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,” which 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.

“Many universities are taking this path 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.”

Newly elected president a member of previous regime

BARBARA MOSQUERA
Sophomore Communication Arts Major

Venezuela’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.

Hensique 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.

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.
Boat filled with protected species hits coral reef

A Chinese vessel that ran into a protected coral reef in the southwestern Philippines held evidence of even more environmental degradation. The species that the boat was carrying would be critically endangered by the destruction of the reef. This highlights the importance of protecting marine ecosystems.

CORRECTIONS

In Vol. 24, issue 85 of The Beacon, the info box containing results of SGA elections incorrectly spelled Liane Sippin’s name. Also in the info box, Nicholas Aquart and James D’Cruz won business and arts and sciences senate seats, respectively. Christopher Esteban and Stephanie Ortega did not win.

The Beacon will gladly change any errors. Call our MMC office at 305-348-2709 or BBC at 305-919-4722.
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 deals with delicately.

This can be seen especially in the education of safe sex and pregnancy prevention, particularly when teenagers are involved.

I end up spending more time searching for classes than I do studying. According to The Healthy Teens Campaign, Florida was in sixth place in terms of having the highest teenage pregnancy rate in 2006.

Despite this, The Healthy Teens Campaign reported that Florida still does not have statewide standards on sex education and is generally showing a preference to abstinence by the 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 they 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 people graduate.

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 lifetime responsibility they are not ready for just because their parent or school was too afraid to talk to them.

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Part-time student, but not by choice

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 myFIU, 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 it 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 preposterous time and not even offered on the Biscayne Bay Campus.

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 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?

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SEND US YOUR LETTERS

Have something on your mind? Send your thoughts (400 words maximum) to opinion@fiusm.com. Please include your name, major/year, and your student ID. The Beacon will only run one letter a month from any individual.

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www.fiusm.com
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 thought of 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” Torgas-Leyva.

“We had always talked about opening up a space, not just a theater to do shows in, but also to train young actors and dancers,” explained Sothers. After renting the space, Sothers and Fernandez, along with Program’s director and choreographer Jillian Torgas-Leyva, both alumni of the University, got to work on renovating the space for in just under 45 days for its grand opening. “The first days were grueling because there was no electricity. It was just as with miner lights doing the necessary renovations like ratcheting out the floor,” Sothers said. “It’s something we’re very proud of because we were able to do it fast and make it work by the time of the opening.” While only Room Six, which housed the Main Stage, was open when the Roxy opened its doors, more than 100 people came to register for its first dance classes.

“We had all seven rooms up and operational by the end of the first year but it’s something that had to happen in phases like the classes we offered,” Sothers said. “The initial model was a dance studio that quickly became a center for the arts.”

For Torgas-Leyva, one of the hardest parts of the first 45 days was sleeping in the Roxy to make sure no one came in and destroyed the work that had been done earlier in the day. “There was no AC but we slept here every night for the first few months on air mattresses.” The reward for their hard work, however, has been more than enough to keep them going.

“The Roxy has become a sort of do-it-yourself network of people that bring a lot of excitement and drive to keep us going and constantly searching for something new to offer our students,” Torgas-Leyva said. “It’s like that old saying: ‘it takes a village to raise a child.’ The Roxy village has continued to raise itself because people volunteer and bring their families to help with shows. We’ve all adopted each other and that reflects in our work and the positive feedback we received from our students, volunteers and visitors,” Sothers said.

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 training I got at FIU made me a well rounded performer because I didn’t just act,” said Sothers. “I built sets, handled lights and made costumes because, when you’re a part of everything, it makes you a better performer.”

Torgas-Leyva is in agreement. “One of the students, when the teacher was running late, warmed up her peers by copying what she had seen in class, and the class was ready by the time the teacher walked through the door. Sometimes the classes aren’t just about the subject or technique, they’re also about leadership and taking the initiative.”

In the near future, 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.”

The Roxy is the way we build something together.”

Students blossom for spring with colorful outfits

Yes, ladies and gentlemen, spring is here, which means high levels of humidity are back along with scorching temperatures leaving us with little chance of layering in our outfit choices. The perks though are that everywhere you go there 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 run-in with spring was with junior Priscilla Garcia majoring in marketing and international 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. 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.

ASHLEY GARNER
Staff Writer

PHOTOS BY ASHLEY GARNER/THE BEACON

www.fiuam.com

Wednesday, April 17, 2013

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LIFE!

