College says view of Islam, not hijab, got Christian teacher suspended

MANYA BRACHEAR PASHMAN AND MARWA ELTAGOURI
Chicago Tribune
TNS Staff

If Wheaton College professor Larycia Hawkins had simply donned a headscarf to support her Muslim neighbors without explaining herself, she still might be administering final exams this week.

Instead, Hawkins, a tenured political science professor at the private evangelical Christian college west of Chicago, has been placed on administrative leave after explaining on social media that Christians and Muslims share the same God.

"I stand in religious solidarity with Muslims because they, like me, a Christian, are people of the book," she posted on Facebook Friday.

Hawkins had simply donned a headscarf or hijab as she stood on behalf of the constituency it serves and I respect the institution," said Hawkins, who administered final exams this week.

Hawkins' suspension comes amid national turmoil over anti-Muslim rhetoric on the presidential campaign trail and protests about the treatment of African-Americans on American college campuses. It also has a familiar ring in Illinois, where the state's flagship university revoked a tenured faculty position from a professor who had posted a string of anti-Israel comments on social media.

Rosenberg has STEM experience. He oversaw the 2012 creation of Florida International University’s STEM Transformation Institute, which fosters research and development of educational practices, as well as the Mastery Math Lab, a computer lab where students receive help on assignments.

Rosenberg's committee - part of the National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine - will carry out the national study to analyze and measure improvements in the quality of STEM education. The National Academy's Board of Science Education will conduct the study, in partnership with the Board on Higher Education and the Workforce and the Board on Testing and Assessment.

The study will take around 2 1/2 years and will focus on the first two years of undergraduate education.

College says view of Islam, not hijab, got Christian teacher suspended

It's a special privilege to be asked to lead some of the nation's top experts who will identify national indicators for science, technology, engineering and math education at the university level.

Mark Rosenberg
President
Florida International University

Hawkins, a tenured political science major, who has taken several classes at the institution, instructors at Wheaton must sign a "Statement of Faith" agreeing to 12 evangelical beliefs, including the literal truth of the Bible, the necessity to be born again in the Holy Spirit, the immortality of the Second Coming and the bodily resurrection of the dead. Students and faculty also pledge to abide by a community covenant, abstaining from premarital sex, drinking and homosexual behavior.

"Wheaton College faculty and staff make a commitment to accept and model our institution's faith foundations with integrity, compassion and theological clarity," the college said in a statement. "As they participate in various causes, it is essential that faculty and staff engage in and speak about public issues in a way that faithfully represent the college's evangelical Statement of Faith."

Protesters on Wednesday insisted that Hawkins had not violated the college's statement of faith. Dozens of students gathered on the front steps of the college's administration building to deliver a letter to President Philip Ryken and Provost Stan Jones, demanding Hawkins' reinstatement.

"Dr. Hawkins is an essential part of the community here," said Wyatt Harms, a senior political science major, who has taken several of Hawkins’ classes. "She’s a refuge for so many students on campus."

Chanting "Reinstate Doc Hawk!" dozens of students pumped handmade signs in the air and squeezed through the front doors of the college administration building. Ryken told protesters he appreciated the "peaceful spirit" of their demonstrations.

"I really want to affirm your right to disagree with a decision by the administration," he told the students. "I also want to affirm the things you see in Dr. Hawkins, the values. Those are things I've seen firsthand as well."

"At some level, I understand the frustration, and also the pain," he added.

Wearing a purple streaked hijab, Sarah Thompson, 20, a junior from Indianapolis, said she didn’t have Hawkins as a professor but has several Muslim friends after spending a summer in Indonesia.

"I thought it was a joke when I saw it. No way would this happen," Thompson said.

“She’s very, very talented. She could go teach at any school, but she chooses to stay here. It’s upsetting when this reaction comes from other Christians, whose faith is rooted in love.”

