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Florida International University

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KENYA

Pirates hijack ship just off Oman's coastline

The EU's anti-piracy force says pirates have hijacked a ship off East Africa only 35 miles (55 kilometers) south of Oman's coast.



MALAWI

\$350 million in US aid sent for Malawi

The United States is giving Malawi \$350 million to improve its power supply network after getting reassurances about the southern African country's commitment to human rights.



KAZAKHSTAN

Kazakhstan's president sworn in

Kazakhstan's President Nursultan Nazarbayev was sworn in for a new five-year term Friday after securing a devastating victory in an election criticized by international observers.

Large turnout for Student Government elections

**GABRIEL ARRARÁS
BECCA GRIESEMER**
Beacon Staff

The 2011 Student Government Association elections had students come out in record numbers to vote.

Assistant Director for Campus Life and Adviser for SGA, Jose Toscano, hailed the 6,301 students that voted for helping SGA accomplish a "true milestone" in its history.

"I have never seen this much excitement from the Student Body," Toscano told a large crowd at the Graham Center Pit on April 7. "I have never seen numbers like I have seen this year."

Toscano then introduced Rosa Jones, vice president of Student Affairs, who announced all the SGC-MMC winners, ushering in what she called "a new beginning."

Winning the first contested presidential and vice presidential race since 2008, Patrick O'Keefe and Sanjeev Udhmani defeated Alina Gonzalez and



ALEXIA ESCALANTE/THE BEACON

Sanjeev Udhmani (left) and Patrick O'Keefe (right) after the traditional celebratory dip in the Graham Center fountain.

Kevin Gonzalez by a margin of 852 votes to become SGC-MMC president and vice president, respectively.

"It was a very tough campaign. Both sides fought very hard," O'Keefe told Student Media. "Now it's all about having everyone work together because we are one FIU."

When asked what gave him the edge over his opponents, O'Keefe credited his grassroots

campaign aimed at groups he felt underrepresented in the University.

"We worked hard for the arts, engineering, international and housing students," said O'Keefe. "We fought for them and gave them a voice."

He also credited the Student Body for becoming more informed and the use of technology to get students out to vote. SGC-MMC Elections Commissioner Andrea Alha-



ELIZABETH BRUNA-PINEDA/THE BEACON

Emilio Collyer (left) and Denise Halpin (right) addressing a crowd at the SGC-BBC election results announcement.

dari agrees.

"I think the biggest factor was the use of technology," Alhadari said. "Having campaigners around campus with iPads and laptops encouraging students to vote is what helped us surpass our goal."

Also announced were the 26 new senators elected to the SGC-MMC senate.

Kristen Robillard, Carlos Rodriguez and Samir Patel were elected to become SGC-

MMC senator-at-large. Larry Brown and Dean Williams were elected SGC-MMC housing senator.

Five candidates were elected for the College of Arts and Science senate seats. Leading the race was Cristina Bosmenier, followed by Sebastian Larrazabal, Giovanni Correale, Donovan Dawson and Juanita Louis.

Elected to the College of Business Administration

seats were Cesar Chuquizuta, Gabriel Freitas and Adam Redolfi.

The Graduate senate race had four candidates running for four seats. Leading in votes was current Graduate Senator Rachel Emas, followed by Adeel Jamal, Sai Penagamuri and Dharam Persaud.

Elected to the College of Engineering and Computing Seat were Andrea Fajardo and Fernando Pinheiro. The Lower Division race had four candidates elected: Liane Sippin, Mizael Ponce, Kevin Hernandez, Nicole Buchely.

Also elected to the SGC-MMC senate were Jose Garcia, Daniel Diaz and Janis Verwey for the Honors College, College of Arts and Architecture and College of Public Health seats, respectively.

The races for College of Medicine, Nursing and Health Sciences, College of Law and College of Education remained uncontested at SGC-MMC.

ELECTIONS, page 11

University celebrates Earth Week with several events

ANALIA FIESTAS
Staff Writer

Events—ranging from yoga to a bike-in movie—were sponsored by various University organizations to celebrate Earth Week.

More than 15 years ago, FIU celebrated its first environmental celebration with a single-day event known as FIU Earth Fest, but this

year students kicked off a six-day festival from April 4 to April 9.

FIU's Students for Environmental Actions, Student Government Association, I.D.E.A.S. and Go Green sponsored events throughout the University and South Florida.

Starting off the week on April 4, FIU participated in the clean up of the Women's Park next to the Engineering Center for the Great American

Cleanup where volunteers received free t-shirts and lunch. The Environmentally Endangered Lands Program, a sustainability driven program, scheduled a volunteer workday to remove non-native plant species, plant native species, and clean up trash in protected ecosystems.

Student organizations throughout FIU joined forces with the community to host diverse programs.

"My club was selling smoothies and products that were grown at the market. We also had products that we brought from a local organic farm in Homestead. We also had potluck confetti at the garden, where everybody brought in a homemade dish and shared the food while watching a film," said Co-President for the

EARTH, page 2

Major challenges cadets to train harder

ARTHUR GOMEZ
Contributing Writer

Early each morning at the Modesto Maidique campus of Florida International University, Army cadets are commonly seen exercising and running as part of their Reserve Officer Training Corps routine.

Usually, they run as a compact group directed by a drill sergeant or an officer. Sometimes, a senior cadet leads formations.

But when Major Wally Gallart directs them, everything changes. Usually, they all end up more tired physically and mentally.

"He is one of the fastest senior officers with endless physical resis-

tance I have ever seen before," said Santiago Real, a cadet, an Iraq War veteran, member of the Florida National Guard and accounting student.

Gallart is such an important figure at the University that many students think of him as a mentor. That's because he is in charge of the ROTC program at FIU, which has many forms of assistance ranging from full scholarships, stipends and book aid. Gallart has helped hundreds graduate and become Army officers.

Gallart was born in 1956 in Bayamon, Puerto Rico, but was reared in New York City until the

ROTC, page 2

FLO RIDING



ALEX GARCIA/THE BEACON

Flo Rida performed for a crowd of 4500 students at the Soccer Stadium for SPC's annual UP Roar concert. The show also featured Far East Movement. For more about UP Roar, turn to pg. 7 of Life!

NEWS FLASH

Iran launches probe into nuke delay

A lawmaker says Iran’s parliament has launched an investigation into repeated delays in the startup of the Bushehr nuclear power plant.

Gholam Ali Meigolinejad says the plant was expected to produce electricity in February but the Russian engineers building the plant ordered the removal of fuel from the reactor because of concerns that metal particles might be contaminating fuel assemblies. Foreign intelligence reports have said the control systems at Bushehr were penetrated by the mysterious computer worm known as Stuxnet.

Iranian lawmakers say the unloading has delayed the startup of the plant by a year. Bushehr was scheduled to start working in 1999 but there have been repeated delays.

Storms damaged 300 central Florida homes

The American Red Cross says more than 300 central Florida homes were damaged by storms that spawned nine tornadoes last week.

The disaster agency said Thursday that 19 homes were destroyed and 81 sustained major damage as a result of the line of storms that cut a swath through 12 counties on March 31. There were no serious injuries.

The Red Cross assisted 163 people with services after the storms and its volunteers are continuing to help with long-term recovery plans. Volunteers served more than 2,000 meals this week.

Libyan rebels mourn victims of NATO attack error

Angry crowds in the main rebel stronghold fired into the air and chanted for revenge against Moammar Gadhafi’s regime Friday as militiamen killed in an accidental NATO airstrike were carried for burial.

“The martyrs’ blood is not shed in vain!” cried some of the thousands of people gathered in central Benghazi to pray and mourn some of the dead from the attack on rebel tanks and vehicles.

On the front lines, meanwhile, rebel fighters sent scouts toward the contested oil port of Brega to assess whether pro-government forces took advantage of a mistaken NATO strike that pounded opposition tanks and sent survivors into retreat on Thursday.

– Compiled by Nicole Castro

Student orgs. work together for events

EARTH, page 1

Garden Club, Bryan Tome.

Tome believes that by selling organic food, people are minimizing the use of fossil fuel, fertilizers and pesticides. “On the other hand, the potluck is to demonstrate to people the different types of foods provided by gardens, which are a great part of the environment,” said Tome.

