WE'RE NUMBER ONE!

College of Law has highest passage rate in Florida Bar

JULIE WALSH
Contributing Writer

The University’s College of Law had the highest bar passage rate in Florida, with 89 percent of its graduates passing the exam.

The University is ranked above the University of Florida, who had an 87.3 percent passing rate and Florida State University, who passed with 80.3 percent, according to the Florida Board of Bar Examiners.

But overall, Florida declined by eight points, with a 72 percent passing rate in 2014 and a 64 percent passing rate in 2015, according to Excess of Democracy.

“I don’t think this is a pressure for incoming bar takers,” said R. Alexander Acosta, dean of the COL. “Our students do well and [are] well prepared. As long as they’re our graduates, we’re going to take care of them.”

Law schools among the state of Florida each aim to rank first in the bar passage rate.

Raul Ruiz, assistant professor and director of bar preparation, said it shows the kind of work the students and professors do.

“The high Bar passing rates reflect on a combination of FIU Law’s professors and students,” said Elise Barimo, third year law student. “We have a balance between extremely intelligent professors who do an incredible job of teaching us the law and studious and hardworking students who want to succeed.”

Acosta said this accomplishment reflects the hard work and dedication of their students and their capabilities, as well as the outstanding teaching, improvements, and remodeling of their academic excellence program.

Ruiz works with each student and individualizes a study program for them.

“I’d like to thank him and I’d like to thank our students,” said Acosta.

The academic excellence bar program is led by Ruiz and Louis Schulze, assistant dean of the COL. The program helps students from their first day of law school to their last day taking the Bar.

According to Ruiz, it teaches them to be great attorneys and great test-takers. The program was established approximately two years ago by Schulze and has already had a positive effect, he said.

Barimo said that many law school graduates think of the bar as a nerve-wracking experience, studying more hours than they ever have before.

“The bar exam is a different beast than any type of test you’ve ever taken in school,” said Ruiz. “It’s the hardest test you’ll take in your life.”

Barimo said she doesn’t have to worry about not feeling prepared for the bar exam. She thinks that the education her and her peers have received is invaluable and more than enough to prepare them for their futures.

Ruiz thinks it’s a big achievement for the students and faculty of the college.

“It really shows the quality of education that they’re getting from a public university,” he said.

Barimo and Gail Walsh, a first year law student, said the released numbers have only strengthened their confidence in something that they already knew: that FIU Law is preparing them and their peers for success.

“I am so proud to be part of an institution that achieved the highest bar passing rate in Florida,” said Walsh. “FIU Law is an up-and-coming law school and I know that we will go very far.”

Barimo agrees.

“Being a student at the Florida school with the highest bar passing rate not only excites me for my successful future, but makes me even more proud to be an FIU law student,” Barimo said.

Car count system to reach all garages by next fall

NICOLE MONTERO
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Maria Pelegrin spends over 45 minutes every morning looking for available parking. During her four years at the University, she wished there was a way to know about parking availability before driving into a garage.

Now with the expansion of a virtual car counting system at the Modesto A. Maidique Campus, she’ll be able to know how many student parking spots are available before driving in to look for a spot.

“If this actually works, it’s going to be amazing,” said Pelegrin, a senior information technology major. “I can’t tell you how much time I waste trying to find parking in a garage that is already full.”

The roughly $400,000 system, introduced by the Department of Parking and Transportation, will tell drivers which garages have available parking spots, similar to what Parking Garage 6 offers.

“When you drive into the University and you go into Gold Garage, you don’t know if it’s full or not,” said Thomas Hartley, executive director of the department. “You drive all the way to the top and to the bottom. This way, we can just direct people home of time.”

The system will have sensors that count when cars come in and out of garages by reading each vehicle’s license plate.

It’ll be released sometime this fall in conjunction with a mobile app.

The Parking App, for both iOS and Android devices, will feature permit purchases, citation appeals, citation payments, information about where to park and Pay by Cell functions for visitors, as well as a place to report parking violators on campus.

App approval for iOS devices is a longer process so the car count system may be finished first, said Hartley.

In the meantime, the department plans to have signage outside the garages.

