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## Panther magazine, March 23, 2017

Florida International University

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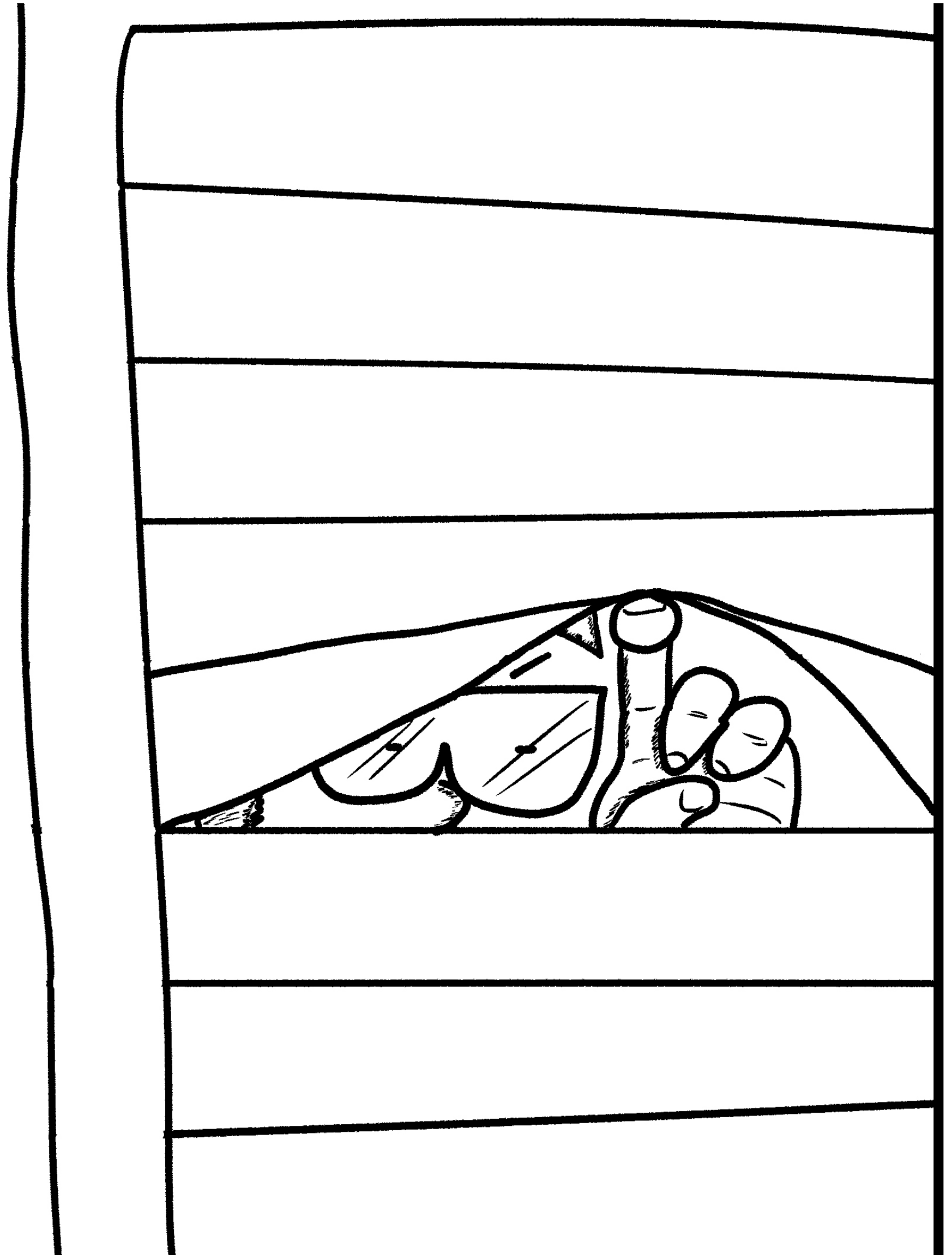
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# NEIGHBORHOOD WATCH



# THE BATTLE CONTINUES

## SGA supports expansion until County Fair relocates

**CEYLIN ARIAS**  
Staff Writer

**B**ack in 2014, FIU considered it a win when Miami-Dade County voters approved a referendum that would allow the University to relocate The Miami Dade County Fair and annex the 64 acres of land currently leased to it.

However, there was a catch: the University had to be able to provide the fair a new suitable site equal to or better to the one they have been using for 43 years, the Tamiami land adjacent to the Modesto Maidique campus.

With the fair starting on March 23, FIU has yet to find a new home for The Fair.

“SGA’s position on this issue has remained constant due to an unwavering belief that this expansion is not only important, but necessary to the FIU community and the community as a whole,” wrote SGC-MMC president, Alian Collazo, in a statement to Student Media. “As a student, Student Government President, and University Trustee, I believe that higher education is superior to the current usage that this land is being given.”

SGA at FIU has been supporting the FIU expansion for years, creating petitions and asking students to send letters to the commissioners.

In a previous PantherNOW article, Alexis Calatayud, SGC-MMC president from 2014-2016, said: “This petition is really important. FIU literally doesn’t have any more space, and the community need for more people to be educated and have a high quality education grows as the community grows. We don’t have the

physical space on our main campus to accommodate what the community needs.”

Three possible options have been considered over the years including a Graham site in Miami Lakes, Homestead site and Sunlife site by Sun Life Stadium. However, The Fair has rejected all of them, saying they will lose about 20 percent attendance if they move. Collazo emphasizes that the University’s expansion onto the Tamiami land would benefit the community tremendously.

“This is no longer a matter of ‘if,’ but a matter of ‘when,’ because the Fair knows that it is going to eventually move, but we need to have everything prepared for when this happens,

Alian Collazo  
President  
SGC-MMC

“With FIU currently being Miami’s only public research institution with a population of 50,000+ students, it inevitably leads to the success of our community due to the fact that the graduates each year become the leaders of our community,” he wrote. “I believe that one way or another the Fair will recognize that higher education has a greater value to our economy, to our future, and to the community than an event that

comes for two weeks and can be held elsewhere.”

Despite a prolonged agreement and action between both parties, the FIU community can expect a continual stance from the University that SGA can get a compromise that is good to the Fair, to the community, and to FIU itself.

“We have always been willing to compromise to please both parties. However, the simple answer is that the reluctance of the Fair to move is the largest impeding obstacle in the way for any compromise to occur,” said Collazo. “If the Fair becomes interested in moving, then FIU will find a serious way to make a compromise happen.”

