/pro-choice advocates are affecting whether or not teens are taught sex education with honesty. Abstinence might be the chosen “one” for the state of Florida because some see it as the only form of prevention that doesn’t challenge their views.

Regardless of people’s reasoning as to why their teens should not receive a comprehensive sex education, the underlying importance is to understand that we will probably be better off knowing something instead of simply being taught that abstinence is the only way, or that help will only be available once pregnant.

It is probably hard for parents to process, but teenagers are most likely going to have sex despite what their parents wish. If they choose to commit “adult” acts, treat them as adults and educate them before they end up with a lifelong responsibility they are not ready for just because their parent or school was too afraid to talk to them.

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**SEND US YOUR LETTERS**

Have something on your mind? Send your thoughts (400 words maximum) to opinion@fiusm.com or drop by our office at room GJ 210 or WUC 124. With your letter, be sure to include your name, major, year, and copy of your student ID. The Beacon will only run one letter a month from any individual.

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The Roxy: not just a name, ‘it’s the way we do things’

ALFREDO APARICIO
Staff Writer

Among a lot of dust, rubble and construction, a dream became a reality when the Roxy Performing Arts Center first opened its doors 10 years ago.

Alumnus Charles Sothers, the theater arts director and one of the co-founders of the Roxy, first noticed the space—an old rundown movie theater that had been left to ruin and vandalism since its closing five years prior—that would give birth to their dream with co-founder Jorgina “Roxy” Fernandez, artistic director and one of the University’s founding arts centers. The Roxy Performing Arts Center currently offers a variety of classes from acting to improvisational to musical theater, all forms of modern dance such as hip-hop, jazz and ballet as well as classes on how to play the guitar and brass instruments.

The Roxy name isn’t just a name, it’s the way we do things. Sothers said. “Roxy is the way we prepare our students and collaborate with others to build something together. ‘Roxy’ reminds us that the kids do here continues to take me by surprise. They have an awareness that helps me know that when they’re out there on stage doing things we’ve never done before like the aerial work in Tarzan,” Torgas-Leyva said. “They know someone’s counting on them so they continue to work on it until they’re satisfied.”

In the upcoming summer months, The Roxy Performing Arts Center will premiere “Title of Show” by Jeff Bowen and Hunter Bell in May, “Rent” by Jonathan Larson in July, “Bloody, Bloody Andrew Jackson” in Aug. and “A Chorus Line” by Marvin Hamlisch and Edward Kleban in Sept. For more information call (305) 226-0030 or go online at www.roxyperformingartscenter.com.

The Roxy Performing Arts Center hopes to open satellite centers around South Florida to reach out to more students and continue to improve training future performers under the “Roxy” banner. “The Roxy name isn’t just a name, it’s the way we do things,” Sothers said. “Roxy is the way we prepare our students and collaborate with others to build something together. ‘Roxy’ reminds us that the kids do here continues to take me by surprise. They have an awareness that helps me know that when they’re out there on stage doing things we’ve never done before like the aerial work in Tarzan,” Torgas-Leyva said. “They know someone’s counting on them so they continue to work on it until they’re satisfied.”

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Students blossom for spring with colorful outfits

Yes, ladies and gentlemen, spring is here, which means high levels of humidity are back along with scrorching temperatures leaving us with little chance of layering in our outfit choices. The perks though are that everything around you is blooming and luscious, making afternoon walks pleasant and colorful with floral patterns back in.

My first encounter with floral was with senior Tanisha Stanley, psychology major. Her look was simple but unique by juxtaposing a sweet cotton dress with combat boots and a twisted head scarf. “I feel confident and vibrant; it matches my personality,” said Stanley. My next-in with spring was with junior Priscilla Garcia majoring in marketing and interna-

tional business management. Her loose fitting color-block dress reminded me of rejuvenation, comfort and the soothing sensation of spring. “I feel like the epitome of spring,” said Garcia. How fitting.

In the housing quad I came across one of my favorite stylish students on campus, freshman fine arts major Ruth Thompson. On an especially sweltering day, she kept things simple with an easy button down t-shirt and shorts combo, but cleverly used pink colors, abstract patterns and accessories to express her own point of view on spring. She boldly stated, “I feel Floridian,” and I couldn’t agree more.

The girls aren’t the only ones embracing spring. Senior art history major Carlos Salazar was inspired by 1970’s men’s fashion for his spring outfit. Guys, don’t be scared to wear colors. Colors are a great way to make a simple outfit look more interesting. Spring is a time for rejuvenation, so let’s take this into account for our wardrobes as well.
Frost exhibit raises gun violence awareness

NATALIE MONTANER
Contributing Writer

In recent years, there has been an increase in the number of violent gun crimes, causing worry and alarm throughout the media and the nation. The Trayvon Martin shooting in Florida and the Sandy Hook Elementary School tragedy in Connecticut are just two examples of recent gun-related tragedies that have raised red flags on the leniency of our gun laws.