During the week’s events the Farmer’s Market, which occurs every Wednesday at 12 p.m. behind the Green Library, attracted students that had not noticed it before Earth Week.

“I was going to class and I was walking by, and the farmer’s market called my attention so I decided to stop by. I am having carrot cake and it’s good and very fresh,” said Junior Patricia Duran.

Duran feels that the farmer’s market definitely draws attention from the students

towards the environment by selling fresh food.

“It is also helping our school community get closer to organic food,” added Duran.

Although the week was full of social events, Earth Week was able to incorporate academics into Earth Week, as well. On April 7 the US Department of Energy Senior Policy and Communication Specialist Scott Minos presented a discussion on green jobs and focused on the latest environmental developments in Washington, D.C.

According to Student Assistant for FIU Go Green and President of I.D.E.A.S. Viktor Nathan Elsaieh, Minos came “to inform students on the best practices they can engage into in order to position themselves for a great job in our newly emerging green economy.”

Students participate in the Shake-A-Leg Eco 5K Event in

the soccer stadium.

“The Shake-A-Leg was basically just a free and fun event designed to encourage students to get out and exercise. It was less of a competitive event, and more of a care-free event for students to gather at. We offered breakfast, food and refreshments for all participants,” said Elsaieh.

Putting together the week’s events required a vast amount of effort from the student organizations that worked to put it together.

“The teamwork was definitely a big component for Earth Week’s success. We had to work hard to organize Earth Week. For example, I was in charge of trying to find volunteers to help out the different programs, while many other students were in charge of other things,” said SGA-Sustainability Coordinator, Sasha Blue Waters.

Waters believes that the

initial meetings were all about opinions and ideas for the organization of Earth Week. However, as time went by, many job tasks were added to the to-do list.

“Another aspect of the organization was posting advertising posters all over the residential areas on campus. We were active on many of the events for Earth Week in regard to hands on, advertisement, information, and the communication to the student community,” said Waters.

With a successful Earth Week, students at FIU cannot wait for next year’s activities.

“I wonder what the different organization on campus will come up with for next year. I think it will be hard for them to think of something better to do because this year’s activities were extremely entertaining and productive,” said Freshman Mario Lugo.

Army major highly admired by cadets

ROTC, page 1

age of 12, when he went back to the island. His dream of wanting to be part of the US armed forces was inspired by his father, a Korean War veteran.

“They were members of the 65th Infantry Battalion, where it was very difficult to enter because they were very selective. My dad and my uncles were so proud to belong to the Army,” he said.

So it was not unusual that Gallart ended up joining the US Marine Corps in 1978, four years after his high school graduation. Once he got in, he followed his other passion, aircraft. This guided him to join a search and rescue unit.

Six years later, in 1981, as a sergeant

and with a new baby boy, his first son, he was deployed to the Philippines. In 1982, he was mobilized again to South Korea, where he conducted military operations with the Korean Army during the Cold War.

“I grew up in the Hippie’s times when the Beatles, The Bee Gees and Led Zeppelin were superstars, so I used to listen to that music in my spare time over there,” he said. “Now, I like the music of Trios and Vallenatos (Autochthonous Colombian music). I have been to Colombia a couple of times.”

At the end of 1983, Gallart returned to the United States with the dream of becoming an officer. He enrolled in the Marine Enlisted Commissioning Education Program, which is part of

the Officer Candidate School. Gallart speaks with a calm and patience more typical of a high-ranking diplomat than a military career man with multiple deployments. Perhaps this is the quality, coupled with his good sense of humor, that leads him to be one of the most esteemed officers by his subordinates.

“He makes me laugh every time we have a break from drills,” said cadet Rivera, also a student at FIU and member of the Florida National Guard.

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NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARINGS

The University Fee Committee will be holding public hearings on

Tuesday, April 12, 2011 BBC
WUC 157 at 11:30am

Wednesday, April 13, 2011 MMC
East Ballroom at 12pm

The objective of these meetings will be to give interested individuals an opportunity to hear arguments pertaining to the proposed increase to the Athletic Fee.

The amended fee will become effective in the Fall 2011 term.

Students and other interested individuals are invited to attend these meetings.

ASSOCIATED PRESS

Budget bill could slash \$4 billion

BILL KACZOR
AP Staff

Virtually no sector of state government, from public schools to programs for the sick and disabled, is spared from the budget axe in spending bills passed Thursday by the Florida House and Senate, though they differ in many key details.

GOP lawmakers who control both chambers are holding firm to their no-new-taxes commitment, with austere appropriations bills of nearly \$70 billion that would slash almost \$4 billion in spending.

Democrats argued that House and Senate bills alike are balanced on the backs of public employees, in effect imposing an income tax on them.

Both chambers would dock the paychecks of teachers, state workers and many local employees include police and firefighters to reduce state, city and county government contributions to their retirement plan by up to \$1.1 billion. The spending cuts also are expected to result in widespread layoffs.

SenateBudgetCommittee Chairman JD Alexander, R-Lake Wales, acknowledged that state employees are being asked to sacrifice again after going without pay raises for five years, but he said things are even worse in Florida's recession-battered private sector.

"In my district virtually every business that I know of has done layoffs, reductions. Many businesses have

closed," Alexander said. "In my world folks can't afford a lot of additional tax burden."

The pension plan contributions and spending cuts are in response to a \$3.75 billion gap between anticipated state revenues and the growing cost of high-priority to critical spending needs.

The biggest part of that gap comes from nearly \$3 billion in stimulus money included in the current budget that won't be available in the next fiscal year, which begins July 1, as the federal program expires.

As lawmakers debated the budget bills, hundreds of public employees and union members, including doctors and nurses, went to Gov. Rick Scott's office three floors below the legislative chambers to protest the cuts.

They delivered "pink slips" for Scott to the governor's office. Scott, who had proposed even deeper spending cuts and even bigger employee pension contributions, was not there.

The Republican governor was in South Florida visiting a state employment office and doing media interviews.

The House passed its appropriations bill (HB 5001) on a 78-39 party line roll call.

The Senate earlier voted 33-6 for its appropriations bill (SB 2000) with all Republicans in favor and Democrats almost evenly split. Some senators from both parties who voted for the bill, though, said they objected to its harsh treatment of public employees and hoped that it will be eased during coming nego-

tiations to resolve differences between the House and Senate.

Those talks are expected to begin next week.

Senate Democratic Leader Nan Rich of Weston said she couldn't vote for her chamber's budget because her colleagues decided "to cause unnecessary pain to a lot of vulnerable people in our state."

Rich said Republicans have ignored other options for balancing the budget such as a bill she's filed that would close a corporate tax loophole that benefits out-of-state companies.

College and university tuition would go up by 5 percent in the House bill and 8 percent in the Senate plan. Hospitals and nursing homes would be paid less for Medicaid patients as part of a \$1 billion cut in the state-federal program for low-income and disabled people.

The Senate budget also would reduce spending for transplant recipients and other "medically needy" patients with catastrophic illness but who lack sufficient insurance coverage. As of next April it would stop covering prescription drugs, transportation, hearing aids and glasses, but it would continue paying doctor bills.

About \$1 billion would come out of public schools in each budget, but school districts would get some of that money back due to savings they'll have due to their employees' retirement contributions.

"This education budget, given all circumstances and the factors, is level funding

in disastrous times," said Sen. David Simmons, R-Maitland.

Environmental spending including land purchases and Everglades restoration also would be slashed. Both plans would cut prison spending by privatizing correctional facilities — in an 18-county area of South Florida in the Senate bill but just in Broward and Miami-Dade counties in the House version.

The Senate's \$69.8 billion appropriations bill is \$3.3 billion higher than the House measure, but most of that gap is due to accounting differences.

Two key differences are that the Senate brings the state's five water management districts into the state budget for the first time and continues to include county court clerks. The House plan includes neither.

The House also spends less on roads and other transportation projects than the Senate.

While both chambers have turned thumbs down on tax increases, they've also rejected Scott's proposal for tax cuts that would mainly benefit businesses and property owners. The one exception comes in the Senate's plan that includes relatively small property tax cuts for the water management districts.

In his "jobs budget," Scott had proposed \$1.7 billion in tax cuts, arguing they'd help attract new businesses and jobs to the state.