SGA has currently decided to join the efforts of the University’s Governmental Relations, according to Collazo. In conjunction with them, SGA has attended the discussions with local and state officials about this issue and was also discussed at “FIU Day” in Tallahassee.

The expansion is one of the main items SGA will be asking state legislators to fund which will amount to a total of \$20 million, according to Collazo.

“This is no longer a matter of ‘if,’ but a matter of ‘when,’ because the Fair knows that it is going to eventually move, but we need to have everything prepared for when this happens,” Collazo wrote. “Therefore, our main focus currently is to collect enough funds to expand FIU when that moment does come.”

*Media Relations was unavailable for comment at the time of publication.*

# For candidate, SGA ‘the biggest contribution’ to University

**STEPHANIE CASTRO**  
Assistant News Director

**E**lection season has arrived at the University and FIYou candidates say they’re ready to make an impact on the University community.

Once a year, the University conducts student government elections to elect the student body presidents and vice presidents, in addition to senators who will represent their respective colleges within FIU.

This year, the candidates at the MMC come from FIYou, Krista Schmidt and Jordan Thompson for president and vice president respectively, and FIUnited, Michelle Juarez and Gabriela Millan for president and vice president,

respectively.

Schmidt, junior communication arts student, said her journey to student government came naturally after joining her first year at the University.

“I ran with the FIYOU party and it was the first time I was exposed to an organization on campus that strived for a better student experience,” she said. “It enhanced my desire to take on leadership roles that have the ability to make a major impact, not only on our student body but in the community.”

Schmidt adds that her main goal as president would be to advocate for the changes her fellow students want to see and create programs that will resolve them.

Thompson, Schmidt’s running mate, first got involved with SGA back in 2014 when he applied for the intern program. Eventually, he became a part of the homecoming agency focusing on events on and off campus. As vice president, Thompson says he wants to bring SGA to the people.

“I feel that SGA has always been an area of the University that many students never enter the realms of. If given the chance to give students access to programs through, SGA would be the biggest contribution my University could give me and vice versa,” said the junior political science major.

SGC-BBC will also hold a few events including a forum to meet the candidates —uncontested nominees, Leonardo Cosio for president and Meredith Marseille for

vice president— and discuss their platforms.

“The BBC elections are totally separate from the MMC elections. We have separate student governments because our councils have different priorities for our respective students,” wrote Leonardo Cosio, uncontested presidential candidate, in an email to Student Media.

Cosio is the current vice president for SGC-BBC and will be participating the presidential and vice-presidential forum taking place on March 28.

“Being VP of BBC has been the most challenging position I’ve had for several reasons. It has required much more of me than what it says on my job description,” he wrote. “I’ve had long meetings with administrators and fellow SGA colleagues on how to make the FIU student’s life better while he or she is on our campus.”

Cosio said his involvement in SGA has shaped his college experience and nurtured his love for helping others and solving problems.

“I have witnessed how this election can change relationships simply because of the notion that we are competing against one another, but in actuality, we are working to better the atmosphere of our own University,” said Thompson.

For more information on SGA and the elections, visit sga.fiu.edu or their offices in GC 211 at MMC and WUC 301 at BBC.

*Candidates from FIUnited were unavailable for comment at the time of publication.*

“I have witnessed how this election can change relationships simply because of the notion that we are competing against one another, but in actuality, we are working to better the atmosphere of our own University,

Jordan Thompson  
Candidate  
SGC-MMC

## Calendar of Events

March  
**24**

**Mixer with The Candidates**  
4 p.m. to 7 p.m.  
WUC on the second floor.

**Presidential and VP Forum**  
1 p.m. to 3 p.m.  
MaryAnn Wolfe Theatre

March  
**28**

March  
**29**

**Presidential and VP Debate**  
Hosted by M.A.L.E.S  
4 p.m. to 6 p.m.  
Parkview multi-purpose room

**Presidential and VP Debate**  
Hosted by SGA  
11:30 - 2:30 p.m.  
GC 150

March  
**31**

**Movie Night**  
7 p.m. to 10 p.m.  
Bayview Housing

April  
**3**

**Meet the Candidates**  
1 p.m. to 3 p.m.  
Panther Square

**Election Days**  
9 a.m. to 7 p.m.  
MMC and BBC

April  
**4/5**

## EDITOR'S NOTE

## SGA elections approach as the Fair returns

CAYLA BUSH



EDITOR IN CHIEF

The fair brings nostalgia and life to the corner of FIU year after year.

Students weigh in on their favorite foods, rides and what an experience working for the Miami-Dade County Fair and Expo provides for FIU students.

However, the debate continues on the fairgrounds property, with insight from student government, and self proclaimed fair goers. As an editorial editorial board, we urge both sides of the fairgrounds debate

to act civil.

SGA elections are fast approaching. Students are invited to attend debates and events to acquaint them with this year's candidates. We encourage participation in the political process at every level, national, state, local, as well as student government.

For students running for candidate positions, the elections season brings promises of inclusion, as candidates work to reach out to students commonly overlooked in SGA initiatives, including students at the engineering campus. Other issues such as the elusive Fall Break and the possibility of addressing student concerns with the Golden Panther Express bring hope of a truly worlds ahead academic environment.

So we encourage student to both vote for student government this coming April and enjoy the fair.

# Mixer with candidates shows 'SGA is worth being a part of'

DOUGLASS GAVILAN  
Staff Writer

With only about two weeks left until elections for student government take place at Biscayne Bay Campus, the Student Government Association wants students to get involved and meet their candidates.

On March 24, SGA will host a "Mixer with the Candidates" event to break the ice between candidates and the student body.

"Students can meet up with the candidates and get a chance to learn more about the candidates' plans to make BBC a better campus," said Anastasiya Sizova, director of events for SGA at BBC. "We also want the students to see that SGA can be a fun organization as well, and that SGA is worth being a part of."

There will be board games, FIFA and video games for attendees and candidates to enjoy. Sizova said in addition to meeting students, the candidates are "there to have fun."

The second campaign event, scheduled for March 3, is a movie night with the candidates, during which students will network with members of SGA and enjoy the movie, "21 & over," starring Miles Teller.

"Anyone and everyone are welcome to join," said Sizova. "Students will meet with candidates and see what they are about. They get a chance to hear candidate platforms and have their voice and concerns heard."

SGA, who is responsible for allocating their budget to multiple clubs and groups holds elections every year and consists of a legislative, judicial and

“

I would really like to meet the people that I could vote for. Plus, I would have a chance to get to know what's going on in school and see if I can get more involved,

Gaston Israilewich  
Freshman  
Hospitality Major

”

executive branch.