Robert Einbeck, a French artist, took a different approach to raising gun violence awareness through his collection of works entitled “Bang!”

Through his collection, Einbeck shows how gun violence is not just a US problem, but rather a worldwide issue that cannot continue to be overlooked. Each of Einbeck’s pieces focuses on the actual gun barrel, what houses the bullet, which is the precise object that causes a gun-inflicted death. Through bright colors and contrasts, he aims to transform a gun’s barrel into a symbol of our brittle existence.

On his website, Einbeck explains this by stating, “this is why for me the urgency consists of dissociating this object of death, identified as the barrel of a gun, from its primary brutality in order to transform it into an object of emotion that could question the fragility of existence, but also the bruises and frustrations of human beings as sources of devastating impulses.”

Einbeck is attempting to transform the gun’s barrel from a disturbing, violent reminder of past murders to something that raises awareness, introspection and a tranquility of the self.

According to his website, Einbeck believes that “art allows us to better understand our past. It is a constant reference point in a greater perception of our spiritual journey. It has always been a means of growing sensitivity and gaining awareness.”

“Bang!” will be on display at the Patricia & Phillip Frost Art Museum until Aug. 30.

Active Minds offers puppies to help relieve stress

JESSICA RODRIGUEZ
Staff Writer

Active Minds, a University organization dedicated to bringing awareness to students about mental health issues, found a new and creative way to help relieve the stress of finals week that’s around the corner.

They hosted their annual “Finals Oasis” event this past Monday, April 15, where they provided students and faculty with yoga, meditation, food, refreshments, coffee, biofeedback, bubbles and stress relief tips. There was also an unexpected addition to this list that acted as a stress reliever – puppies. Although it seems out of the ordinary, they had puppies available for students and staff to pet in order to distress themselves. Additionally, all the food and relaxation was free to all Panthers!

The owners brought in two dogs to participate. The choice to have them came from the idea that therapy dogs have been shown to relieve stress and improve the moods of many people. It appeared to have worked. Sophomore Carlos Nogues, marketing major, participated in the event and said, “I was impressed with all the activity and treats Active Minds had ready. And after petting the dogs and having a good time, I forgot about the stress of finals week.”

It has been proven that if you keep your head clear for a little bit, you’re able to retain a lot more information the next time you study. We’ll have to wait for grades to come out to see if this event actually helped, and moreover, if it will happen again next year.

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Transfer caps strong debut with help from friends

RUBEN PALACIOS
Staff Writer

The women’s basketball team enjoyed their fair share of success away from home this past season, winning eight out of a possible 12 games in unfamiliar territory. Junior Marita Davydova enjoyed tremendous success away from home also, though, for her, it was on a vastly bigger stage.

Davydova, a first-year transfer from Russia, dominated the hardwood during her first year at FIU. At 6-foot-3, Davydova enforced her presence in the paint against opponents all year round and her numbers did the talking for her. She was second on the team in scoring at 9.8 points per game while dominating on the boards and leading the team in rebounding at 8.8 rebounds per game.

But Davydova, success came quickly, but so did the season in which she showed so much growth. The season, which spans from November all the way into March, felt as if it flew by.

“Everything moves so quickly because we don’t have time to think about nothing. Every day I have classes, homework, practices and games,” Davydova said. “But I like it here, it was a challenge for me and a new experience, but it was good.”

When she first arrived in Miami she had many uncertainties running through her mind. Communicating with teammates, learning a foreign language and having to study in a foreign language were all fears she had to experience and eventually overcome.

“I think people can get used to any situation. I began to speak English every day and it became easier,” Davydova said. “Of course, I have problems and not everyone can understand my accent, but everyone likes it.”

Davydova, after just a short stint in Miami, has already confessed her love for the life she has in the warm oasis she now calls home.

“I don’t know how I will feel next year. Maybe it is because it is my first year and it is all new and unusual. It’s a new country, new city and new people. But right now I like it,” Davydova said. “I already told my teammates that I wish I could stay here longer. I can only play two years, but I wish I could play here for four years.”

In a time where she was especially vulnerable, Davydova made a special connection with another FIU athlete, sand volleyball star junior Maryna Samoday.

They met in a time where Davy- dova most needed someone to befriend and confide in.

“It was within her first couple of weeks in Miami when she and some of her basketball teammates came to our volleyball game,” Davydova said. “We continued to build on our friendship by dipping into the expertise of one another in order to be supportive. Samoday learned her share of basketball rules so when she goes to support her friend she can argue calls in her favor. Davy- dova returns the favor by learning the game of sand volleyball and making an effort to be at every match.