SEE RELIGION, PAGE 2
NATION & WORLD BRIEFS

In a Japan seemingly obsessed with sex, few seem to indulge

Japan is well known for many things, and its obsession with sex is one of them. It has one of the most robust pornographic and adult-toy industries in the world and air tv commercials for items as banal as candy that feature sexually suggestive themes. It even has an annual fertility festival that parades two 5-foot-tall penis sculptures down a busy street on a Sunday afternoon. And yet nearly half of the singles in Japan say they have no interest in dating a situation that many experts predict will help lead to a population decline of one-third in the next 45 years.

According to a survey of never-married people by the National Institute of Population and Social Security Research, 27.6 percent of single men and 22.6 percent of single women have no interest in engaging in a relationship with the opposite sex. Researchers cite those statistics to argue that a significant portion of Japanese simply has no interest in sex. They might even have an aversion to it. Says Aumou Och’ai, a researcher based in Tokyo: “41.6 percent of males in their 20s have never dated anyone.”

The Idaho pastor who was released last week after spending three and a half years in an Iranian prison is in good spirits, and both well aware of the support he received from fellow Christians sometimes, and people who are not Muslim. “For a lot of people it’s a very alien concept,” he said.

Hawkins, 43, of Oak Park, planned to wear the hijab everywhere she went until Christmas, including on her flight home to Oklahoma, where voters in 2010 overwhelmingly approved a constitutional amendment banning Sharia, or Islamic law.

“There is a time of real vitriolic rhetoric, by fellow Christians sometimes, and people who are not Muslim who claim to be Muslim or who are not Muslim. “For a lot of people it’s a very alien concept,” he said.
**Oscar boycotts delve beyond film industry**

**ON THE SCENE**

Many of those involved in the film industry have high hopes of hearing their name called at The Academy Awards. Since its inaugural award ceremony in 1929, The Academy has applauded and awarded the most significant achievements of the motion picture arts and sciences. This year however, The Academy seems to have taken more than two steps backward with a rather startling homogenous list of nominations across the board.

When the Los Angeles Times conducted a study of the Oscar voters, results revealed that voters were far less diverse than average moviegoers. The study indicated that 94% of the Oscar voters are white and 77% are male. While Latino and black voters make up just about two percent. The demographics of the Oscars make a clear reflection of the lack of diversity between this year’s nominees.

As a young adult who has dedicated a lifetime to the performing arts, I am flustered by the lack of diversity yet inspired by the awareness and conversations that have arised. I find that the Oscar boycotts delve beyond the vanity and allure of the awards, instead give light to issues that are prevalent in our society and the dynamics that many find difficult to address.

I contend that the Oscar boycotts were not intended to discredit the talented individuals who were nominated. They alternately serve as a symbol of progression and a call to enact change.

Academy President Cheryl Boone Isaacs mentioned that “these new measures regarding governance and voting will have an immediate impact and begin the process of significantly changing our membership composition.”

Although The Academy’s notable measures to create diversity are significant, the conversation must continue— and far beyond the film industry.

The film industry is one component to the systems at play and as global citizens, instead of segregating our differences, let us celebrate, the many stories and identities that coexist with us.

To read the complete story, visit fiusm.com

*On the Scene is a commentary on the hottest pop culture topics. For further commentary, contact gabrielle.garcia@fiusm.com.*

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The opinions presented within this page do not represent the views of The Beacon Editorial Board. These views are separate from editorials and reflect individual perspectives of contributing writers and/or members of the University community.

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**EDITORIAL POLICY**

Editorials are the unsigned voice of the editorial board, which is composed of the editor in chief, management, and the editors of each of the five sections. The Beacon welcomes any letters regarding or in response to its editorials. Send them to opinion@fiusm.com.
Language and Culture Assistant Program positions available

GUETHISHINA ALTENA
Asst. Entertainment Director
guethishina.altena@fiusm.com

New positions are available in the Spanish public school system for those interested in teaching English and/or French to students from kindergarten to 12th grade.