“We’re going to have signs that’ll change the car count as cars are driving in and out of the garages,” said Hartley. “We’ll know because we’ll have cameras set up that look at each car’s virtual license plate permit.”

The University recently went from having physical decals and stickers to virtual permits, which helps the department use license plate recognition to identify who’s parking where.

With the LPR technology, the department will know the availability for both student and nonstudent parking spots.

“If you drive through the garage, it’ll stamp your plate and that’s what it’ll do. If you’re a student, rather than a staff or other,” said Hartley.

The new system includes cameras in all garages and will be able to tell how long each person stays at the University.

“We’ll be able to start making some good predictive modeling and direct people in advance,” he said. “If we know, for example, that Gold fills at a certain time, we’ll be able to communicate this to folks.”

Alejandro Hernandez, a sophomore math major, thinks this is big step for the University as a “technologically-savvy college.”

“I can see what’s available beforehand,” he said. “It’s a huge plus for FIU.”

Hernandez also thinks the new system will make everything easier.

“PG6 has it and I’m glad they’ll be implementing this in every garage,” he said. “You know where to go and it’s convenient. It’s about damn time they have something like this.”

The system is set to be finished in November, depending on construction.

Construction will start with PG1 and PG2 and then continue with the remaining garages.

“I think being able to direct people to the closest available parking is a huge win for everybody,” said Hartley.
The new iPhones hit store shelves

The new iPhones hit store shelves Friday morning. Consumers were able to buy the latest models of Apple’s smartphone, the iPhone 6s and the jumbo-sized iPhone 6s Plus, at the company’s retail stores. They were also able to find them at the stores of the major wireless carriers and some other major electronics retailers. The key feature of the new models, which share the same size and shape as last year’s versions, is something Apple calls 3D Touch.

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NATION & WORLD BRIEFS

Obama, Putin to meet next week in New York to discuss Ukraine, Syria

President Barack Obama and Russian President Vladimir Putin will meet next week in New York for the first time in nearly a year to discuss the war in Syria, where the Kremlin is building up a military force, and consolidating a peace deal in Ukraine, the White House announced Friday.

Pope Francis to the powerful: Serve humanity better

Pope Francis spoke to Washington’s political power and comforted it’s powerless on his final day in the nation’s capital, delivering the same message at two stops: Those with the most must do more to help those who have the least. The papal visit to America also was the last of a papal tour that has included Buenos Aires, the former Soviet Union in 1991.

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O’Brien kicks off ‘I am Latino in America’ tour

YURIELLE MENARD

Contributing Writer

An award-winning journalist spoke to FIU about police brutality and African-American civil rights in February. Now she is back with a different twist. A CNN correspondent and philanthropist and executive producer, Solelded O’Brien will talk to University students about pressing issues like voting, the economy and education amongst the Latino community.

O’Brien was first invited by the Biscayne Bay Campus Student Government Council as part of her Black in America tour earlier this year. She talked about racial profiling using different clips from her documentary, “Black & Blue.” O’Brien will kick off her I am Latino in America tour at the University Monday, Sept. 28, which is also during National Hispanic Heritage Month. She will also stop at the University of Texas Rio Grande Oct. 5 and at the Los Angeles Occidental College Oct. 15.

The event will be a panel with local artists and University faculty. There will also be a meet and greet with O’Brien for those who attend.

“I am Latino” is 54 million strong, make up a quarter of the children in this country and include 25 million voters with $1.5 trillion in buying power,” said O’Brien. Jose Toscano said O’Brien’s presence on campus is a great opportunity for the University.

Toscano, Campus Life director at the Modesto A. Maidique Campus, said that her tour will bring up controversial questions. “Where do Latinos in America fit into the mainframe of the American society, and what is the next step for the Hispanic population?” Toscano said.

“It’s an important conversation. We don’t think about the community issues that affect us every day.”

She said she will bring into focus education in the Hispanic community, healthcare access and their engagement in political movements.

48 percent of Hispanic eligible voters voted in 2012, which was a decrease from 49.9 percent in 2008, according to the Pew Research Center. This rate is significantly low compared to 66.6 percent of black voters and 64.1 percent of white voters in 2012.

O’Brien’s first stop will be in Miami-Dade County, where 66.2 percent of its population is of Hispanic descent, according to the United States Census Bureau.