"I would really like to meet the people that I could vote for," said Gaston Israilewich, a freshman hospitality major. "Plus, I would have a chance to get to know what's going on in school and see if I can get more involved."

Leonardo Cosio, SGC-BBC vice president and uncontested presidential nominee encourages students to attend as they will "gain a personal relationship with their future representatives and will be able to talk to candidates about any issues they are facing, whether it be with their major or with their experience at our campus," according to Cosio.

"The best thing is that the candidates come to me," said Israilewich. "When I'm not in class, I'm in the game room for the majority of my time off."

Once candidates have been elected, there will be plenty of events for students to get familiar with their new council, Sizova said.

"They will have a chance to meet up with them, and voice their concerns about the campus and what changes they would like to see ..." she said. "Of course, the new council will come up with their own events to host so they will keep you posted on that."

For more information on the events and SGA, visit the Student Affairs page at <http://studentaffairs.fiu.edu>, or at GC 211 at MMC and WUC 301 at BBC.

Meyer Grunberg also contributed to this report.

## Club to host debate on minorities' concerns

MARTINA BRETOUS  
News Director

The Men Achieving Leadership, Excellence and Success organization wants their voice heard by SGA candidates in this upcoming election so they will host their own debate in collaboration with other minority-focused groups on campus.

"We feel that being part of the SGA election is very important being that, our voice isn't really heard as much as it should be and ... that's an issue," said Kensley Youte, president of M.A.L.E.S. "We want to make sure our concerns are being heard as well."

M.A.L.E.S will host the debate with the presidential and vice-presidential nominees at the MMC on March 29 to discuss issues and concerns by minority groups at the University.

"It's very important that people get involved in any election process. Right now, we're in college but college is a really good representation of what you see in the outside world as far as voter turnout and things people care about," said Mwai Osahar, treasurer of M.A.L.E.S and graduate senator candidate. "When the wrong person gets elected or someone that doesn't do

the right thing once they gain office, people complain."

Osahar added that this is a great opportunity to understand the voting process and allows students to voice their concerns directly. While SGA will host a separate debate on March 31, the organization feels that will mostly address general University issues like parking and transportation.

"We reached out to the Global Indigenous Group and CSA, those smaller groups that haven't really been heard..." said Osahar. "[Then.] within their organization, they are going to come up with questions of their own and bring them to the table so they can address them at the debate."

The organization stressed the importance of not disclosing the questions before the event to prevent any scripted speech.

"We want them [candidates] to answer honestly, we don't them to have any preparation or give any scripted answers when it comes to certain things," said Osahar. "We want to make sure we're supporting the right candidate ... not the person that has the best scripted answer."

The event will take place from 4-6 p.m. on Wednesday, March 29 at the Parkview multi-purpose room.

## Graduate Student Week Committee plans week-long event

CAYLA BUSH  
Editor in Chief

In order to showcase the work of graduate students, the Graduate and Professional Students Committee is hosting a Graduate Student Week from March 27 to March 31.

The committee, which comprises graduate, law and medical school senators from SGC-MMC, focuses on representing graduate students and working to educate undergraduate students of the work that will be expected in grad school.

"We have guest speakers come out and we allow students to present their work that they've been doing while they're in school. It gives them a chance to promote themselves and all the great things that they've been doing in their courses with the help of professors and mentors," said Mwai Osahar, the chair of GPSC.

Osahar says the appreciation week also allows whoever attends the events to see the talent that the University produces.

The week of events consists of a symposium, keynote address, comedy show and networking social.

"The social is going to be on Thursday at Vicky's (sic) and they have an event that night as well which is an open mic night, so it should be fun," Osahar said. "I spoke with the manager out there and he said that when he opened the location he had grad students in mind because there was nothing geared specifically to grad students, so it's a very fitting location."

In addition to these events, there will be presentations from graduate students of each school, which Osahar says he's most excited for.

"I like the presentations because it allows me to get a glimpse of the fields and colleges I'm not in," he said. "You have all these different presentations from all of these different corners of campuses."

This year, the week will focus on innovation. Osahar says it's the first time that GSAW has a theme, but it's a tradition he'd like to see continue.

"Everybody can see exactly how their major or their

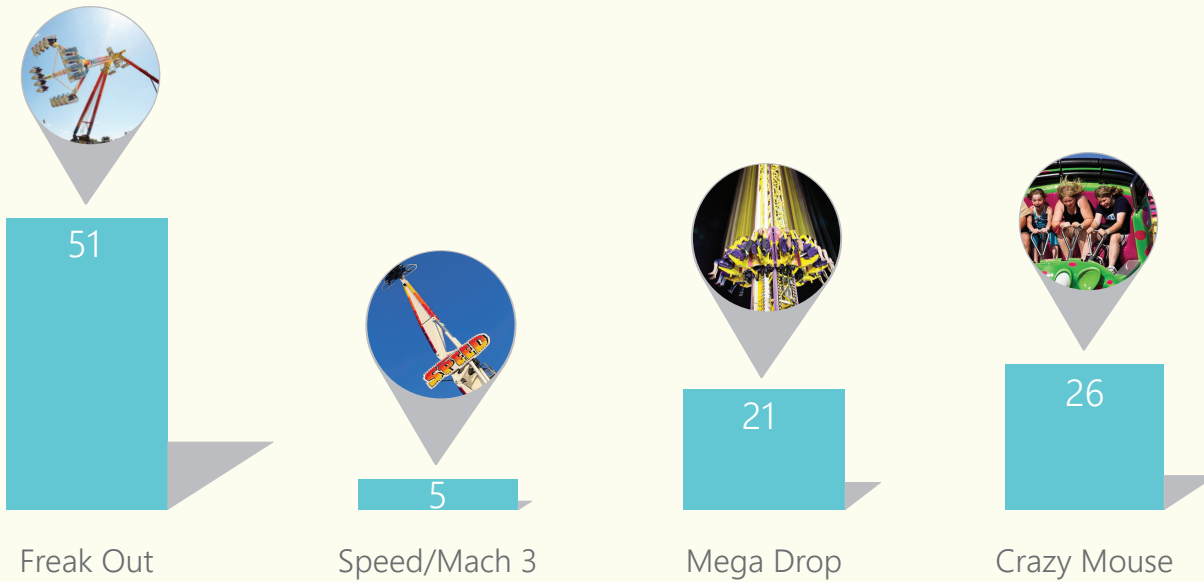
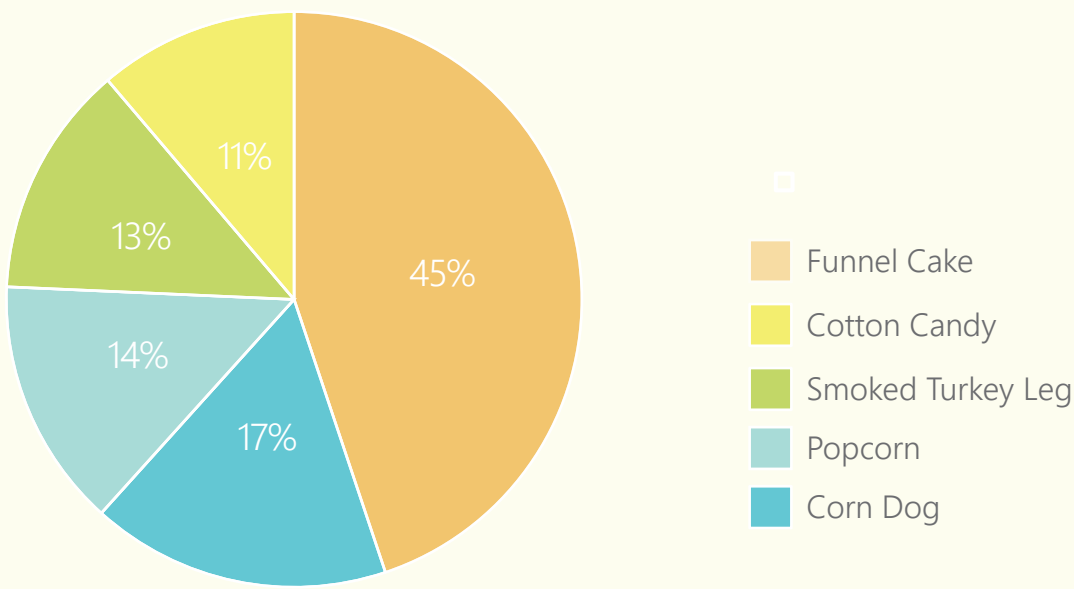
education fits into or assists with a particular category. Innovation can mean a wide range of things," Osahar said. "For example, someone in the educational field might not grasp immediately how they play an innovative role in the future, but once you pose that question they'll have the time to think about how educators help with innovation, leading to them understanding they foster creativity in their students."