Legislative leaders, though, say Florida can't afford that level of tax relief.

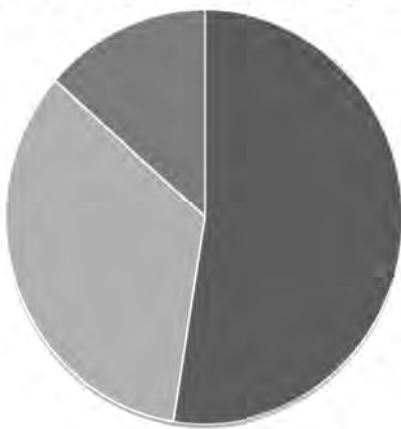
ELECTION RESULTS

SGC-MMC President



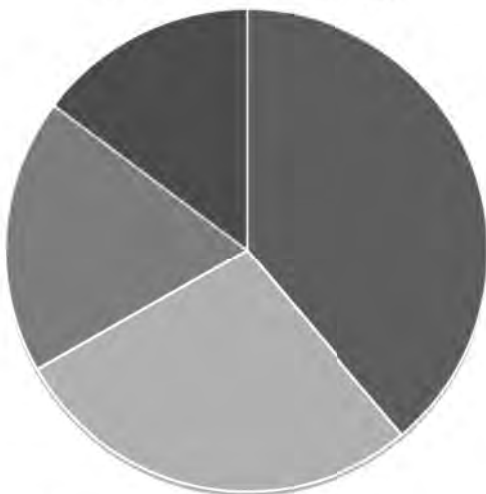
■ O'Keefe & Udhvani (3443)
■ Gonzalez & Gonzalez (2591)

Engineering & Computing Senator



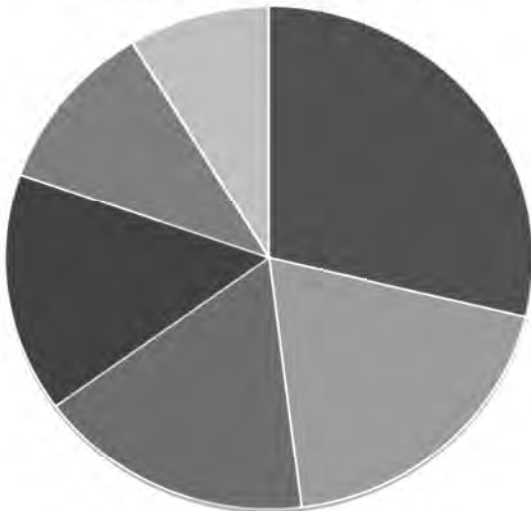
■ Andrea Fajardo(384)
■ Fernando Pinheiro (234)
■ Ekaete Ekwere (99)

Senator-at-large



■ Robillard (2031) ■ Patel (969)
■ Rodriguez (1460) ■ Evora (770)

Lower Division Senator



■ Sippin (603) ■ Buchely (323)
■ Ponce (404) ■ Leal-McCormack (229)
■ Hernandez (355) ■ Chueca (182)

JAZZY LUNCH



ALEXIA ESCALANTE/THE BEACON

Nicole Henry and her band performed on the Graham Center lawn on April 7 for the Jazzy Lunch event. Students lounged on the grass while enjoying the jazz singer's smooth voice.

TENNIS

Team needs to sharpen focus as season winds down

With only one match remaining in the season, the FIU women's tennis has only one objective to concentrate on: Focus.

At times, teams cruise throughout a certain part of the season. When these teams finish first in the conference, as FIU will this season, experts may often assume that the team is a lock for a championship. Other times, which is unfortunate to see, there are plenty of examples throughout all of sports that show us when teams lose focus on the primary goal.

2009 Cleveland Cavaliers: After going 66-16, and cruising through the first two rounds of the NBA playoffs, experts assumed that the Cavaliers were the team to beat. It seemed as though the focus was lost. The Cavaliers were knocked out of the Eastern Conference Finals by the Orlando Magic in six games.

2007 New England Patriots: After finishing

the regular season with a perfect record, the Patriots seemed poised, not only to make a run at the championship, but also finish with the first 19-0 season in NFL history. The Patriots made it to Super Bowl XLII, but were involved in one of the greatest sports upsets when falling to the New York Giants 17-14.

A better example that hits closer to home would be the 2009 FIU volleyball team. A strong team that cruised through the regular season with a 32-4 record, including an impressive 17-0 record in conference play.

Led by four-time All-American Yarimar Rosa and All-Sun Belt conference player Isadora Rangel, the Golden Panthers were set to run through the conference tournament and earn an automatic bid to the NCAA tournament. FIU would fall short in the Sun Belt title game to Middle Tennessee, losing out at a higher seeding, and a possibility to make a run in the

tournament.

The Tennis team has been cruising to lopsided victories over the past few weeks, undefeated in conference play. There is no doubt they can play, but the 6-1 loss to Southern Methodist University raises questions as to whether this team is becoming complacent and just getting ready for the tournament.

It is a small sample size, since it is only one afternoon of matches. Could the Golden Panthers have had an off day? Was there not enough of a sense of urgency to win? Was SMU much better than FIU?

I don't think there is much of a talent disparity between both teams to warrant a lopsided loss, although one could make the argument that SMU being ranked 37th and FIU ranked 62nd would benefit the Mustangs.

The talent is there. Senior Liset Brito is the 57th ranked player in the nation. Lisa Johnson and Maria Spenceley have given the Golden Panthers strength in their individual matches to make



KRISTI CAMARA/THE BEACON

Maria Spenceley [above] has been a key player in Golden Panthers' success this season.

winning easier for the team. These are three players that can gain wins alone, on their own talent. These three players need to make sure that they are setting the tone for the team going into the Sun Belt Conference tournament. There is only one game left to regroup and

send a message to the rest of the conference.

What is the goal to end the season? Winning the Sun Belt conference. When you beat your conference opponents so easily, there is no excuse for a loss in the tournament to anyone. The last game of the season against

the University of Central Florida Golden Knights is the last chance to send a message to the conference.

What message should the Golden Panthers be sending to the others in the conference?

"The title is ours. We are ready and we are focused."

HOCKEY

New hockey club hopes to grow and establish itself on campus

DIONISIO GARCIA
Contributing Writer

From opening a law school, medical school and building a new football stadium, FIU has been rapidly expanding and creating new organizations over the past decade, including the creation of a brand new ice hockey team. But this team is different from the normal teams on campus, they're not sponsored by the governing body nor the athletic department.

Mike Amado, captain of the upstart hockey team, has been playing hockey since he was in middle school. He came to FIU for academic reasons with the hopes of there being a hockey team in the near future.

"There are 40,000 kids at FIU, I'm sure there are 20 that skate decently," Amado said. "Ever since then it's been a hunt to find people."

It started at orientation when Amado gave his name and his interests of playing hockey. While at that orientation, one of the other students, Matt Parrish, announced he

played hockey as well.

Amado also invited into Daniel Lopez, the current goalkeeper, to join the team.

Amado and Lopez were rivals in high school. Amado got the better of Lopez, defeating him twice in different championship games. However, that did not stop Amado from joining the club at FIU.

"We came to FIU and he asked me if I wanted to join," Amado said. "As much as we were rivals now, we are going to be on the same team."

The team currently has 19 players and is three short from a complete roster. The team is adding players whenever they can with one new addition coming as recently as last week.

The club is facing financial issues as they are trying to become a CSO club to receive the proper funding to run the team. The team has hopes of having enough money to properly run practices along with having a full staff of coaches and other positions. They also hope to have the funds to get better equipment.

Despite the heartaches, hope may be on the horizon. FIU recently played the University of Miami in front of 400 fans at Kendall Ice Arena on March 5, losing to the Hurricanes 11-3. It was the first collegiate hockey game ever played in Miami-Dade County. Despite the loss, the opportunity to play gave the team hope considering they only advertised the game through word of mouth.

The team's goal is to eventually be part of the American Collegiate Hockey Association. The ACHA is similar to the NCAA, but a tier below. With proper funding and enough players they will join schools such as Florida Gulf Coast University, University of Central Florida and others in the ACHA.