Jorge Parellada, a history graduate teaching assistant, said Hispanics don’t have a strong tradition of voting. They prefer other forms of political participation like going to rallies and engaging in protests.

Latinos in America should be compared to Jews in Germany, said Parellada. He said Jews are blamed for Germany’s problems, just like Latinos are blamed for the “America isn’t great.”

“It’s the same discourse being utilized in order to scapegoat certain people,” he said.

Parellada also said that there are enough conversations on Latin America and not enough on the reason behind Latinitas Immigration.

“[Immigrants] can go anywhere in Latin America, but the fundamental question is, ‘Why are they coming here?’ Is it political instabilities throughout the region, is it a good path to citizenship or family, [is it to] evade an aggressor?”

“This could be like Pandora’s box in immigrants [being] tossed out.”

Marissa Rodriguez said O’Brien could increase the Hispanic voter turnout rate and highlight the importance of the Latino community.

“We don’t know the statistics, and if we’re being informed, it would make us feel more empowered,” said Rodriguez, a freshman dietetics and nutrition major.

O’Brien is chief executive officer of Starfish Media Group, a multimedia production and distribution company. She works to approach pressing social issues in American minority groups featuring real-life stories.

The I am Latino in America tour will start at 7 p.m. in the Graham Center Ballrooms. Registration is required for the event through OrgSync.

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THE FALL

MAYTINEE KRAMER
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The fall is here and, whether we like it or not, we are forced to adopt new habits to adjust to the stress of the semester.

Send us your letters
Have something on your mind? Send your thoughts (400 words maximum) to opinion@fiusm.com or stop by our offices at either GC 210 or WUC 124. With your comments, you'll become a permanent contributor to our news website. The Beacon will only run one letter a month from any individual.

POLICY

AUBREY CARR
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In a 241-187 Legislative vote on Sept. 16, the House passed legislation to freeze Planned Parenthood’s funding for the next year due to alleged fetal tissue uses. The controversy stems from a series of heavily edited videos made by The Center for Medical Progress, a California anti-abortion group, in which Planned Parenthood is made to seem as though it alters abortion procedures in order to sell fetal tissue. Dr. Deborah Nucatola, senior director of Planned Parenthood, said the video is somewhat accurate: "It may just be that the media’s popular scandals that promote opinions and concerns reflecting the false accuracy of Planned Parenthood’s mission but when there are representatives in powerful positions who agree with the media’s depiction, public funding for the nation-wide clinic’s health services are at risk, and so are those who utilize the company for more than abortion services.

Abortion accounts for only 3% of services offered by the company per year; most of Planned Parenthood’s provisions are within the aim of affordable, general healthcare for both men and women. These provisions include but are not limited to physicals, counseling, screenings, STD testing, assistance in pregnancies and even overcoming infertility. Furthermore, no government financial aid is permitted to be awarded to the abortion services.

Rachel Coaburn, President of the Voices for Planned Parenthood Chapter at FIU, said that she is not too worried about funding being frozen; she expects that if it makes its way onto Obama’s desk, he will veto. "Florida’s [Planned Parenthood clinics] have been defended for about 2 years now, but no one really knew about it." She said that even in the off chance that national funding is frozen, "if it’s publicized, well marketed, people will up rise.”

I recently took a small survey on Planned Parenthood around FIU’s Miami-Dade campus and online. Although it wasn’t a sizeable enough selection to use for scientific purposes, I think it shed light on how those between the ages of 17 to 23 understand Planned Parenthood. Most participants either identified as less involved or did not identify with any party. When asked, "What is the first word that comes to mind when you hear Planned Parenthood?" the answers were mostly “birth control” and “healthcare” instead of “abortion,” which I expected to overshadow. I think the lack of Coaburn suspects is because this is an age group of modern political and older generations. More importantly, she said that it is difficult to access for college students and these students turn to Planned Parenthood for their birth control prescriptions, exams and so much more because Planned Parenthood’s services are inexpensive and accessible.

Arizona State says that nearly everyone is face-to-face with smartphone addiction. A study that the more time spent using a phone and the more time spent staring at a screen, you may notice any worries and do things that make us happy.