According to him, the events are created to provide graduate students the opportunity to hone their skills for the professional world.

"[Presenters] have the ability to educate someone who may not have any idea of what's going on in that field at the time. If the presenter is good, they can paint a picture and be memorable down the road as someone who knows how to do a niche thing," Osahar said.

The events taking place during GSAW are open to the community, including undergraduate students. The events will kick off with a symposium Monday, March 27.

# Students ‘freak out’ over funnel cake



NIA YOUNG/PANTHER PRESS

**CHLOE GONZALEZ**  
Assistant Entertainment Director

The Fair opens on March 23 and after recent polls, 49 percent of students surveyed voted Freak Out as their favorite ride and 45 percent of students voted funnel cake as their favorite fair snack.

This week, a little over 100 students were given two polls. The first asked about their favorite ride at the fair and had them pick one

out of the four choices available: Freak Out, Speed/Mach 3, Mega Drop and Crazy Mouse.

Students voted the least for Speed/Mach 3 giving it only five votes but voted Freak Out their favorite by giving it a total of 51 votes.

Interest in Crazy Mouse and Mega Drop fell in between these two extremes. Crazy Mouse received 27 votes while Mega Drop got 21 votes.

The second poll asked students to vote for their favorite snack at the fair. They had five choices to pick from including funnel cake, corn dogs, popcorn, smoked turkey leg, and

cotton candy.

Cotton Candy was the snack the least voted for earning only 12 votes out of 100. Funnel cake on the other hand got 49 votes, securing its place as student favorite.

Corn dogs fell behind with 18 votes, popcorn had 15 votes; the smoked turkey leg had 14 votes.

Whether their favorite ride or snack earned the top spot in these polls or not, students can ride all of these rides and try all of these snacks when the fair opens at 3 p.m. on Thursday, March 23.

## SGC-BBC: ‘Keep

**JULIANE SUNSHINE**  
Staff Writer

lection season may be long passed, but in April students will be able to vote for the new president and vice president of the BBC Student Government Council.

In the face of this coming transition, certain members of SGC-BBC reflect on the goals achieved during their time in office, and those that were not quite finished.

“We have increased the followers on social media by engaging students through [numerous] social media sites. The town hall meeting was something we also did. We met with the Bayview students to hear and listen to their issues,” said Leonardo Cosio, junior broadcast media major and current vice president of SGC-BBC.

Though certain goals were met, there were still some that Cosio felt he personally has not realized yet.

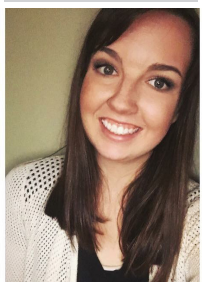
## Radio staff



Quiana Major, a junior studying mechanical engineering for the Miami Youth Fair by offering her own sound engineering.

# Fairgrounds are ‘not used to the best of its abilities’

EYES ON THE EARTH



AMANDA JUNG

I think that the idea of Miami Youth Fair coming around is something that gives us a warm and fuzzy feeling. We have all gone to the fair with our families, pigged out on all the different foods that they offer and of course, rode the rides until we felt

like we were going to be sick.

But what happens when the fair starts to interfere with our normal lives? This is the issue that has been presented to the FIU community. Every year the Fair comes to town for a few days. You have to think; is this worth it in the long run for FIU when we have the need to expand?

Last year was the first time I ever attended

the Fair. Prior to going, I had heard rumors that the Fair would not be around much longer because the property now belongs to FIU.

Nevertheless, I attended the Fair and had an enjoyable time with friends. But this fun event is something that only lasts a few days. And before you know it, the rides are being taken down and packed up, only to sit around for another year before it was once again time for the Fair.

This is not to say that the land is not used throughout the rest of the year. But it’s just not used to the best of its abilities.

FIU has bigger plans for this large amount of land, however, according to the Miami Herald, FIU “unveiled a 150 million dollar engineering center that it wants to build on 64 acres of county parkland.”

When I think about it, the decision is not as easy as it may appear. On one hand, we have a community that is passionate about traditions and having a place as an outlet for entertainment. But

on the other, we have a community of students and staff who would benefit from expansion.

Many students want more parking and a bigger and better campus. We want the money that we are putting into the school to be reflected in and around campus.