An information session will take place Thursday, Jan. 28, from 1 p.m. to 3:30 p.m.

According to Goglobal website, The Language and Culture Assistants Program is managed by the Spanish Ministry of Education, Culture and Sport, and the Education Office of the Embassies of Spain in the US and Canada.

A representative of the Consulate General of Spain in Miami will visit to discuss the program with students interested. All legal resident of the United States and Canada are eligible.

The program provides North American students who are native speakers of English or French with the opportunity to assist teachers in the English or French programs in elementary, secondary or language schools in Spain (12 to 16 class periods a week) according to the Ministry of Education website.

The application for the year of 2016-2017 are now open until the April 5 deadline at 5:59 p.m. There are no fees for the application process.

At the information session, after the first 30 minutes of presentation, candidates will be able to find out more information on the program and will get the opportunity to speak individually with the representative and ask questions directly.

For more information, visit the Office of Global Learning Initiatives, Green Library 466 or send an email to goglobal@fiusm.edu.

Chris Mellissinos speaks to Dorothea LaFrieda and Claudia Starosta, docents at the FIU Frost Museum, after giving a tour of his exhibit, “The Art of Video Games” Friday, Jan. 22.

MODERN ART EXHIBITION

Sketching of the year

LESLIE OVALLE
Asst. Entertainment Director
leslie.ovalle@fiusm.com

The Wolfsonian-FIU will be hosting the Galleries event of the year Friday, Jan. 29, from 7 p.m. to 9 p.m. These sessions are hosted the last Friday of every month, excluding November and December.

Sketching in museums is a lot easier than it seems. For novices, to amateurs, to professional, the basic tools and fundamental part of the art process have led to bolstered inspiration and sharpened technique.

“Lots of classical artists have trained with this technique, it’s very common” said Heather Cook, The Wolfsonian.

The museum will provide participants with sketching tools, such as pencils, sketch paper, a clipboard and a stool.

The activity is led by Carlos E. Prado, a museum artisan at The Wolfsonian.

“[Participants] should look forward to having fun and looking at things in a new way,” said Cook.

The Wolfsonian-FIU and a lecturer
FRESH FACES

The Wolfsonian-FIU and a lecturer at the University of Miami’s department of art and art history, Prado was also the head of the department at the University of Miami’s department of art and art history. Prado was also the head of the department at the University of Miami’s department of art and art history.

The global financial crisis of 2007-2008 is considered by many of the world’s leading economists to be the worst financial crisis since The Great Depression, yet many everyday Americans do not understand the causes or repercussions of such a global economic failure.

McKay succeeds in striking a balance between the financial crisis and the financial crisis

SDA health is a weekly column written by members of the Student Dietitian Association. The column focuses on healthy eating and lifestyle choices. You can follow us on Twitter or email us at fiusm.com.

Sick flicks

When news first broke that Michael Lewis’s book about the 2007-2008 global financial crisis was being adapted into a movie written and directed by Anchorman and Step Brothers director Adam McKay, the reaction was a collective: WTF?

Even more intriguing was the fact that the movie would star such high profile Hollywood names as Brad Pitt, Steve Carell, Christian Bale, and Ryan Gosling.

The result of this unlikely collaboration is a unique and utterly original telling of the build up of the housing and credit bubble that eventually led to “The Great Recession” which ended in 2009.

Making a movie about this type of subject matter would be hard enough, but getting people to understand the material and actually be entertained by it, is a whole other set of challenges.

“The Big Short” chronicles some of the key individuals who believed the credit bubble would burst, and how they controversially took advantage of the situation by betting against the banks.

If the terms “subprime mortgage loan” or “credit default swap” sound painfully dull to you, you wouldn’t be alone.

The global financial world is not for everyone.

It takes a certain type of person to get out of bed in the morning and be excited by these complex terms and concepts.

This is exactly why McKay was attracted to this particular story; the real life characters that Lewis describes in his book are full of idiosyncratic and peculiar behaviors, all while being some of the smartest men in the industry.