It’s time to disconnect

Even though the information era, as technology continues to be improved and developed, it enraptures people with accurate self-assessment, a smartphone can help determine whether one may suffer from depression or not.

Through an app called Purple Robot, a small sample size of individuals were tracked by their location, movement, moods and feelings, phone usage and other relevant activities. For two weeks, Purple Robot collected information every five minutes and sent it back to researchers at Carnegie Mellon University for analysis. When the data was compared against a PHQ-9, a nine-question test used to survey signs of depression, it was found that the app successfully identified 87 percent of participants at risk for depression.

In addition, the study was able to reveal some interesting behavioral patterns. Participants who identified as depressed spent an average of 68 minutes on their phones each day, while non-depressed individuals spent an average of 17 minutes. When people are depressed, they tend to withdraw and feel like they have no motivation or energy to do things. Data reveals that they are prone to moodiness, materialism and temperamental behavior.

However, this is not to say that spending a lot of time on your smartphone means you’re depressed. The study was only over a small population during a short period of time, leaving plenty of room for error. Also, people can be stereotyped as being introverts for sitting in a corner fiddling with their smartphones, and introversion is one quality researchers found not to be associated with smartphone addiction. It could be that constant checking of emails, texting, checking Facebook and playing games acts as pacifiers for an unstable moodiness, materialism and temperamental behavior.

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While being addicted to anything is not good, we should stay away from constantly being plugged in and logged on. It’s better for our health and well-being to physically interact with others and do things that make us happy.

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Philippe Bateau  
Staff Writer  
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Black women make less money, receive less education and are more likely to suffer and die from disease than anyone else, according to the Center for American Progress.

In 2014, 2015 nine black women were among those killed by police and named in a report by the African American Policy Forum, a think tank hosted as part of the Center for Intersectionality and Social Policy Studies at Columbia Law School.

To give voice to the challenged black women, Esi Fynn-Obeng, Alexí Hyatt, Amber Clark, Celephina Richard and Terricka Faison put their issues into context for University students and generate ideas about what can be done, the affiliate chapter of the National Organization for Women hosted their first forum of the fall semester on Thursday, Sept. 24.

“We’re here to show you why we matter,” said Fynn-Obeng, president and co-founder of the African Student Association. “The narrative of violence against black women is getting erased.”

The forum provided a platform for Fynn-Obeng and a panel of four other black women who represented Black Student Union and Dream Defenders.

Hyatt, Clark, Raymond and Faison criticized the University’s diversity, gave suggestions of how black men can support black women and set requirements for the 2016 presidential candidate.

Fynn-Obeng, a senior sociology and communication arts major, said that the University is a “perfect replica of the status quo.”

“It’s fake progression,” Fynn-Obeng said. She asked the audience to think about the University’s faculty and staff in regards to its diversity.

“We Bore Worlds ahead on all issues,” Fynn-Obeng said.

People in the audience pointed out that there are scholarships available and three years. Funding has gone from $436 million in 2009 to an estimated $239 million this year. A Senate bill to reduce the minimum SAT and ACT scores required for students to be eligible and increased the minimum weighted GPA during a committee in May.

On average 21.4 percent of African American women had a college degree or higher in 2010, compared to 30 percent of white women, according to CAP, an independent nonprofit policy institute that is dedicated to improving the lives of Americans.

Fynn-Obeng, a BSU member and senior sociology major, said the University is 13 percent black but Hispanic Heritage Month.

To help black women push through blocks that are hardest on them, the panel said there has to be more support from black men and an end to the status of “all lives matter.”

“It is a black man’s duty to support black women,” said Hyatt, a sociologist.

Hyatt said “all lives matter” erases the black experience in America” and stressed that “Black lives matter” does not mean the lives of black people matter more.

While white women are more likely to have breast cancer, black women have higher overall mortality rates from breast cancer. They also have higher rates of human papillomavirus and cervical cancer, with mortality rates double those of white women according to CAP.

The five women were the focal point but the discussion included an audience of students, more than 100 strong, who were diverse in their hair styles and colors.

Faison, a senior criminal justice major, sports a blonde mohawk and said she would not change her hair for a job interview and is only questioned by her father.

“If anyone told me I had to change my hair, there’s just not a job for me,” Faison said.