Like President Rosenberg said, “sometimes hard decisions have to be made...The mayor has the power of leadership” and “understands, if he’s really committed to jobs, what is at risk here.”

Personally, I think that if we are going to be “Worlds Ahead” then it’s time that we start using the land allocated for the Youth Fair to help enhance our campus.

This is not only a matter of convenience, but giving every student the best opportunities in their education possible.

If we could all have our own way, I am sure that we would like different things to be done with their land. We all want something that is

going to cater our own wants and needs.

Some people want old traditions to continue so they can continue going to the Fair each year. Personally, I would love to see the land used for more parking and room for classrooms.

I am a hospitality major and although it would be a dream for my courses to be offered on this campus, I just do not think that it would be realistic. Since we do have an entire campus dedicated to this major, I think we would have more luck using the land for some of the things mentioned above.

All of this is obviously very up in the air. But I think if we are just sitting on this land, we might as well make some plans in order to continue growing and expanding FIU.

Amanda Jung is a Staff Writer for Panther Press. Her column, Eyes on the Earth. Is a commentary on current global environmental issues.

# SGA FRAMES THE FUTURE

## pursuing' student concerns

"I haven't accomplished working on the BBC shuttle, I think a lot more work needs to be done. I have a lot on it, but I hope the new

"I haven't accomplished working on the BBC shuttle, I think a lot more work needs to be done,

Leonardo Cosio  
Vice President  
SGC-BBC

administration [will] put the same amount of work into it, if not more because we need to really fix the shuttle for students. They are not happy in the shuttle that takes them from campus to campus," said Cosio. With his time in his current office ending to a close, Cosio reflects on

how he got his start in SGC-MMC: helping a friend who was running for senate.

"Through the whole process, I got to meet important individuals that were already in SGA, so I was able to apply to the MMC cabinet and join. My friend who was also running joined as well," said Cosio.

Because Cosio is majoring in broadcasting, he was switched over to BBC and from there he transitioned over to chief of staff, which oversees the cabinet.

Cosio also shared his final words he would like to say to the new administration.

"I just want to encourage the next administration to keep pursuing all these different things we have been doing this year," said Cosio.

Leonardo Cosio plans to run for president this term to make sure that these issues are addressed.

Election times are from 9 a.m. to 7 p.m. on Tuesday, April 4 and Wednesday, April 5.

## SGC-MMC wants extended break in fall

NIA YOUNG  
Entertainment Director

As SGC-MMC looks toward SGA elections and a new council, the current SGC-MMC administration comments on the issues they wish they had more time to address.

"One of the big ones would be ... getting some kind of [extended] break during the fall semester. We found that there's no opportunity for students to have down time in fall, said Michelle Juarez, junior SGC-MMC vice president.

Juarez has been involved with student government since her freshman year, starting out as an intern and working her way up to her current position, vice president. Juarez feels that setting goals is important for an administration, as well as "transparency and being able to connect to our student."

"The issue of fall break "ties into the mental health of students... because for a lot of students, fall tends to be a little bit harder because it feels like it's never going to end," said Juarez, who is running for running for SGC-MMC president.

Juarez says that fall break will definitely be on her platform for president.

Other issues that this year's SGC-MMC administration wishes they could have covered better include engaging students at the

"For a lot of students, fall tends to be a little bit harder because it feels like it's never going to end,

Michelle Juarez  
Vice President  
SGC-MMC

engineering center, and better educating students on FIU resources.

On behalf of this year's SGC-MMC administration, Juarez encourages the next administration to "take into consideration, not just one issue... but look at [the issues at FIU] from a big point of view" and collaborative consider collaborative issues between MMC and BBC student government.

# 'Roar' brings 'roar' to Miami Youth Fair and Expo



JOSHUA CEBALLOS  
Assistant Entertainment Director

The Fair is arriving soon to MMC, and one of our own is helping to ensure that it gets up and running, and that the music stays pumping.

Quiana Major, junior mechanical engineering student and assistant engineer at "The Roar," is currently working in tech services for the upcoming Miami-Dade County Fair.

"I build stages, I set up sound systems, and I run the sound systems. Unofficially, it's pretty much just like coordinating different things that run around those stages and the music production that happens on the stages," said Major.

Major said that her job at the fair fits well with her career goals, as she has the opportunity to work with heavy machinery and repair audio systems for the various stages, which relates well to her aspirations in sound engineering.

The Fair arrives on Thursday, March 23, and

engineers like Major have been hard at work to get things ready.

"In preparation I've had to load out and build stages, I've had to run wires across different stages. Like yesterday, they had me up in the rafters scaffolding up and hiding wires, which was pretty fun," said Major.

Although a lot of her job involves serious work to ensure that the upcoming fair is up to snuff, Major says that several Fair staffers have had to deal with some strange distractions.

"People have told me that they've had to work with different animals on various occasions and last year [there] was a tiger, and the tiger did enjoy peeing on them every now and then. Some people got full face of tiger piss," said Major.

Major will be working in managing four stages during the course of The Fair. Juggling work and school is not easy says Major, as she has to work from 5 p.m. to midnight. and then wake up to attend classes in the morning, but according to her, "it pays off."

There are some surprises in store for anyone attending the fair this year and looking to the various stages, but Ms. Major could not provide much information.

"I can't really give too much on what different types of shows are gonna be there, but I can tell you there's going to be local bands on the local stage... that's the only thing I can tell you," said Major.

For any student wondering how to get a job at the fair, Major said that she got her job by word of mouth. She was recommended by a friend of hers to the staff of the upcoming exposition.

As for benefits that come from working for The Fair besides the experience, Major says, "you get discounts on tickets and you get free admission for yourself."

For someone like Quiana Major who grew up attending the annual fair, working for the fair is a fulfilling experience.

"I've been going to The Fair since I was a kid, and I always wanted to work there [because of the] nice sounds and lights and people having fun; it's just an enjoyable experience. I always wanted to be... a part of that in some way," said Major.

The Miami-Dade County Fair opens to the public on March 23. Students pursuing the performance stages might be able to see Quiana and the other sound engineers making sure that the show goes on.

## Fair priced: Youth Fair offers discounted tickets

### JUST THE TIPS



NIA YOUNG

Students might remember the Miami Youth Fair last year for a number of reason, including the heavy traffic and relentless sound of amusement ruining their walk to and from classes for 3 weeks straight. For those students who plan on joining in on the festivities this year, here are some tips for making the most of your visit.

"Just the Tip" is a visual column of life hacks and tips for navigating college life successfully.