At the moment, the team is attempting to use FIU as their main recruiting tool. FIU is currently trying to increase the number of students it admits into the university each year for the next few years. Amado and Lopez hope that of those additional students, at least a few will play hockey.

"The odds of the new students coming in are, at minimum, one or two of them will be hockey players," Amado said.

The team is also hoping to truly use the "International" in the school's name.

"FIU recruits all over the world and maybe they get kids from Russia, Sweden, or other countries in Europe where hockey is prominent," Amado said. "Maybe they aren't looking to play hockey when they come to FIU. But if they see that FIU has a hockey team they would want to join."

The team wants to replicate the university it plays for. Since Amado and Lopez's freshman year, they have both noticed all of the progress made at the university.

"FIU doesn't seem like it is slowing down anytime soon and we are FIU," says Amado. "We have the same ambition to become big."

The FIU hockey team is currently planning its next match against the University of Tampa. The venue and date are still to be determined.

SOFTBALL

Golden Panthers drop series finale

MALCOLM SHIELDS
Staff Writer

The Golden Panthers were unable to win two games in a row against Louisiana-Lafayette on the road as FIU lost the final game in their three-game series to the Ragin' Cajuns on April 7 by a score of 2-1. Junior Ashley McClain recorded her seventh home run on the season in the loss.

Nerissa Myers led off the bottom of the first inning for the Ragin' Cajuns by collecting a walk off of Golden Panthers starting pitcher McClain. On the first pitch to Gabriele

Bridges, she knocked a double to left center field to give No. 19 Louisiana-Lafayette a 1-0 lead.

The Golden Panthers had an opportunity to counter in the top of the second inning when Brie Rojas led off the inning with her first triple of the season down the right field line. Ragin' Cajun starting pitcher Ashley Brignac was able to lock in and recorded three consecutive outs by FIU's five, six, and seven hitters to leave Rojas stranded at third base.

The Golden Panthers (22-18, 8-4 SBC) struggled

TRACK, page 5

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BASEBALL

FIU unable to sweep Bethune-Cookman at home

ANDRES LEON
Staff Writer

The Golden Panthers were looking for a two-game sweep after beating MEAC champions Bethune-Cookman in a 7-3 victory the night before. With a three game series against conference leader Troy looming in the weekend, FIU was hoping to head into their conference series with momentum.

But FIU would come up short of another rally as they fell to the Wildcats by a score 5-4 on April 6.

FIU (19-12, 4-5 SBC) gave the start to the Canadian freshmen Mike Ellis, making his sixth appearance of the season. He would have a shaky first few innings to start the game.

In the top of the second Ellis got himself into a jam as Emmanuel Castro started things for BCU by singling past the short stop and would later advance to third when DJ Leonard bunted for a sacrifice out to send Castro home.

With the score 1-0 early on, Ellis attempted to settle down but as time went on he continued to struggle through the third inning.

With the bases loaded, the Wild-

cats capitalized off a throwing error by second basemen T.J. Shantz, allowing Alejandro Sanchez and Paul Biocic to take home and give BCU a 3-0 lead in the third.

FIU was able to get a run back in the bottom of the third, only coming up short and getting one run off a bases-loaded situation.

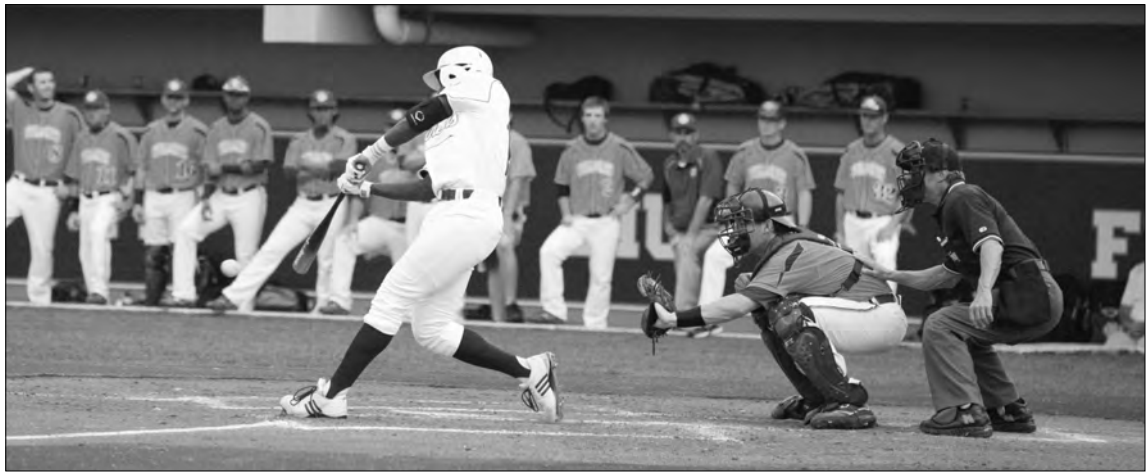
The bases were loaded and FIU looked to score with Mike Martinez at the plate. Martinez was to put the ball in play in the infield, buying enough time for Bermudez to come home for the lone run of the inning.

The Wildcats were able to bounce back and pick up a run in the top of fourth off a single from center fielder Brashad Johnson to right field, making the score 4-1. Ellis finished the game with three innings pitched, allowing four runs off three hits and only striking out one Wildcat.

Logan Dodds made his tenth appearance for FIU in relief of Ellis, having pitched 21 innings and striking out 18 hitters this season.

Dodds cooled off the Wildcats giving the Golden Panthers a chance to try and make a comeback.

After pitching a little over one inning of play and allowing zero runs



KRISTI CAMARA/THE BEACON

Jabari Henry [left] struggled in the series finale against BCU, striking out twice in a loss on April 6.

off of two hits and striking out two Wildcats, Dodds was called off and relieved by Christian Malbrough.

"It's important in a mid-week game, especially after playing the night before, to get as many pitchers out there as possible before a big weekend series," said coach Turtle Thomas.

Malbrough started off shaky by walking Emmanuel Castro and would advance to second on a ground out.

D.J. Leonard singled to second base and Castro would slide home

after Behar was unable to make the tag, giving the Wildcats a 5-1 lead in the sixth. An RBI single by Behar in the seventh to the left side brought the Golden Panthers closer, making the score 5-2.

The bottom of the eighth saw FIU continue to dig for hits as Pablo Bermudez got on first after an error by the BCU shortstop. Shantz complemented Bermudez by hitting a single to right field moving Bermudez to second and both would advance on a passed ball.

Jeremy Patton came through with a single through the right side to bring Bermudez and Shantz home and bring FIU one run shy of tying the game.

But BCU reliever Jordan Dailey came in and was able to shut the door on the Golden Panthers to end the game.

"It's important to try and win every game you can down the stretch. When you leave sixteen guys on base, you're not going to win a baseball game," Thomas said. "We'll play it one game at a time."

ORANGE BOWL

Orange Bowl CEO Poms receives bump in salary

FREDERIC J. FROMMER
Associated Press

The committee that runs the Orange Bowl bumped up its CEO's pay by nearly \$150,000 in 2009, boosting his compensation to more than \$500,000, according to a recently filed tax return.

Orange Bowl spokesman Larry Wahl said in an email that the increase was mostly supplemental compensation given to CEO Eric Poms for "the added work and effort involved" in hosting two Bowl Championship Series games in 2009, including the national championship, in south Florida.

The Orange Bowl is one of four premier college football games that also hosts the BCS title game once every four seasons, along with the Sugar, Rose and Fiesta Bowls. The Fiesta Bowl fired CEO John Junker last week over extravagant and improper spending uncovered by an internal report.

As a public charity, the Orange Bowl must list its highest compensated employees on its 990 tax returns, which are publicly available. Those returns show that Poms raked in \$507,000 in 2009, a 42 percent increase over the previous year's take of \$358,000.

Bowl officials wouldn't provide Poms' salary for last year, when the Orange Bowl

did not host the BCS title game. Wahl said Poms' "total compensation for 2010 has dropped below the double-hosting level in 2009 and the exact amount will be reported when our next 990 is filed as required by the IRS."

The bowl also gave big boosts to three other top executives, ranging from 24 percent to 38 percent, according to an Associated Press analysis of tax returns.