For women in the workforce, after putting their foot in the door, the next challenge is equal pay.

The most current available data from CAP show that black women only made 64 cents to the dollar compared to non-Hispanic men in 2010. White women made 78.1 cents to the dollar.

Fynn-Obeng said to Student Media before the forum began that the “science of black people play in America and the stereotype of black women as ‘strong, overbearing and bitter has oppressed us.”

“I believe there has to be a new way for black women to feel empowered and empower themselves,” she said.

Forum opens platform for black women
"Go Set a Watchman" lacks 'classic' feel

BOOKNARRATED

More than half a century after "To Kill a Mockingbird" was released, "Go Set a Watchman," Harper Lee's previously unissued novel, saw the public light. "Mockingbird" was written after "Watchman," it was the first released, and it included the fictional town of Maycomb, Ala. along with Jean Louise "Scout" Finch, the novel's protagonist, Atticus, her father, and the rest of her family who were dealing with racial tensions that affected the South. "Watchman" follows Scout as a woman in her twenties, on her annual visit home from New York. As before, racial tensions plague Scout's family and home life, and she must grapple with her own views and emotions, as well as the expected views of her community. I waited months for the book, and was captivated and make its position on my bookshelf permanent. Unfortunately, I don't see the chemistry between Lee is attempting to convey until they're spelled out for the reader. My favorite aspect of Lee's writing style is her ability to cause readers to question their morals without blatantly questioning the answer for them. It's especially useful in "Watchman," as Lee has to grapple with Atticus' views and actions. Taking idols and making them human, standing up to societal expectations and underlying feminist tones have given the novel a space on my bookshelf; unfortunately, I don't see that space being permanent. It's a rather slow read, and doesn't hold the "classic" feel that it's predecessor does. Bookmarked is a biweekly book review column, to suggest books email Cayla at cayla.bush@fiusm.com.

CAYLA BUSH

It’s on us, each and every one of us

It’s On us, Each and Every One of Us

College can be the best of times, but for too many it can be the worst of times. According to times, but for too many it can be the important campus resources to acquaint students with some of the important campus resources in place to support their success.

The Dean of Students Office, in the Division of Student Affairs, creates a culture of care for students, their families, faculty and staff by providing proactive education consultation, resources, and response to distressed students or students in crisis. The Dean of Students will provide a monthly column in the Beacon, to acquaint students with some of the important campus resources.

It's on us, each and every one of us. According to the AAU Campus Survey, most students who have been sexually assaulted are "embarrassed, ashamed or embarrassed that it would be too emotionally difficult," and because "they didn't think anything would be done about it." Perpetrators rely on our collective silence not to speak out, not to report and not to intervene. IT'S ON US to end this silence and this silence.

The AAU Campus Survey, most students who have been sexually assaulted are "embarrassed, ashamed or embarrassed that it would be too emotionally difficult," and because "they didn't think anything would be done about it." Perpetrators rely on our collective silence not to speak out, not to report and not to intervene. IT'S ON US to end this silence and this silence. The IT'S ON US campaign also seeks to expand common misunderstandings about sexual assault. For example, most victims of sexual assault knew their attacker. And although the majority of sexual assault victims are women, men may also be victims of sexual assault.

FIU has many departments that support students who have been sexually assaulted, which include the Dean of Students, Student Conduct and Conflict Resolution, University Police Department, and Equal Opportunity Programs. However, the only resource that can offer confidential assistance is our Victim Empowerment Program through our Counseling and Psychological Services office. Victim Advocate Counselors are trained to assist with crisis intervention and trauma recovery. They provide information and options for action available to them if and when they need it. They help students with safety planning and problems that may arise as a result of the crime.

For example, some students may need help requesting extra time on exams, or may need help with emergency relocation for safety. Some students may need a restraining order or desire accompaniment to the Rape Treatment Center. A police report is not required to enter the Victim Empowerment Program. Anyone can access the 24-Hour Crisis Line at (305) 348-3000. If you are interested in reading the full report, you may access the AAU Campus Survey on Sexual Assault and Sexual Misconduct (2015) at http://clSuite.Claymate-Survey-aausd.i/d=15625.