By telling the story of the financial crisis, what it caused to the eyes of these absurd characters, we are better able to understand what’s actually going on while still being invested in the characters.

Bale, Carell, Pitt, and Gosling star as the odd group of Wall Street outsiders who correctly predicted that the markets were going to crash. Gosling also acts as the narrator who sporadically breaks the fourth wall and talks directly into the camera and to the audience.

The technique is used as a way to help the audience follow along while also providing the necessary comic relief along the way. Other types of gags and comedic techniques are also used in the film to further help the audience understand what the characters are talking about.

As a result of this movie, we are able to see the financial crisis in a new light. This is the first movie that actually makes us care about what is happening in the financial world.

Sick Flicks is a weekly column that provides movie reviews on newly released obscure or independent films. To offer suggestions for future reviews, send an email to david@fiusm.com.
FIU’s men’s basketball team (11-9, 5-2 in Conference USA) completed their Lone Star conference slate Saturday, Jan. 23, in a 79-69 victory over the University of Texas at El-Paso.

Senior center Adrian Diaz scored a team-leading 20 points and junior guard Donté McGill scored 14 points in the last 20 minutes as the Panthers held off a surging UTEP team in the second half.

FIU was efficient on offense, making 53 percent of their shots from the field and 44 percent from behind the arc. The Panthers’ defense was also excellent, holding the Miners to 41 percent shooting from the field and 33 percent from three pointers. Both teams committed 12 turnovers, although FIU came away with eight steals. The Panthers scored 16 points off turnovers.

Prior to Saturday night, UTEP was undefeated in conference play at home. Both teams entered the contest knowing how important getting the win was; FIU was playing to avoid returning to the University of Texas at El-Paso.

UTEP held the early advantage from the tip, getting up 7-2. The Panthers fought back going on a 10-0 run and leading 12-7. They went on another 10-0 run later in the half to gain a 38-25 advantage. Senior forward Davion Draper was key to the Panthers’ success on both ends of the court; he scored 17 points to go along with 10 rebounds, 6 assists and 3 steals. At halftime, FIU commanded a 41-28 lead.

The Panthers extended their lead in the beginning of the second half. With 10:43 left in the game, however, UTEP launched a 24-6 run in which the Miners’ leading scorer Lee Moore scored 12 points and his team stilled the Panthers’ offense. The run shrunk FIU’s lead to 70-67, but the Panthers’ offense was jumpstarted by senior Eric Nottage. FIU secured the lead by making 4-6 free throws in desperation time and took the game 79-69.

FIU retained fourth place in the C-USA standings, moving one game back behind Marshall University (6-1) and Middle Tennessee (6-1), and two games behind University of Alabama at Birmingham (7-0). Next up for the Panthers is a two-game home stand against the Charlotte 49ers and the Old Dominion Monarchs. Tipoff against the 49ers is set for 7 p.m. Thursday, Jan. 28.

Davido Drucker
Staff Writer
davido.drucker@fiusm.com

GUARDS UP

Christa Sprague finds her groove as guard

Hernan Tor | The Beacon

Tuesday, Jan. 26. The next away game will be against the Charlotte 49ers in North Carolina Jan. 28.

TENNIS

Panthers dominate opening game

REINALDO LLEBRENA

Staff Writer
reinaldo.llebrena@fiusm.com

Saturday, Jan. 23, in Fort Myers, the FIU women’s tennis team swept the Florida Gulf Coast Eagles, 4-0, in their season opener at the Florida Gulf Coast Tennis Complex.

With the win, FIU improved to 4-1 all-time versus FGCU and increased their season-opener win streak to three games.

The match originally set for a 1 p.m. first serve, was postponed for three hours due to high winds.

After the delay, FIU played FGCU in doubles play. Freshman Maryna Veksler and junior Nina Nagode of FIU defeated Elizabeth Means and Julia Acusa of FGCU, 6-3, in the opening match. Next was the duo of senior Carlotta Orlando and redshirt-freshman Andrea Lazaro. They defeated Juliana Curtis and Josephine Tarbairac, 6-4, to capture the doubles point of the match.