Poms' pay still lagged behind Junker's \$674,000, and Sugar Bowl CEO Paul Hoolahan's \$645,000.

But it far exceeded the \$282,000 paid to then-Rose Bowl executive director Mitch Dorger.

The annual compensation for Dorger's replacement, Scott McKibben, has not yet been reported on a tax return, but McKibben told the AP that his base salary is \$425,000, and could be higher based on a bonus program.

He added that the Rose Bowl also provides additional compensation to employees in the years it hosts national championship games.

The Sugar Bowl says that its CEO can receive a bonus based on meeting specific criteria and the bonus can be higher in a year when it hosts the championship game, but it's not a given. The Fiesta Bowl did not respond to a request for comment.

John Colombo, a law

professor at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign and an expert on tax-exempt organizations, said that \$500,000 for the CEO of an organization the size of the Orange Bowl didn't strike him as out of line.

"The real question for tax purposes is whether the salary is reasonable in the context of the market for this kind of work," he said. "And that would include not just the tax-exempt market, but also the taxable market. So we're really looking at the market of CEOs that run businesses about the size of the Orange Bowl."

Wahl said that the supplemental compensation was based on a written plan that included meeting goals and milestones.

"It involves both internal (employee performance assessment) and external (marketplace surveys and comparatives) reviews," he said. "Efforts are led by a compensation committee appointed by the Orange Bowl's board of directors."

Wahl also said that the Orange Bowl made a \$3.15 million contribution in 2009 to rebuild an inner-city youth/high school stadium and facilities at Moore Park in Miami.

Besides Poms' pay hike, several other Orange Bowl officials also got bumps because of hosting two games in 2009.

McClain hits home run in loss to Louisiana on the road

SOFTBALL, page 4

gled most of the game at the plate trying to string together consecutive hits against Louisiana-Lafayette. Between the third through fifth innings, the Golden Panthers were only able to secure two base runners.

In the fourth inning, FIU went down in order as McClain, Rojas and Kayla Burri swung at the first pitch delivered to them to register a three pitch inning for Brignac.

McClain matched Brignac pitch-for-pitch through the middle innings as well. McClain faced four batters in the second and third innings and retired the Ragin' Cajuns in order in the fourth on ten pitches.

The Ragin' Cajuns (29-6, 7-2 SBC) were able to scratch out a run in the bottom of the fifth inning by a combination of hits and Golden Panther miscues.

A bunt single by Katie Smith began the inning and was followed by a fielding error by Burri and a single by Myers loaded the bases for Louisiana-Lafayette with no outs.

McClain was replaced by Mariah Dawson in the pitching circle and moved to right field.

On a 3-2 pitch, Bridges, who went 1-for-1 in the contest, drew her second



REBECCA VILLAFANE/THE BEACON

Kayla Burri [left] and the Golden Panther offense were unable to deliver key hits in loss to Louisiana on April 7.

walk of the game to force in the second run of the game from third base to give the Ragin' Cajuns a 2-0 lead. With the bases still loaded, Dawson struck out three consecutive hitters to get the Golden Panthers out of a jam while only surrendering one run.

In the sixth inning, the Golden Panthers recorded two quick outs by Jessy Alfonso and Beth Peller. On the first pitch, McClain, who went 1-for-3, hit a home run over the right center field wall to

cut the Golden Panther deficit to 2-1.

In the top of the seventh, Dawson retired the Ragin' Cajuns in order.

In the bottom of the seventh, the Golden Panthers were unable to start a rally as Brignac retired FIU in order to end the game. Brignac recorded her sixteenth win on the season for the Ragin' Cajuns.

McClain's record dropped to 5-4 on the season for the Golden Panthers.

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UP ROAR



ALEX GARCIA/THE BEACON



ADRIANA RODRIGUEZ/THE BEACON



ESRA ERDOGAN/THE BEACON

Top Left: Flo Rida gives away a pair of autographed sneakers to someone in the audience. Bottom Left: Members of Far East Movement perform their popular radio songs, "Like a G6" and "Rocketeer" as part of the UP Roar concert. Right: Flo Rida signs towels and proceeds to throw them in to the crowd.

UP Roar's main event takes over soccer stadium

ADRIANA RODRIGUEZ
Life! Editor

Students came out in droves for the 2011 Up Roar concert featuring Flo Rida and Far East Movement.

The FIU Soccer Stadium grounds were home to the concert which took place on Apr. 6.

The concert is Up Roar week's main event and was a huge success in the eyes of Cristina Rodriguez, SPC president.

"I could not be more proud of SPC-MMC," Rodriguez said. "The event was a total collaborative effort from the beginning of the planning process. We exposed yet another generation to a great tradition."

The crowd—an estimated 4500 students—was showered with giveaways from SPC, Fiji Water, One Coconut Water, Game Stop and Aero The Fly Kid including glow sticks and t-shirts.

The event ended around midnight but workers stayed until the early hours of the morning showing their dedication.

"An insane amount of our volunteers stayed till 4:30 a.m., and our General Members took on leadership roles so well that we can rest assured that every UP-Roar from here on will only get better," she said.

This is Rodriguez's last year as president and

ROAR, page 8

SPC
FIU LIVE 2011
DIOCAYNE DAY CAMPUS

APRIL 11 - 15, 2011
FOR MORE INFO: 305.919.5804

MONDAY, APRIL 11:
FIU LIVE Kick-off Event
Open Candy Bar
Stuff-a-bear with SPC
Panther Square/ 12 - 3 PM

FIU LIVE Comedy Show ft:
Jim Tavaré & Ronnie Jordan
WUC Theatre/ 8 PM

TUESDAY, APRIL 12:
Magic for Non-Believers:
Peter Boie the Magician
WUC Theatre/ 8 PM

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 13:
FIU LIVE Panther Palooza*
A day filled with food, foam pit
music party and a paint war!
PAINT WILL STAIN CLOTHES
Field Area behind Pool/ 3 PM

THURSDAY, APRIL 14:
It's T-shirt Time!
Customize t-shirts with SPC
Panther Square/ 12 - 3 PM

SPC Movie Series: Tron
WUC Theatre/ 3 & 7 PM

FRIDAY, APRIL 15:
FIU LIVE GLOW PARTY ft:
DJ Zog & DJ Cato K
WUC Ballrooms/ 7:30 PM
FREE ENTRANCE TO ALL EVENTS WITH TICKET
pick up your tickets at
BBC Campus Life, WUC 141
*Event co-sponsored by BBC ISA



ESRA ERDOGAN/THE BEACON

Left: Kev Nish from Far East Movement takes center stage at the 2011 UP Roar concert.
Right: A member of Flo Rida's crew waves around a bra on stage as part of Flo Rida's set.

Students happy with concert

ROAR, page 7

the event has assured her SPC will be in good hands in the upcoming years.

"It was surreal being on stage with Vice Presidents that I have worked alongside for years. I have seen them grow and develop through many changes," Rodriguez said. "I am extremely proud of them and the work they put into the concert."

Artists are selected based on surveys taken by students throughout the year. Students vote on what genre of music appeals to them the most and then SPC considers their budget and chooses the performers from there.

Previous performers include Ludacris, One Republic and Pitbull. This year's event was headlined by Far East Movement and Flo Rida.

Made up of a group of high school friends from Los Angeles, Far East Movement kicked off the show by performing their songs "Rocketeer" and "Like a G6."

Having just arrived from a

25-hour flight, the group felt welcomed by the University crowd and shared the effects of their success.

"We're just grateful. We came from just normal kids from LA who loved to make music to being able to do this, what we love, in different cities and in places we've never been to before," said Kev Nish, a member of Far East Movement. "It's a shock to us that people actually know our lyrics. We'll go to different cities and people will be singing along to Rocketeer and Like a G6."

Flo Rida, originally from South Florida, was looking forward to performing for the Miami crowd.

"It's definitely a blessing to be from here and to come back and perform for y'all and at the same time come out and do something for my fans that are from my hometown," Flo Rida said before going on stage. "I'm definitely excited."

Fresh from launching his new record label, International Music Group, Flo Rida has signed two artists from the South Florida area, Brianna and Git Fresh. His

album Only One Flo (Part 2) hits stores later this year.