Students blossom for spring with colorful outfits

Ashley Garner
Staff Writer

PHOTOS BY ASHLEY GARNER/THE BEACON

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LIFE!
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.

-Natalie Montaner

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!

They did not regulate the amount of people who could see the dogs and Active Minds verified that were certified therapy dogs, meaning they were approved as safe and friendly to kids and other animals. 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.

-Jessica Rodriguez

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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. Senior Marita Davydova enjoyed tremendous success away from home also, though, for her, it was on a vastly bigger scale.

Davydova, a first-year transfer from Russia, dominated the hard-wood 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 of anything else. 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 experiment, but it was good.”

When she first arrived in Miami she was filled with 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 Samody. They met in a time where Davydova most needed someone to befriend and confide in.

“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 Samody. They met in a time where Davydova 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 complete the sweep, falling 5-4. FIU will next travel to Florida Atlantic University to play the Owls tonight at 6 p.m.
November cannot come any sooner for track team

RHYS WILLIAMS
Staff Writer

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.

Multiyear 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 Relevent 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.

8-team soccer tournament to conclude in Miami

AP STAFF

Though Edwin Rios swung and lost his bat on Sunday, the bats weren’t missing this weekend against University of Louisiana Monroe after the Panthers scored 24 runs over the weekend.

Davydova: “We have a russian mafia”

Davydova

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.

8-team soccer tournament to conclude in Miami

No bat, no problem!

Rhys Williams/The Beacon

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Sharing content on Facebook: the pros and cons

DANIEL URIA
Staff Writer

As an artist, Facebook can be a great tool to gain exposure for your work or simply share it with your friends. But with this exposure and accessibility comes various copyright issues.

Senior Ocampo provided some helpful alternatives. Ocampo offers an alternative to watermarks, which she finds to be "too bulky and tacky for [her] taste."

"I'd include a small watermark/signature in each drawing, something similar to the way Caravaggio used to do his paintings where he would sign his name with blood or how Whistler would draw a butterfly as his signature. Something that doesn't take away from the pieces," she said.

Ocampo also provides a way to get the same exposure from posting content directly to Facebook without forfeiting any ownership to them.

"A way to do that would be to create your own website, post [your] content there and share the link on Facebook," Blevens said.

This way just as many people can see a user's work and Facebook would not lay claim to any royalties. But ultimately, Blevens says, the best way to protect yourself and your artwork is to file for an official copyright. "I would just advise people who are creative and who produce protectable work to go get it protected. There's some statement in your sincerity by asserting your self and going and paying the $35."

Fitness Day hopes to get hearts pumping and students healthy

VINSON PRESSLEY
Staff Writer

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 during 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 yogurt and cholesterol screenings.

"I usually post my work on Facebook for fun, it’s nothing too serious since it’s just a hobby that I’ve been trying to master for quite some time," she said.

Even though Ocampo’s art is a hobby, when dealing with Facebook, there’s still an economic aspect to the use of her work or the work of others. Facebook’s terms of service agreement states that, while users do in fact own all content and information they post, through privacy and application settings the users grant Facebook a “non-exclusive, transferable, sub-licensable, royalty-free, worldwide license to use any IP content that you post on or in connection with Facebook [IP License]”.

While the license ends when either the content or the creator’s profile is deleted, the terms of service also state that it will continue if the content had been shared with others who have not deleted it.

Frederick Blevens, a professor in the School of Journalism and Mass Communication, who teaches media law and ethics, said that since these terms are clearly stated they are difficult to get around.

“The bottom line is if you sign on for a Facebook account, part of the agreement that you make allows them to do that,” he said. “And whether fair or unfair you’re bound to it.”

But Facebook itself isn’t the only entity that artists need to protect their work from. Each individual member of the vast Facebook community could possibly copy or misuse another user’s work.

This said, there are several ways to protect work from theft such as altering privacy settings to control who can view content, or using watermarks or other signatures to signify ownership.

Unfortunately, these practices can limit the audience and compromise the integrity of the work but Ocampo and Blevens provide some helpful alternatives.

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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 Month 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.

Students look forward to doing yoga, blood flowing and get them moving. "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 she wouldn’t mind doing Zumba if she had the time. “[Zumba] is a workout but at the same time you’re having fun because you’re dancing. It doesn’t even feel like a workout," 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.

“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.”