In the first singles match, Nagode defeated Acusa in straight sets, 6-2, 6-2, to claim FIU’s second point of the afternoon.

Lazaro followed in her teammate’s steps and defeated Curtis in straight sets, 6-0, 6-4, to put FIU up 3-0 against the Eagles.

At this point, the Eagles needed to win four singles matches in a row to upset FIU. However, sophomore Nerma Calik of FIU was not going to allow the Eagles to get back into the match.

The sophomore defeated Treyes Albarracin in straight sets, 6-0, 6-3, to finish off the sweep of the FGCU Eagles.

Up next for the Panthers (1-0) are the Troy Trojans (1-1) Friday, Jan. 29. The Trojans defeated Stetson, 5-2, Sunday, Jan. 24, but lost to University of Central Florida in their season opener Saturday, Jan. 23.

The Trojans have struggled in the early part of the season with doubles play, but they have made up for it with their singles play. To beat the Trojans, FIU has to come out strong in doubles play and get that crucial doubles point.

Then, the two teams can battle it out in singles play.

First serve from the FIU Tennis Courts is set for 2:30 p.m.

Steven Negri

Junior Staff Writer

Social Media Coordinator

socialmedia@fiusm.com

The Beacon – 6

Wednesday, January 27, 2016

fiusm.com

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Junior Staff Writer

Social Media Coordinator

socialmedia@fiusm.com
Professional soccer team comes to Miami

SANTIAGO ARCHIERI
Staff Writer
santiago.archieri@fiusm.com

The Miami FC are giving soccer fans a whole new reason to start chanting. It was announced over the summer that the Miami FC would be the latest addition to the National American Soccer League, the second division of soccer in the United States.

The Ft Lauderdale Strikers already have fans geared up for the start of the NASL season, and a little cross-town rivalry is just the spark the soccer community in South Florida needs.

"We are excited to share the spotlight with them, to see the soccer growth in the United States," said Dani Sanchez, a player for the Ft. Lauderdale Strikers.

The Strikers are coming off a successful 2015 season, a season in which they went into the semi-finals of the playoffs and saw their highest average attendance in the team’s history. There is no better way to kick off the 2016 NASL season in South Florida than a Miami FC-Strikers game and that will happen at Lockhart stadium on Saturday, April 2.

As the years have gone by, the FIU community has seen international clubs and soccer stars play at Ocean Bank Field, the home to the FIU football team. Soccer fans draped in their team’s colors walked up and down campus getting ready for the games, and in a few months, it might become a very common sighting.

Those thousands of fans and supporters of the Strikers will surely make their way down the 43 mile journey from Lockhart to FIU stadium, and vice versa. It might not be the MLS, but this is just one step forward in pleasing the South Florida soccer community.

The Miami FC will start their tenure at Ocean Bank Field, until they find a permanent home. The Miami FC will be providing students at FIU internships with the program as well. The home opener will be Saturday, April 9, at the FIU stadium.

Hassan Whiteside more help than a hindrance

SANTIAGO ARCHIERI

With the NBA season already halfway over, the Heat are still not performing at the level they were expected to be at. At one point in the offseason, most fans and NBA personnel expected them to be the toughest challenge for the Cleveland Cavaliers in the East, but it is going to take a big turnaround in order for that belief to become reality.

With problems rising in Miami, some are starting to point fingers at Hassan Whiteside.

Last season, Whiteside came into a Miami Heat team that was in shambles, and proved why after years of being overseas, developmental league and pickup games at a YMCA, he was NBA ready.

And while the Heat struggled last year, Whiteside was at most times the number one option on the floor for Miami, and we saw what he was able to do.

His intensity, blocked shots, furious dunks and fans. Hometown gave Heat fans something to smile about in the midst of a saddening season for a franchise that wasn’t going to make it to the finals for the first time in five years.