### Discounts on Admission

Full Admission Price	\$3 OFF	\$4 OFF	50%	Free Admission
\$10	Enter before 6pm Monday- Friday	Donate 2 can goods Bring any Coca-Cola product wrapper from 20oz bottle	Twin Thursdays Twins enter with 1 ticket purchase	<b>MARCH</b> WEDNESDAY <b>29</b> FIU DAY <small>*Bring your FIU ID to get free admission to the fair</small>
		Regal Cinema Offer: buy a special combo		

# BATTLE OF THE CENTURY

*Students living in pro-expansion bubble*

*Our destiny: take over the fairgrounds*

M TALK



MICHELLE MARCHANTE

The bubble we live in makes it almost impossible for us to consider that FIU's expansion to the fairgrounds might not be as beneficial to the Miami-Dade and University communities as it seems.

In the last semester, we've run many pro-expansion columns, with valid reason. FIU is a growing university, with about 56,000 enrolled students, and needs space to continue its academic growth.

removal, reinstallation or improvements they made "within the Fairgrounds or elsewhere in Tamiami Park, or other County or Park property."

Under this contract, the county would have to reimburse the Fair \$93.7 million for its improvements alone, according to the 2015 appraisal that was conducted by Slack Johnston Magenheimer for both The Youth Fair and FIU. Now in 2017, it would probably cost more.

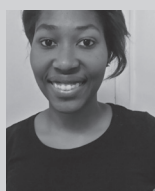
However, a 2014 referendum (which passed with 65 percent of the vote) transferred this burden. FIU now has permission to expand onto 64 acres of the fairgrounds, voters said, but the University must ensure that "no county funds be

and frankly, it just sounds too expensive: relocation alone is estimated to cost \$115.2 million to \$32.3 million depending on what location you look at. These figures also don't include the purchase of land.

Plus, while the actual Youth Fair may only come once a year, it hosts 70 events yearly at its convention center and shares a portion of its revenues with the county. If it's moved to the wrong location, the county could lose a considerable amount of money.

FIU's expansion, financially speaking, would only benefit FIU as more space would lead to more enrollment. And let's not forget that tuition increases tend to be connected to enrollment.

POLITICOBUZZ



FABIENNE FLEURANTIN

I'm pro #ExpandFIU.

Even America had their own Manifest Destiny and had to expand all the way to the west.

If not, where would California and Nevada be? Non-existent.

But in all seriousness, there are many benefits to expanding Modesto

Maidique Campus. You know all those parking complaints that students have? Maybe now they can stop if we relocate the Miami Dade Fair and Exposition to someplace more convenient. Better yet, a place that will not interfere with any public territory.

Public Relations Senior and Creative Director of Public Relations Student Society of America, Kesha St. Louis, thinks expanding onto the fairgrounds would give the university a lot more potential.

"I'm for the campus being expanded. There's a lot of landscaping here. I read an article online on the reason why they wanted to expand the university. It's unfortunate that the Fair is only here for a month throughout the year and the rest of the year, the fairgrounds stay empty," St. Louis said.

Some reasons why the relocation of the fairgrounds would help the university are because of academic and research space, incubator, entrepreneurship, and data research, undergraduate student housing facilities and support space, according to [expand.fiu.edu](http://expand.fiu.edu).

With this new land, we could build a few parking garages and lots so that faculty, staff and students can find parking spaces comfortably without having to tear each other's heads off — literally.

Plus, the added bonus of having more housing on campus! How great would that be? No more waiting lists for those eager students who are excited to live on campus, but can't because it takes forever.

Living on campus would accommodate some students better because it would cut costs on commute and gas, which could be invested towards living expenses and meal plans.

Even the voters of Miami-Dade county are with it!

"Miami-Dade County voters approved a plan from Florida International University that would let the school expand onto part of the fairgrounds on 107th Avenue in Miami-Dade County," according to [nbcmiami.com](http://nbcmiami.com). "With 62 percent of the precincts in Miami-Dade County reporting, the yes vote garnered 65 percent support, while the no vote came in at 35 percent."

President Mark B. Rosenberg was even quoted by NBC, stating his excitement about this upcoming venture.

"The voters have spoken and they have

said 'Yes' to FIU," said FIU President Mark B. Rosenberg. "We are thankful for the support of Miami-Dade voters, including FIU students, alumni, faculty, staff and the entire FIU family. We also would like to thank the county commission and Mayor Carlos Gimenez and his staff for their hard work and the vision they

“

It's unfortunate that the Fair is only here for a month throughout the year and the rest of the year, the fairgrounds stay empty.

Kesha St. Louis

Creative Director

Public Relations Student Society of America

”

have shown for the future of FIU and Miami-Dade County."

It has even been reiterated, for those who are concerned about the cost of this relocation, that "FIU said no county money will be used for the expansion work."

The problem is though, the Fair refuses to move. They still have 70 years left on their lease and will only be removed if the event is evicted from the premises.

"In a letter to County Hall, the fair dismissed as "unacceptable" a proposal that it move to fairgrounds equipped with only temporary buildings and structures that could be removed once the four-week event ends every spring. That scenario called for the fair to continue using a collection of buildings at the Tamiami site for a year-round schedule of smaller collectible shows, consumer expos and banquets that account for about 9 cents of every dollar the fair's parent organization earned last year," as stated on [miamiherald.com](http://miamiherald.com).

Yes, it may be a hassle to find another location to put the Fair, and I know that the territory is used for other events besides the Fair, but the ends justify the means. A university is meant to expand. It's just human nature. The population will never remain the same. It's steadily increasing and with that growth comes the possibility of change and hence, expansion.

I'm pretty sure that no matter the distance, the impact that the Fair has on the people who've attended it will not cease and that love will move with the Fairgrounds.

Fabienne Fleurantin is a staff writer for Panther Press. Her column, PoliticoBuzz, is a commentary that raises awareness about political issues in the US and worldwide.

“

If the county can't pay it because of the ballot's language specifically saying "no county funds" and FIU can't pay it because of its state dollar budget, then who can?

”

To playing devil's advocate, there is another side to this story.

According to our editorial, the reason why FIU and the Fair are still fighting all comes down to a legal contract—a lease. Under this 90-year lease with Miami-Dade County, the Fair is entitled to Tamiami Park until 2085.

This means that if they don't want to pack up their bags and go, they legally don't have to.

Only the county has the power to evict them, but as their 1995 lease agreement states, if evicted, the county would be required to find a location that the Fair considers to be of equal value, pay for the relocation, and reimburse them for any

used for FIU's expansion and the youth fair's required location."