Davydova is spending so much time in the sand around the volleyball team that she has befriended another international player on the team in junior Ksenia Sukhareva, who is from her native Russia.

SEE DAVYDOVA, PAGE 7

Softball takes two of three against visiting Trojans

JOSLON DIAZ
Contributing Writer

The Panther softball squad took the series against the visiting Troy Trojans, winning two out of three games at the Softball Complex on April 14 and April 15. “I’m really proud of our girls, no matter what, they never gave up. They showed some resilience and that doesn’t always work in our favor but we just kept battling back,” said Head Coach Jake Schumann. “But we were able to take the punch and give a couple of punches back.”

In the first game of the doubleheader, the Panthers (26-21, 9-8 Sun. Belt Conference) attacked first. Senior Amber Curry started the bottom of the third inning with a solo shot to left center, her third of the season.

The Trojans (19-23, 7-7 SBC) answered back in the top of the fifth inning with a three-run homer off the bat of senior Hannah Renn, putting them ahead 3-1.

Down 5-3 heading into the bottom of the seventh inning, FIU senior Brie Rojas got the momentum going with a leadoff solo shot to left field. After intentionally walking senior Jessy Alfonso to load the bases, sophomore Kristal Garcia reached first base thanks to a fielding error by the catcher, scoring Sophomore Shelby Graves from third base to even up the score 5-5.

Senior Kayla Burri then flew out to left, but another error by the left fielder on a cutoff throw allowed junior Rachel Slowik to score the game winning run as the Panthers pulled through winning 6-5.

In the second game of the double header, FIU once again wasted no time. The only runs of the game were scored in the bottom half of the first inning. After the first two batters reached, Graves hit a single bringing in Curry. A throwing error from the center fielder allowed Brie Kay to score from first base.

Graves then came around and scored thanks to a sacrifice fly by freshman Aleigha Lopez putting the Panthers up 3-0.

It would stay like that throughout the rest of the game. Freshman pitcher Corinne Jenkins (13-5) picked up her team-leading 13th victory, shutting out the Trojans allowing only two hits and striking out four batters.

“Honestly this week I just focused on relaxing, I have had a bad couple of last outings so I just kept trying to tell myself it’s a game of failure,” said Jenkins. “You can’t be a champion without failing. So I just tried to relax and do I was doing at the beginning of the season which I thought helped me out.”

For the Sunday afternoon game the Panthers once again pounced first. Rojas singled in Curry giving FIU the early 1-0 lead.

In the fifth inning Troy was able to even the score 3-3, Burri was unable to handle a pop fly with the bases loaded and one out. The Trojans would cap the win after a pair of RBI singles, defeating FIU 6-5.

The Panthers threatened complete the sweep, falling 5-4.

FIU will next travel to Florida Atlantic University to play the Owls tonight at 6 p.m.
The bonds that she is creating within her friendships are a vital piece of what keeps her going while still dealing with acquainting herself into a new place.

"We have a Russian mafia," Davydova says describing her friendship with Sukhareva.

Davydova has certainly embraced her new role as a basketball player, her new lifestyle and her new city. But what she will not embrace as a norm of Miamians is their tendency to always show up late to anything and everything. Tardiness is also something she will not tolerate from Samoday.

"She is always there, but you know what? She is always late. And I tell her, 'Today you came four minutes and 24 seconds late,'" Davydova said. "For me it is very important and I try not to plan anything when they have games."

Davydova took women's basketball at FIU by storm this past year. Expectations for her senior year are going to be set awfully high by her peers and by herself, but for Davydova, next year can wait.

"I enjoy every day. I don't think about the past because that is already done, so I try and live in the now and in the present," Davydova said.

Behind the tennis courts and the press box of the FIU softball field, there is an open field with a few trees laid out for landscape purposes. This is one of the locations that has become home to part of the track team. It is where Assistant Coach Ryan Heberling's throwers practice shot-put, discus, javelin and hammer throw.

Starting November in the Modesto A. Maidique campus, there will be a groundbreaking for an official track and field facility around the soccer field. Until then, the track team still has to travel to track at the Ansin Sports Complex in Miramar, Fla., about a 40 minute commute each way.

Having a two hour commute can hamper the team's practice hours, especially when they travel to the complex two to four times a week. That is roughly eight hours dedicated to commuting a week, not to mention time spent in practice.

The lack of a facility has long been a hindrance for the squad, also cutting into the team's chances to land big-name Division I recruits.

The team was competing at the Florida Pepsi Relays in early March.