Sara Conklin, senior international relations major, was impressed with the caliber of the event.

"Everyone was dancing, cheering and singing. I don't think I saw one person without a smile on their face," Conklin said.

"You could visibly tell students were proud to attend FIU and thankful that SPC would put on such a great event. I am graduating soon, and will definitely miss these kinds of opportunities. SPC made FIU very proud on Wednesday!"

Other crowd members disagreed with the choice of the event's date.

"I thought it was pretty good music. It was pretty loud and rowdy. Good people were here," said sophomore Josh Sinclair. "It could have been better if it was on a Friday, but it's all good."

"I've always liked Flo Rida but I've never seen Far East Movement and it was really cool to see them," said Brett Weaver, a criminal justice major.

Student Media is looking to fill the following positions:

- Recruitment Director
- News Director
- Sports Director
- BBC Managing Editor
- Production Manager
- Life! Editor
- Opinion Editor
- Graphic Designer
- Web Designer

As always, Student Media is looking for ambitious, self driven, and talented writers, photographers and graphic artists to join our staff.

Submit your application in GC 210 or WUC

ROLE PLAY



KARINA TELLEZ/THE BEACON

The Theater Department premiered *Twelfth Night*, the last play of the semester, on April 7. Sarai Heria is Viola (left) and Malvolio is played by Juan Carlos Madriz (right).

College life provides an array of ‘firsts’

JUAN LOPEZ
Staff Writer

Students go through firsts on almost a daily basis. First time experiences are a mixture of excitement and utter nerve-racking anxiety. Whether it is your first class with a certain teacher or the first time you meet a friend you will have for life, a college setting provides unique first time experiences throughout a student’s academic career.

First times do not always go as smoothly as one would like.

Such was English professor Yvette Piggush’s first experience teaching a class here at the University.

“It was my first time handling such a big class. At first I had no idea what I was doing. Things went wrong really fast. It got chaotic. Thankfully the students were patient with me but it was obvious they were not impressed with me,” said Piggush.

Piggush, however, eventually found her footing and is enjoying her career at the University.

Piggush looks back at the experience as a necessary step in her evolution as a professor.

“It was a process but in the end it helped improve my teaching.”

Junior Jennylee Diaz, double majoring in English and Asian studies, had a first time experience that she said she will truly cherish her entire life. She got to meet her role model Liza Darby while on campus.

Darby is a professor as well as an author whose expertise is in Geishas and their culture.

Diaz contacted Darby to possibly lecture at the University. “I never thought she would accept the invitation. When she did I was super excited,” said Diaz.

When the day came, Diaz did feel a little jittery.

“I was really afraid that something would go wrong. I wanted everything to go smoothly. It was very nerve-racking meeting her.”

However, Diaz did not have to worry as the lecture and meeting went off without

any problems.

“I was so happy to meet her and she was so great in person. She was the reason I got into Asian studies after I read her research,” she said of the experience. “She has had a huge influence on my life and meeting her justified everything I had done up to that point. I’m so grateful FIU provided me this opportunity.”

Not all first time experiences revolve around the classroom. They can often happen in the most happen in the most unexpected of places.

About a month ago students might have noticed the Gamestop located in the Graham Center was a bit more crowded than usual. This was due to the arrival of “Marvel vs. Capcom 3: Fate of Two Worlds”.

The game could be considered one of the most highly anticipated video games in recent memory.

Students swarmed the Gamestop when word got out that the game was playable there and soon mini tournaments developed among the students.

“I came to play the game here and noticed quite a few things about the game. The controls were simplified and there were new characters in the game. A lot of good ones too like Dormmamu, X-23 and Deadpool,” said Chris Trill, Junior. The game developed its own community on campus.

“I remember seeing the crowd for the first time and wondering what it was about. I walked and saw the game being played and decided to stay. I learned new things about the game playing against other students. The game has brought people together and I have made new friends in the process,” said Trill.

The college setting provides people with experiences they will carry with us for the rest of their lives. When they first happen, students might not realize it, but there is no doubt how much of an impact they make.

Whether it is becoming part of a community or meeting one’s idol, being at the University provides students with firsts that are embedded in minds forever.

FASHION FINDS

Overdressing is a problem in the eyes of the beholder

I have a major issue with overdressing. Some of my friends have nicknamed me Diva because I somehow manage to always be “that girl” at the beer pong tournament wearing five-inch heels.

It’s mostly due to my Napoleon complex and how I really want to be tall. I’m not short, I just about hit 5’6”, but I’m still no Scandinavian super model.

If you’ve ever read my column, then you may know about my affinity for heels or as I affectionately call them, hooker heels.

The one part of graduating this semester that I’m looking forward to is being able to wear heels on a daily basis without looking like an idiot.

The use of heels and always dressing up is a matter of opinion. Everyone has a different say on whether or not they should be worn freely. I always feel insecure wearing heels to school; I think I look dumb when I do. Some people can pull it off, but they are few and far between.

But regardless of my love for heels, my closet is full of dresses and pieces made from pretty feminine fabrics that aren’t always appropriate for the bar.

I’ve learned this the hard way. For instance, a couple of weekends ago I went to a friend’s party. My thought process was a little something like this: “Hey! It’s a party! I’m going to have fun with my outfit tonight!”

So, I went into my closet, pulled out my leather shorts (they aren’t as provocative as they sound), a blouse, put on some pumps and headed out.

In my little bubblehead, I thought I would blend. Some people get dressed to stand out, I don’t. I just want to look nice.

So, when I got there, of course I was eons overdressed. Most of my friends were in jeans and tees and their accessory was a beer

can. Oh, and apparently there was a no shoe policy at the party I was unaware of.

The feeling in the pit of my stomach where I feel like I’m a fool for getting so decked out is one I know very well. The one perk about it is you’re pretty much guaranteed attention from boys. It can go one of two ways: one, he’s the kind of guy that appreciates a girl who puts effort in to her appearance. Or he could think you’re shallow and spend too much time looking at yourself in the mirror.

Whatever the case may be, I find that sky-high heels always turn out to be a conversation starter.

Who would have thought fashion could serve as a dating aide?

I’m trying to change my overdressed ways, I really am. I have a task force, aka my friends, making sure I put down the heels and pick up my flats. It’s been a hard process and every outing is a battle. I always reach for the wedges or heels.

I have a good argument, too! They elongate the legs and polish off your outfit! Please, let me wear the heels! But no, they argue that I look ridiculous in a bay side café wearing a dress and heels when everyone else is in a beach cover up and boat gear. Whatever, people.

TONED DOWN OUTFIT IDEAS:

Going to a bar: Jeans, a tee or casual blouse and sandals. It’s comfortable and accommodates the beer bloat.

Going to a get together: Denim cutoffs, a striped tee and flats. Have fun with accessories on this one. A beaded necklace with bright colored gems adds a pop of sparkle and lets you maintain some personal style and flair.

Going to a weekend barbecue: A sundress and sandals work perfectly. Stay away from white unless your favorite accessory is a barbecue-sauce stain.

Fashion Finds is a weekly column on fashion. Look for it every Monday.

THIS WEEK ON CAMPUS

MONDAY, APRIL 11, 2011

SPC: COMEDY SHOW
RONNIE J. & JIM TAVARE
WHEN: 6 p.m.
WHERE: BBC WUC Theater

MENTORING PROGRAM
END OF THE YEAR CELEBRATION
WHEN: 12-1 p.m.
WHERE: BBC WUC 159

WIND AND PERCUSSION
ARTS SERIES: “AWAKENING NATURE”



The FIU Wind Ensemble performs under the direction of Catherine Rand.