But since FIU is a tax-funded state school, we're not in a "legal position" to promise the Fair any money since Tallahassee decides the university's yearly budget, said Richard Perez, a Holland and Knight attorney representing FIU in an interview with The Miami Herald.

So, if the county can't pay it because of the ballot's language specifically saying "no county funds" and FIU can't pay it because of its state dollar budget, then who can?

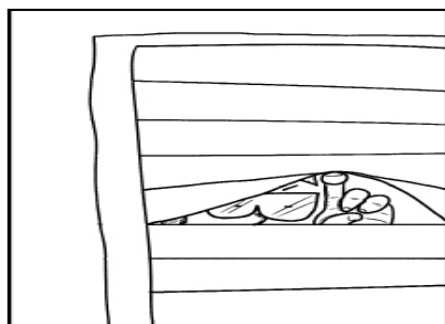
Unless a mystery donor shows up, this fight will continue to be at a standstill

So, is all this money really worth another engineering center or new dorms?

If FIU really needed more space, FIU should have accepted the 30 acres the Fair offered when it came up with the idea of splitting the land. Or perhaps we should take a page out of former University president Modesto Maidique and focus more on internal improvements than expansion. More dining options at BBC and tenure-track faculty sound like good places to start.

Michelle Marchante is the Opinion Director for FIU Student Media. Her column, M Talk, focuses on new and innovative events and ideas.

## WAIT FOR IT



## PANTHER EDITORIAL

### The battle with the Fair needs to end

Every year there are handful of articles and op-eds covering the great battle between FIU and the Youth Fair, and each story uncovers more details that prove it to be an even messier situation with no determinable outcome.

FIU has for years wanted the 64 acres of fairgrounds, situated in Tamiami Park, in order to build a \$150 million engineering complex, new dorms, and a host of other academic- and research-oriented additions. The problem is that the Fair currently holds a 90 year lease – good until 2085 – on Tamiami Park.

Even though FIU has suggested funding the relocation of the Fair in Homestead, the Fair argues that this location is too remote and will severely impact its annual revenue, likely bankrupting it in the first three months, not to mention violating the lease.

FIU cannot offer a location that would provide better revenue because the school

is funded with state taxes. Officials in Tallahassee decide FIU's yearly budget and the strict allowance of \$50 million is not ample enough to offer better real estate to the Fair.

In a memo little over a year old, Miami-Dade Mayor Carlos Gimenez implied that FIU's insistence to use Tamiami Park might be only resolved by a court rather than by mediation between the Fair and FIU because either side is relentlessly stubborn.

The Student Government Association stands with FIU and is directly involved with the process of fighting to win custody of the fairgrounds.

Obviously no one is budging. Perhaps it's due time that we stop trying to fight the Fair. The petitions, the public backlash, the referendums, the newspaper articles, the potential court sessions – none of these have made any difference in the stalemate in which the two find themselves year after year.

The two parties are no

closer to an agreement or solution than they were before, so it may be smarter to use this energy and these resources for something else.

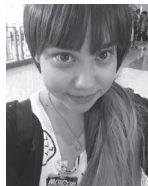
Of course there are obvious benefits to FIU obtaining the fairgrounds, like having more room for the ever-increasing amount of students who study and live at the university every year.

Still, it's not like there isn't already an engineering building, and since the construction of the Student Academic Success Center, there are dozens of available rooms in the first floor of Primera Casa that have been sitting unoccupied. If construction is absolutely necessary, maybe the school should look into building vertically instead of using more open land.

There comes a time to pick our battles, and taking over the fairground might have to be a sore that FIU stops agonizing over, at least until 2085 when it has a little more leeway.

## SGA is your voice

### PANTHER HEALTH



MAYTINEE KRAMER

Since its establishment in 1973, FIU's Student Government Association "has continued to strive for excellence on behalf of all Panthers." Despite SGA existing to represent students and act in their best interests on academic, extracurricular and social issues, many students don't know about SGA or what it is they do.

As part of the FIU community, fellow Panthers should know and understand SGA because it's the bridge between students and administration.

To better represent students, SGA is divided into two councils – SGC-MMC, which represents the interests of students at the Modesto Maidique Campus and the Engineering Center, and SGC-BBC, which represents the interests of students at the Biscayne Bay Campus and FIU at I-75 Center.

SGA works in coherence with the idea of checks and balances, thus is divided into the Executive, Legislative, and Judicial branches. Each school year, SGA works tirelessly to expand our university's efforts, engaging local, state, and federal officials to help accomplish goals.

In order to do so though, SGA requires the concern and participation of the FIU student body because only we can say what needs to be fixed and what can be enhanced.

Several students I spoke to had no idea what SGA was or what they do, while others felt like SGA was inactive or inefficient. As a result, students often do not care to contact their elected student officials for help, do not care to keep up with what their student government is doing, and do not care to vote in student government elections.

Panthers should care about SGA because we all attend FIU, and in the end, we are the ones that can make or break FIU.

It's because of SGA that funds are properly handled for the benefit of all students. It's because of them that the expenditure of the senate discretionary fund is observed and spent efficiently. It's because of them that there is representation of the student body.

However, it's understandable that students are not always happy with the decisions of SGA, which is why they end up not caring or giving up in participating in SGA events.

Last year, FIU approved the construction of two practice fields over the northern part of the the Nature Preserve to which the FIU SGA had agreed to contribute \$500,000 towards its construction.

This left students feeling like SGA represents the interests of administration rather than the interests of students.

But why does all this matter? Your student government matters because it's what speaks to school administration on your behalf, determines action on everyday aspects of campus life.

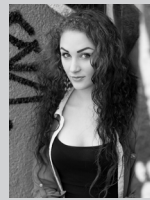
SGA provides more to college life than just classes and textbooks. SGA is a group of students representing students. They are the voice of the FIU body. Your voice, and you should use your voice. If there is an issue that concerns you, if you have any ideas to improve campus life, or if you feel passionate about something, contact your elected officials.

Just as it's the SGA's responsibility to represent us, it's our responsibility to push them to fulfill their responsibilities. And that is why we should care.

*Maytinee Kramer is the Assistant Opinion Director for Panther Press. Her column, Panther Health, is a commentary on maintaining one's health during college.*

## Housing students face dilemma with Fair

### THE LEVELER



AUBREY CARR

Anyone who has been on MMC during the month of March is sighing heavily because of the horror of the Miami-Dade Youth Fair – a horror that is on par with finals week.