For more information on activities, check the IT'S ON US campaign and list of resources, visit http://itsonus.fiu.edu.

FIU CARES

From the Dean of Students

The Beacon – Monday, September 28, 2015

LIFE!

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LIFE!
Get to know Thomas Owens, the go-to player

Thomas Owens Wide Receiver FIU Football

Before a game I think about my mom a lot. It just pushes me. Sometimes I pray on it before practice. It just pushes me to keep going. It gives me a good grind.

Thomas Owens

Get to know Thomas Owens, the go-to player

The women’s golf team struggled in its first tournament of the year, the Golfweek Conference Challenge. The challenge was held from Monday, Sept. 21 to Wednesday, Sept. 23 at the Fazio Course at the Red Sky Golf Club in Wolcott, Colorado. FIU placed 12 out of 17 schools and finished the week with a team total of 56 over par across its three rounds of play.

Meghan MacLaren placed well in the individual portion of the tournament, finishing at 7th over par to tie for 17th place in the challenge. After a disappointing 5-over-par first round, MacLaren bounced back in her subsequent rounds. Over her final two rounds, MacLaren shot a 2-over-par to close out the tournament at 7-over par.

If there was an award for the most consistent player of the week, then the award would go to Camila Serrano. The junior from Colombia shot three consecutive four-over par rounds and finished tied for 36th place at 12-over par.

Sophie Godley, the number five starter, had the lowest round of the weekend for the Panthers. The senior from the United Kingdom shot a 1-under par 71 in the final round of competition. However, Godley struggled in her first two rounds. In her first round, Godley came in with a 10-over par 82. She improved on day two, but the senior shot a 9-over par 81. So, even though Godley had the lowest round of the week for the team, her inconsistencies in the first two rounds offset her impressive final round. As a result, Godley finished in a tie for 57th place at 18-over par.

Katerina Krasova struggled in the Conference Challenge. The sophomore from the Czech Republic, who averaged a 76.14 scoring average last year, was unable to score lower than a 6-over par 78 over the course of the tournament. Krasova’s below-average performance in the challenge netted her an 83rd place finish at 29 over par. Expect Krasova to bounce back in the next tournament.

Carla Jane could not get into a rhythm, either. The senior from Chile, who posted a 76.50 scoring average last year, tied for 69th place at 22 over par. Like Krasova, expect Jane to bounce back in the next tournament after posting below-average scores in last week’s competition.

Notably absent from the tournament was Coralia Arias. FIU’s second-best golfer from a year ago did not make the trip to Colorado.

The women’s golf team hopes to rebound at the 8th annual Johnie Imes Invitational in Columbia, Missouri on Monday, Sept. 28. The Club at Old Hawthorne will host the invitational. In last year’s invitational, the Panthers tied for third as a team with a combined score of 2-under par. Last year, MacLaren and Serrano paced the team with individual scores of 4-under par and 2-under par, respectively. If there is one tournament to look forward to after a struggling, the Johnie Imes Invitational is that tournament for the Panthers.

Golf stumbles in first tournament of the season

REINALDO LLERENA Staff Writer
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I think about my mom a lot,” Owens said. “It just pushes me. Sometimes I pray on it before practice. It just pushes me to keep going. It gives me a good grind.”

Every time T.O. steps on the field whether it’s a practice or a game, it’s always family first and it’s enough for the sophomore to motivate him and jostle his elevation as the number one receiver. Whenever Owens is not on the field, weight room or classroom, he is on the basketball court shooting hoops for fun.

Despite being considered an underdog team, Thomas Owens, with a lot of confidence, believes that the Panthers will succeed in C-USA. “We just need to stick with the game plan and if we excel and play hard, we should accomplish our goal and that’s to win,” Owens said. sports@fiusm.com
Pac-12 football make an impact for programs

By GARY KLEIN

The Beacon – Monday, September 28, 2015

Todd Graham imprinted his philosophy on Arizona State's football program from the moment he arrived on campus.

Graham took over a program that in 2011 led major college football in penalties and, arguably, undisciplined play. A year later, the Sun Devils were the least penalized team in the Pac-12 Conference and had built the foundation for consecutive 10-win seasons.

“We conformed the culture quickly,” Graham said this week. “I think now, after three years, it’s transformed.”