WHEN: 11:30 a.m.-1 p.m.
HOW MUCH: \$5 students, \$10 FIU faculty, staff and seniors, \$15 general admission
WHERE: FIU Herbert and Nicole Wertheim Performing Arts Center, Concert Hall

FOOD BANK/ PET CARE SUPPLIES DRIVE
WHEN: All Day
WHERE: MMC DM 331/ Briarwood Animal Hospital

SAVE509 SCHOOL SUPPLY DRIVE
WHEN: All Day
WHERE: FIU South

SPEAK SPRING SHOW-CASE
WHEN: 8-10 p.m.
HOW MUCH: Free
WHERE: Towers Lounge

HATHA YOGA



WHEN: 1:30-2:30 p.m.
HOW MUCH: Free
WHERE: Behind the organic garden

CATWALK ON WALL STREET: PROFESSIONAL FASHION SHOW
WHEN: 8-11 p.m.
HOW MUCH: Door-\$7, VIP-\$10
WHERE: MMC GC Ballrooms

SCHOOL SUPPLY DRIVE FOR COLLEGE KICKSTART
WHEN: All Day
WHERE: MMC ZEB, 3rd Floor, box near the elevators

TUESDAY, APRIL 12, 2011

BATTLE OF THE SEXES
WHEN: 12 p.m.
HOW MUCH: Free
WHERE: Panther Square

SPC: MAGICIAN PETER BOIE



WHEN: 6 p.m.
WHERE: BBC WUC Theater

FIU NEW MUSIC MIAMI ISCM FESTIVAL: “LE BALCON”



WHEN: 7:30 p.m.
HOW MUCH: \$10 students, \$15 FIU faculty, staff and seniors, \$25 general admission
WHERE: FIU Herbert and Nicole Wertheim Performing Arts Center, Concert Hall

ELECTIONS & AWARD CEREMONY: E-BOARD
WHEN: 4-5 p.m.
WHERE: MMC GC 305

WEEKLY MEDITATION



WHEN: 2- p.m.
HOW MUCH: Free
WHERE: Garden

LEARN BY TAKING THINGS APART

WHEN: 5-6 p.m.
WHERE: MMC ECS 280

SAVE509 SCHOOL SUPPLY DRIVE
WHEN: All Day
WHERE: FIU South

REBEL RUN TUESDAYS KICKOFF



WHEN: 10 p.m.
HOW MUCH: Free
WHERE: The Stage

If you are interested in having an event featured in the calendar, contact: calendar@fiusm.com

DIVERSIONS

1				2			8	
6				4				9
				7			4	6
	2				4		5	
		1				7		
	9		6				2	
9	5			3				
2				9				8
	7			6				5

Puzzle by websudoku.com

To solve the sudoku puzzle, every row, column and 3x3 box must contain the numbers 1-9 only once.
Check your answers on FIUSM.com
Puzzle Difficulty: Hard

Online courses a problematic option

GISELLE RODRIGUEZ
Staff Writer

Online courses purport to make our lives easier by offering us versatility and ease of access, but in reality they just make our lives unnecessarily complicated. The Internet, for all of its convenience and the good things it has done for our lives, is still an unreliable medium.

Regardless of how great your broadband connection is, one can still lose service, which is a problem compounded by the unreliability of the University’s system. I cannot count how many times I or some of my friends have been unable to log in to Moodle, Blackboard or any of the other web-based applications we rely on for our online classes. Leaving something as important as your final grade in a class up to the whim of a possibly erratic Internet connection is a horrible idea.

Case in point: I had just finished my second test for my online History of Rock and Roll class. It was supposed to be a simple summer class, but instead it turned out to be one of the biggest headaches of my college career. I had saved in between each answer, saved the entire test and double-checked my answers. I knew I was looking at a 90 percent test score at the least, maybe even a perfect score. Imagine my surprise when I got my results: 0/100, an F.

After a long conversation with UTS, they insisted there was nothing they could do for

“Leaving something as important as your final grade in a class up to the whim of a possibly erratic Internet connection is a horrible idea.”

me. They could prove I had turned in the exam and that it had contained answers, but they could do nothing else. My professor, a very nice man, said it was not a problem and that he would just average the first and last test for my final grade. Everything seemed alright, until I took my final test and the same thing happened: 0/100. Another F.

I was lucky that my professor let my grade for the first test I took stand as my final grade, but the odds are that my experience is the exception rather than the rule. Losing work through no fault of your own should not be an acceptable risk of taking an online class. These classes should carry the same amount of risk as in-a-desk physical classes, not more just for the sake of convenience.

In addition to the problems inherent in resting our grades on an arguably fallible system, comes a problem for teachers. While online classes may be an easier way of accessing grades, this medium falls short in any kind of class that needs discussion. Some of my classmates who are taking an online English literature class complain that the class

includes a lot of small papers on their opinion on a text, but there is no one to bounce that opinion off of except the professor. In other classes, arguably much of the learning comes from being able to discuss questions or alternative points of view. Learning in isolation behind a computer screen leaves a hole in the college experience.

With the University moving to more online classes, I can see the appeal, but I also worry about those taking them. While online classes allow students to work whenever and wherever they like, the fact remains that by not having a physical classroom, students are consistently at the whim of their Internet connection and the UTS servers in addition to their schedules.

Our GPAs are one of the most important things that we as students take away from our college experience. They are a part of the graduate school application process as well as part of a résumé. Leaving the possibility of further schooling as well as graduation in the hands of a system rife with problems is unfair to the students and those teaching them

THE BEACON | Editorial Student body presidents faced with many duties

With the Student Government Association elections put to rest, the time has come for both administrations to take care of the constituencies that put them in office. *The Beacon* has several expectations and suggestions for them.

MODESTO MAIDIQUE CAMPUS

In our voting guide, we mentioned that we were impressed with Patrick O’Keefe’s and Sanjeev Uhdnani’s idea of creating a volunteer program so students from the University would visit high schools as tutors, which would in turn improve recruitment. We sincerely hope that this program comes to fruition, as it would encourage the increased enrollment that the University seeks to acquire.

Another major improvement that we at *The Beacon* would like to see is an increased amount of collaboration with the Engineering Center. For the first time, voting polls were available at the satellite campus. Furthermore, O’Keefe and Uhdnani visited the campus often during their campaign to address the needs of the students. We hope that they continue to strengthen this relationship while fulfilling their needs.

In this same vein, we also hope that O’Keefe and Uhdnani strengthen the relationship with the Student Government Council at BBC. *The Beacon* reports that O’Keefe believes in the merits of a two-council system. Ergo, he and Uhdnani should address the problem that has plagued many past administrations: lack of communication. O’Keefe and Uhdnani should make a concentrated effort to reach out to the BBC administration.

BISCAYNE BAY CAMPUS

Although Denise Halpin and Emilio Collyer ran and won unopposed, the onus is still upon them to make major improvements at BBC.

As we have said with O’Keefe and Uhdnani, Halpin and Collyer must match their efforts to communicate. With their cooperation, both councils can work effectively and cohesively, ultimately healing the divide between the two. This means getting rid of the “abandoned step-child” mentality that past administrations have had and committing to the “unified University” vision.

According to our reporting, Halpin and Collyer recognized that the absence of opposition in the BBC elections were a sign of a very serious problem, namely lack of student participation. This is an issue that Halpin and Collyer must address, if only to strengthen the legitimacy of sustaining the campus’ council. We often argue that a single-council system would be an improvement, but if Halpin and Collyer manage to combat student apathy and gain active student participation in their government, both in candidacy and in voters, then we may reconsider.

In the meantime, Halpin and Collyer must fill the 12 empty seats in the six schools, in addition to Housing and Broward Pines Center, with capable students willing to represent the student body to the best of their abilities. Upon filling these empty seats, they must be sure that they will remain intact so that the council does not fall apart in the middle of their administration. Only then will the students at BBC receive the representation they seek and the improvements they need.

The administrations on both campuses, while chosen under very different circumstances, have the same responsibility to their constituencies. *The Beacon* hopes that both administrations follow through on their goals and get it done for the University.

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

“Enough is Enough”

Dear Fellow Panthers,

We, the Student Body Presidents of Florida International University, are in full support of a civil and violence-free campus. A university should be a safe place for students that fosters development and the obtaining of knowledge.

We as students must set the tone for our University. To set this tone, we encourage all students to act with civility with everyone that you encounter. It is also imperative to always report dangerous and/or suspicious behavior. Knowing that it only could save a life.

The University is a very safe campus, but we must all partner together to make it safer and violence-free. By your participation in “Enough is Enough” Day which will occur on April 13 at 11 a.m. in the Betty Chapman Plaza, we as students can take a stance and proclaim that we want our University to be violence free.

We hope to see you there!