"A few years ago, we couldn't compete with the University of Florida and Florida State University in getting those topnotch recruits. Now we can, but we would definitely be able to get more if we had a track on campus," Heberling said.

The Panthers will travel to UF for the Tom Jones Memorial Classic on April 20. After, the following meets are the Penn Relays in Philadelphia, Pa., which start on April 27, and the Sun Belt Conference Outdoor championships, which begin May 10.

A soccer tournament featuring some of the world’s most famous teams has been organized for this summer, with the final four games played in Miami on Aug. 6-7.

At least half the eight-team field will be announced Tuesday at a news conference at the Miami Dolphins' stadium, where the championship and consolation rounds are scheduled. Organizers plan for the tournament to become an annual event, although sites may change.

Multyear deals have been signed with some teams and a title sponsor. Network TV coverage is planned this year in 151 countries.

The tournament will begin open in Europe on July 27. Opening-round games are planned in Phoenix, San Francisco and Indianapolis, with the semifinals in New York and Los Angeles on Aug. 3-4.

The field will feature club teams from four countries, including the United States.

All eight teams will gather in Miami for the final four games, including the championship and games to determine third, fifth and seventh place.

The tournament was organized by Relevant Sports, a division of a company co-founded by Dolphins owner Stephen Ross.

Sites for games in 2014 are uncertain. The Dolphins' stadium may be unavailable because the team has proposed nearly $400 million in upgrades and hopes to have work underway next year.

The bonds that she is creating within her friendships are a vital piece of what keeps her going while still dealing with acquainting herself into a new place.

"We have a Russian mafia here," Davydova says describing her friendship with Sukhareva.

Davydova has certainly embraced her new role as a basketball player, her new lifestyle and her new city. But what she will not embrace as a norm of Miamians is their tendency to always show up late to anything and everything. Tardiness is also something she will not tolerate from Samoday.

"She is always there, but you know what? She is always late. And I tell her, 'Today you came four minutes and 24 seconds late,'" Davydova said. "For me it is very important and I try not to plan anything when they have games."

Davydova took women's basketball at FIU by storm this past year. Expectations for her senior year are going to be set awfully high by her peers and by herself, but for Davydova, next year can wait.

"I enjoy every day. I don't think about the past because that is already done, so I try and live in the now and in the present," Davydova said.
Fitness Day hopes to get hearts pumping and students healthy

VINSON PRESSLEY

Students will meditate and bust moves while learning to live a healthy lifestyle on Fitness Day.

The Wellness Center will have a Fitness Day on April 19 from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. in Panther Square in the Wolfe University Center.

The event will have yoga classes from 10 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. and Zumba classes from 12 p.m. to 1 p.m. along with stress and cholesterol screenings.

There will also be dietitians on hand to inform students on how to develop a healthy diet and lifestyle and free yoga will be given out to the students.

Sarah Kenneally, senior health educator for Student Health Services said the fitness day will allow students to relieve stress and help motivate them for finals, which begin next week. Kenneally said this was her first year coordinating the event but said this particular event has occurred before in the past.

Kenneally said that recently students have been requesting more cholesterol screenings, which she attributed to people’s curiosity about their health and what’s happening inside their body.

According to Kenneally, yoga and Zumba were chosen because that what was planned for the gym schedule during that time: the only difference is the classes held in the gym will be held out in the open in Panther Square during Fitness Day. Kenneally said that the yoga aspect of the event will help students relax while the Zumba aspect will get the students’ blood flowing and get them moving.

Students look forward to doing yoga, Zumba and relaxing before finals.

Aliisa Laroche, freshman biology major, said she wouldn’t mind doing Zumba if she had the time. “[Zumba] is a workout but at the same time you’re having fun.” said Laroche.

Laroche also discussed yoga and said although initially she feared yoga due to the flexibility aspect of it, she mentioned that yoga provides a chance to release stress and decompress.

“You can put all the stress into the workout and it makes you feel good at the end,” said Laroche.

Kevin Manikum, freshman hospitality management major said yoga helps keep him calm and is a great way to relieve stress.

Manikum has been attending yoga classes since the 2012 summer semester and does it three times a week while also attending Zumba classes once a week.

Manikum said working out brings him a sense of accomplishment from finishing the class and makes him feel good about himself.

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Strength in Silence

On April 15, Campus Life-BBC and Multicultural Programs and Services LGBTQA Initiatives hosted a release week kick-off event and LGBTQA Pride North lunch inside of the Wolfe University Center’s Panther Square. The event included free food and students were able to take a pledge of silence for the National Day of Silence on Thursday, April 18. Kevin Emmanuel, a sophomore studying psychology, took a pledge at the Stonewall Pride Alliance table.

- At the Bay