Arizona State will attempt to take another step in its evolution when the Sun Devils host 19th-ranked USC on Saturday night at Sun Devil Stadium in a key South Division game. And USC Coach Steve Sarkisian, who is in his second season with the Trojans, will try to calm a roiling fan base after last week’s loss to Stanford.

Graham is one of several Pac-12 coaches who have either reversed the fortunes of their predecessors or maintained the program’s winning ways.

In a sport that features such long-tenured coaches as Alabama’s Nick Saban, Louisiana State’s Les Miles, Georgia’s Marc Richt and South Carolina’s Steve Spurrier in the Southeastern Conference, Michigan State’s Mark Dantonio in the Big Ten and Oklahoma’s Bob Stoops and Texas Christian’s Gary Patterson in the Big 12, the Pac-12 features a majority of relative newcomers.

Eleven of the Pac-12’s coaches started at their schools in 2011 or later. Only Utah’s Kyle Whittingham, who took over the Utes in 2005, has been entrenched longer than five years.

But Graham, UCLA’s Jim Mora and Arizona’s Rich Rodriguez have developed programs that are regularly ranked in the top 25. Oregon’s Mark Helfrich, who led the Ducks to the College Football Playoff title game last season, and Stanford’s David Shaw have built on the winning foundations laid by Chip Kelly and Jim Harbaugh.

Sarkisian, who succeeded Lane Kiffin at UCLA before the 2012 season. Like several coaches interviewed for this story, he said that instilling a new culture was paramount.

“You just always want to go into a place and create a culture that you believe in,” Mora said. “For me, that’s a culture of toughness, discipline, accountability. And when I say toughness, I mean mental, physical, emotional tough.”

Mora began instilling that mind-set in December 2011. The former NFL coach was keeping his distance as UCLA went through bowl practice under an interim coach.

One day, players went “over the wall,” a then-Bruins tradition of ditching practice for one day.

“I hope they had fun over the wall because it is the last time it is going happen,” Mora told reporters. “It might happen again, but you won’t see those guys on the field the next day.”

The Bruins finished 9-5 in Mora’s first season and 10-3 the last two. They are off to a 3-0 start and are ranked ninth heading into Saturday’s game at No. 16 Arizona.

The process of maintaining a culture, he said, is ongoing.

“If you feel like you’ve done it, then you stop,” he said. “I feel like we’re always on a mission to improve it. But I feel like there is very little resistance from anybody to buy into what we’re trying to establish.”

Sarkisian was USC’s offensive coordinator before he succeeded Lane Kiffin after the Huskies finished 0-12 in 2008.

In his third game, Sarkisian coached the Huskies to an upset victory over mentor Pete Carroll and the third-ranked Trojans. He compiled a 34-29 record in Seattle before he was hired at USC to replace the fired Lane Kiffin.

“It’s a work in progress,” Sarkisian said of the Trojans’ transition.

“We’re just getting over the hump here after a year and (some) time into it, but that’s the part that’s fun. That’s the part that kind of excites you every day when you see one guy kind of buy into what you’re doing. That’s why we do what we do.”

Petersen, who annually produced winning teams at Boise State before succeeding Sarkisian, said “getting everybody on the same page” in a short period of time is “really, really hard” because older players are accustomed to different schemes and different ways.

“As a coach, you know there’s other ways out there, but you believe in your way,” he said.

Petersen estimated an 18-to-24 month process for a full culture change.

“And I think it never stops,” he said.
University hosts flashmob for banned books

Possible gun threat leaves students afraid

No one will bust a random dance or a song, but FIU libraries will celebrate Banned Books Week with a flashmob.

Banned Books Week is an annual event supporting the freedom to read and express ideas, even those that some may consider unorthodox or unpopular.

The event will be held on October 27th and 28th, and will feature a flashmob where students will gather in the library and read passages from banned books. The flashmob will be followed by an informal discussion about the power of literature to challenge censorship.

Prominent titles included in the flashmob will be "The Catcher in the Rye" by J.D. Salinger, "Beloved" by Toni Morrison, and "The Perks of Being a Wallflower" by Stephen Chbosky.

The event is organized by the Library Department and is open to all FIU students.

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