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Assistant A.D. at UIS takes job in Florida

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The excitement of big-city life beckoned and Alison Fitzgerald is heeding the call.

Fitzgerald, 26, is leaving her post as the assistant director of athletics for compliance at the University of Illinois Springfield and has accepted a similar position at NCAA Division II Barry University in Miami Shores, Fla.

Barry is a private, Catholic university with an enrollment of more than 8,000 students and a main campus not far from downtown Miami. The school has hired Fitzgerald as its assistant director of athletics and operations with the bulk of her duties pertaining to day-to-day NCAA compliance activities. Barry has 12 sports, including rowing, and 200 student-athletes, according to Fitzgerald.

Fitzgerald has helped UIS make the transition from NAIA to NCAA Division II with the school set to attain full membership for the 2010-11 academic year. She became UIS' first compliance director in June 2008 after graduating from Marquette University's law school.

"My time here has showed me I want to continue working in college athletics," she said. "I love working in college athletics and that's where I want to be."

At Barry, Fitzgerald will join an established Division II athletic program that has won seven national titles. In 1989, the school won its first Division II championship in women's soccer.

Barry, a member of the Sunshine State Conference, has won three national titles in the last nine years. The volleyball program claimed Division II championships 2001 and 2004 and the men's golf program won a national title in 2007.

Fitzgerald is excited about moving south. She's looking forward to all Miami's international atmosphere has to offer and interacting with people who speak Spanish. Fitzgerald spent a year abroad studying in Spain and knows Spanish. Leaving Midwest winters behind is also a bonus for the Madison, Wis. native.

Her last day at UIS is May 26. The school is searching for her replacement.

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