When I started living on campus as a freshman, anytime anyone complained about scarce parking, an older student would scoff and reply, "Just wait until the fair gets here." We younger, naïve students didn't think anything of it and figured they were complaining the way all native Miamians complain about any traffic situation, even when it's not that bad.

And then the Fair arrived, and I had to admit, sitting in my car one evening for over an hour and a half in what was normally a 10 minute drive home from work, that those wise scholars were right. It was the rudest fellow drivers had ever been to me in traffic, and I had to convince security to let me into some

alternative entrance to the school because I lived there, even though I had no proof on me.

It was another half an hour of driving, desperately searching for an open parking space so that I could just go home and eat. It was worse than when the light went out on 8th Street and the morning commuters turned into uncoordinated ants, trying to squeeze their way around minivans and trucks to get an inch farther down the street. It was worse than trying to get gas and water before a hurricane.

The entire situation I and many of my peers have always faced every March is because the Youth Fair has always used FIU's parking lots, like lot five by the theatre department, and lot seven by the stadium, to make room for some 600,000 fair-goers every year.

However, External Relations recently sent out a letter stating that, "this year, Fair management has chosen not to contract with FIU for parking of Fair patrons," and anticipates that this agreement will lessen traffic on campus, although traffic around

Coral Way and SW 107th are still expected to have similar congestion as in previous years. But, lot five is still being utilized until April 24 – one of the primary lots students and housing residents use when lot six is full, so there is still a serious parking issue, even if it's lessened. Parking has been extended by FIU to the Greek Housing Lot and the PG5 overflow lot, but that's a long walk for someone with groceries to get to the dorms.

It's no secret that FIU and the Fair have been on bad terms. Efforts were made last year to attempt to relocate the fair, to no avail. In 2014, voters approved a referendum to move the Fair elsewhere, an idea Mayor Carlos Gimenez, amongst other notable members of the county, supported; and last year students created a petition to attract attention and invoke change. Obviously, none of this has done more than to fuel the fight over the 90 year lease the Fair has on Tamiami Park.

At the time of publication, FIU's Parking and Transportation was unavailable for

comment as to what FIU got out of this agreement with the Fair and why it was established in the first place.

But, no matter the reason, the Fair should have never been allowed to use our parking lots. The property universities occupy are for academia, yet sporting events and fairs take priority over the educational environment and disrupt living situations for students who have already paid thousands to be here.

There are 16,000 parking spaces for a school of 56,000 students, 3,200 of whom live on campus. For those car owners who reside here, it feels like an invasion of our home.

Where else do we store our vehicles if all the parking is taken? How do we get inside our dorms if we have trouble getting on to campus and out of our cars?

Moving the fair is the only reasonable answer. Grievances will only be exacerbated if this fight continues.

*Aubrey Carr is a staff writer for Panther Press. Her column, The Leveler, covers global social justice and political commentary.*

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# Athletic practice fields to replace parts of the University’s Nature Preserve

**PETER HOLLAND, JR.**  
Staff Writer

**A**s the Nature Preserve has come to an end, new practice fields for FIU athletics are on the works.

The University is planning to build new practice fields for the athletics and recreational program. The fields will be located at the Northern region of the Nature Preserve located right in the center of all the athletic fields.

President Mark Rosenberg, administration and board of trustees supported the endowment of the Nature Preserve and the renovations for athletics. Some athletes believe this would help expand FIU, too.

“You can’t go anywhere without seeing any construction,” said senior linebacker Anthony Wint. “It’s good to see the University building and growing. I think we’re like the fifth big university and by the time all the construction is done, we might be the second behind Arizona State. That’s big things having more people come to our school, more alumni, and a bigger atmosphere.”

In addition to a new practice field, the program is also adding brand new turf inside Ocean Bank Field, and a jumbotron to the stadium to attract fans, according to first year head coach Butch Davis.

“It’s exciting to see all the projects that we got going on,” said Davis. “Adding the jumbotron will be great for the fans and will give great videos during instant replays and a lot of school board and advertisement. The two new practice fields, we’re anxious for that. We get a chance to practice on grass as well as field turf.”

Rosenberg is all in with the new beginning for the football program and the Butch Davis era, according to Davis and a couple of the returning starters from last season.

“It means a lot for our president to sign a check and all that to let us know that the school is behind us and

“It’s good to see the University building and growing. I think we’re like the fifth big university and by the time all the construction is done, we might be the second behind Arizona State. That’s big things having more people come to our school, more alumni, and a bigger atmosphere,

Butch Davis  
Head Coach  
Football

want us to achieve great things,” said senior quarterback Alex McGough. “I know that he cares about us as individuals. It’s not the first time he talked to us. He probably talked to us four or five different times since Butch Davis got here. So, he really cares and we’re starting to see that and it’s really helping us a lot.”

Alian Collazo, president of the Student Government Association, supported the students who wanted to keep the preserve. Knowing that the University is limited with spacing, Collazo also understands

the necessity of practice fields for the athletics.

“I would have preferred that the preserves weren’t touched,” said Collazo. “But there is big massive need for both athletes and recreational sports and the thing about FIU is that there’s isn’t enough space. That’s the reality.”

Even though the North side of the preserve is gone, the Southern region of the preserve, where it is filled with swamped grass and damp areas, is still intact. Collazo and SGA are working on projects involving it, according to the SGC-MMC president. They will develop what is called the green project, in which they will be adding more wetlands and a natural lake that is instituted with the reserve.

“We want the Southern portion to be organized around and what was in the Northern part, being the same type but better and wetlands still existing,” said Collazo.

The SGA president didn’t comment on the costing of the project, but is grateful of the funding that was received for the project, along with other projects in the future. Even though the Nature Preserve is lost, Collazo is looking forward to developing the green project as he reaches toward the end of his term as SGA president.

“The best thing that came out of this was the money given to the green project will be in for sustainability that would not only affect the preserve but all of the MMC campus,” said Collazo.

SGA and FIU athletics will still be working together going forward despite the disagreement of the preserve. The renovation is under construction and the date has yet to be announced on when the the practice fields will be ready.

## FIU Student & Employee Appreciation Day

# WEDNESDAY, MARCH 29

**FREE** admission with current FIU ID

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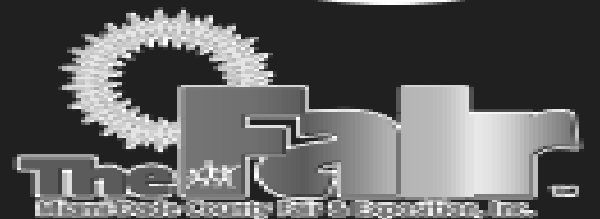


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