But things were shaken up towards this regular season, the fun and games were done and Heat fans are ready to get back to their winning ways.

One thing that has been in the heads of fans everywhere is how Whiteside is getting paid under a million dollars this season, and the offseason will mean big money in Hassan’s pocket, and there are some skeptical thoughts going around about the Heat doing so.

Even in this season of ups and downs, Hassan has proven that he is still able to produce at a dynamic level. When the lineup is fully healthy, Whiteside is not getting as many touches and shots as he might need to have a bigger impact on the game.

In games when he shoots double digit field goal attempts, the Heat are 9-5. He is also shooting 71 percent in those games. Just an idea to float out there that he is still valuable when a higher option.

On defense, the Heat are stellar at small ball, Chris Bosh at the 5, but you can’t ignore the fact that Whiteside is on his way to breaking the Heat single season blocks record, and is averaging over four a game, all in under 29 minutes per game.

So far, Whiteside has 158 blocks this season, and only one person in the NBA has cracked the 100 mark; Serge Ibaka.

I am not here to say Miami should empty their wallets this instant and give Whiteside 130 million. I understand where frustrations come from, but the offseason is coming fast and Whiteside is going to get big time money. It might not be from the Heat and that is not necessarily a bad thing.

At the end of it all, especially with the salary cap rising, Hassan Whiteside is worth a lot of money. If he has a terrific end to his season, I could personally see another team getting close to the max. Especially after some types of contracts we saw this past summer for big men like Enes Kanter and Billy Thompson, there is some team out there willing to give more than Miami can offer.

If he chooses to leave, he is going to prosper and be a dominant player elsewhere, maybe even as the number one option again. One thing is for sure, enjoy it, because last time Heat fans took a player for granted, it was the end of a dynasty.

Santi’s Arch discusses various sports topics and issues. To contact Santiago, email him at santiago.archieri@fiusm.com.
The other climate pollutants

VEERABHADRAN RANAMATHAN AND DANIEL PRESS

Los Angeles Times

Among climate scientists, the consensus is that we must become carbon neutral by 2050 to avoid catastrophic environmental disruptions. Negotiators at the recent summit in Paris accordingly focused on curbing carbon dioxide emissions.

There’s a major problem, however, with a CO2-centric strategy. Because carbon dioxide remains in the atmosphere for a century or more, and because we won’t abandon fossil fuels overnight, neutrality by 2050 simply isn’t good enough to keep the Earth from warming 2 degrees Celsius, the generally-agreed-upon limit much less the ambitious goal of 1.5 degrees Celsius that many nations support.

If we’re serious about preventing or at least slowing climate change, we have to broaden our hit list; even if we move toward carbon neutrality, we must also restrict methane, carbon soot, ozone and hydrofluorocarbon coolants. These pollutants are about 25 to 4000 times more potent warmers than carbon dioxide, but they remain in the atmosphere for mere days in the case of carbon soot to 15 years in the case of HFCs.

Cutting the emissions of these short-lived climate pollutants, or SLCPs, unlike curbing carbon emissions, will have an immediate effect and can dramatically slow global warming within a few decades.

To put real numbers on it: if we reduce our emissions of methane 90 percent, black carbon 90 percent and fully replace HFCs by 2030, then we’ll cut in half projected global warming over the next 35 years. These steps will delay environmental disaster and give us time we desperately need to radically change our energy diet.

Existing technologies, clean alternatives and regulatory mechanisms such as the 1987 Montreal Protocol that have proved effective for curbing SLCPs can be employed now, saving potentially 40 million lives over the next 20 years.

What we have in front of us isn’t a choice between pulling lever one (carbon dioxide) or lever two (SLCPs); it’s crucial that we pull both levers with all of our collective might. We have a moral imperative to act immediately with everything at our disposal, not only because there’s no Planet B, as environmental advocates put it, but because climate change seriously harms human well-being.