In Panther spirit,

-Helena Ramirez and
Christin “Cici” Battle, Student
Body Presidents, Student
Government Association

KELLY MALAMBRI
Staff Writer

According to the *New York Times*, a recent filibuster in Missouri put a stop to the federal government’s extension of unemployment benefits in the state. The movement by the Republican state legislators should be applauded as they tell the federal government what they will no longer stand for.

Those Americans who are out of work should not be punished for living in a time of economic recession, but shelling out more unemployment money than is already given out is not feasible in such a time.

In their attempt to stand up for what they believe in, the Republican legislators of Missouri in no way target the unemployed alone; they also will refuse to accept additional funds towards education. *New York Times* writer A.G. Sulzberger quotes Jim Lembke, senator of Missouri: “‘This is about sending a message to the federal government from the state of Missouri that enough is enough... The federal government is sending us money they don’t have.’” Since money for

such programs is already allocated to each state, it does not seem wise to increase such funds when the country does not have the increased revenue to do so.

On March 24, 2011, a *Beacon* article described the way in which unemployment can be advantageous, however, this mentality only contributes to the time many will spend unemployed. The article points out that many may stay unemployed because they receive more money from the government than they would at an obtainable job, proving it to be extremely frivolous to give more money than already is being handed out as it is obviously already a significant amount.

Of course those who at one point held high-ranking jobs will not feel satisfied by a mediocre paying profession, but in times of need, sacrifice is required.

The article also states, “One can suggest getting multiple jobs [as a solution to unemployment], but there are very few people who would choose to do that given an option, especially when finding just one is hard enough.” I hardly believe such

EDITORIAL POLICY

Editorials are the unified 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*

SEND US YOUR LETTERS

Have something on your mind? Send your thoughts in (500 words maximum) to *opinion@fiusm.com* or drop by our offices at either GC 210 or WUC 124. *The Beacon* reserves the right to edit letters for size, grammar, and clarity. With your letter, be sure to include your name, major and year.

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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.

SPC will present Peter Boie, a ‘nonbelievers’ magician

FIU LIVE, page 12

includes music in his acts and often plays bass. Jordan includes more life lessons and Dil feels he could be compared to Martin Lawrence.

“These events are funded by students and programmed for students, and they can only get bigger with student participation!” Dil said.

Known as the “magician for nonbelievers,”

Boie is SPC-BBC’s main attraction for the next day of FIU Live.

From 12 to 1 p.m. on April 12, Boie will be in the cafeteria doing one-on-one performances with any student, faculty, or staff members there.

SPC-BBC will give out “Free Peter Boie” shirts in the beginning of the show to the first guests.

Dil believes he is not the conventional magician. Boie does not do card tricks or

other traditional magic tricks audiences are used to seeing.

Boie has done shows for other colleges and corporate and special event clients. He has also done one on one performances locker room sessions for the New England Patriots.

In an interview in February 2011 with *Campus Activities Magazine*, Boie explained his tag, “magician for nonbelievers.”

“Some folks think I will make them truly believe in magic by the end of the show and

if they want to, maybe they will,” Boie said, “Others believe it means I cater the show to those who normally don’t care for magic shows and I have had many people come up after a show and say they didn’t normally like the genre but they enjoyed my performance.”

Dil thinks students will enjoy Boie’s show because of its believability.

“[Boie] creates an atmosphere where you stop wondering whether it is real or not,” Dil said, “That’s why we chose him.”

Presidents at both campuses hope to be more ‘unified’

ELECTIONS, page 1

Simultaneously with the announcements at the GC Pit, Cathy Akens, assistant vice president of student affairs, announced the uncontested SGC-BBC results in Panther Square on April 7.

The president and vice president for the 2011-2012 academic year will be Denise Halpin and Emilio Collyer, respectively.

Though unopposed, 267 students voted for the Halpin and Collyer ticket.

“I believe [running uncontested] was more a reason to make sure people vote. Because if not, then it’s pointless,” Halpin said. “I don’t want it to seem like I don’t care and I don’t want the students to feel like their vote wouldn’t matter. To me it still does and I think to the campus it still matters.”

Halpin said she and her running mate worked hard to get people to vote by campaigning in “strategic locations,” including the Modesto Maidique Campus.

“I wanted to show face and show BBC is not to be overlooked and it does exist and we have an SGC and a council, and we would love to have anyone that would like to work for FIU and for the student body be a part of our council,” Halpin said.

The elections results confirmed six new

senators to the council.

Pablo Haspel, Yiran Song, Xin Zheng, Farah Yamini, and Daniel Usma filled the BBC Honors College, Hospitality and Tourism Management, and Arts and Sciences senate positions, respectively.

Odimayo Oluwatamilore was elected for senator-at-Large.

There were no candidates for the remaining SGC-BBC senate positions: Business Administration, Education, School of Journalism and Mass Communication, Nursing and Health Sciences, Housing, Broward Pines Center, Lower Division, and Graduate Senator.

Applications for the cabinet that will serve under the newly elected executive branch will be released in the beginning of the summer, after Halpin and Collyer meet with the outgoing president, Christin ‘CiCi’ Battle, to discuss the structure and upcoming roles.

All SGC winners will officially take office on May 9, the first day of the term in Summer A. Halpin said a main goal for the new executive board will be to ensure there is a good relationship between the separate campuses. Halpin said she and Collyer would start by going to MMC to congratulate the newly elected winners.

“I want to show there isn’t that perceived animosity between BBC and MMC, because since we did attend their debate, we heard a

lot of questions to the candidates that there’s a huge animosity, and we spend more time bickering than resolving issues,” Halpin said. “In my opinion, that isn’t as valid as it used to be because this year we really have been trying to get toward a unified FIU, and [Collyer] and I are going to be pushing to further that goal and expectation.”

O’Keefe shares similar sentiments.

“We’re hoping that MMC and BBC have better relations and get things going earlier. We’re meeting with [Halpin] and [Collyer] next week to talk about a new athletics campaign,” O’Keefe said.

Melissa Caceres contributed to this report.



ELIZABETH BRUNA PINEDA/THE BEACON

Recently elected student Government Council at Biscayne Bays Campus senators Farah Yamini (second from left) and Daniel Usma sit with Christin ‘CiCi’ Battle, current SGC-BBC president, and Emilio Collyer, vice president-elect, as they await the results of the elections.

TOTAL STUDENT VOTES AT BBC

President and Vice President:

Denise Haplin and Emilio Collyer - 267 votes

Senator at Large:

Odimayo Oluwatamilore - 270 votes

College of Arts and Sciences:

Farah Yamini - 60 votes

Daniel Usma - 33 votes

School of Hospitality and Tourism Management:

Yiran Song - 19 votes

Xin Zheng - 14 votes

Honors College:

Pablo Haspel - 5 votes

JOIN OUR STAFF!

The BEACON is always looking for talented and reliable individuals to join the staff. Don’t be shy; Stop by one of our offices located in GC 210 and WUC 124.

Global Learning for Global Citizenship

Tuesday Times Roundtable

at Biscayne Bay Campus (BBC)

Title:

Haiti’s Cultural Heritage

Moderator:

Lisel Picard, Latin American and Caribbean Center
Brooke Wooldridge, Digital Library of the Caribbean

Time & Location:

Tues., April 12

12:30-1:30pm

WUC 159 (Wolfe University Center)

Free Lunch Provided

presented by

The New York Times

FIU

Student Government Association

FIU

Global Learning



MEXICO

FARC, Taliban are among largest traffickers

A top U.S. State Department anti-narcotics official said Thursday that Colombia’s leftist rebels and the Taliban are among the world’s largest drug-trafficking organizations.



JAMAICA

Jamaica reports major drop in murders

Security leaders said saturating gang-infested areas with police and soldiers has led to a big drop in murders and some other major crimes, but activists contend human rights have been hurt by heavy-handed tactics.



VENEZUELA

Blackout hits large swath of Venezuela

A blackout hit a large swath of Venezuela on April 7, darkening street lights, shutting down the Caracas subway and prompting the government to announce temporary rationing measures.

Passionate surfer opens his own board shop

CHRISTOPHER TURPIN
Contributing Writer

While the beaches of South Florida may be more known for their views than their waves, one University student is working to change that perception, as well as South Florida beach culture.

Christopher Gonzalez is a junior business major. The 21-year-old Cuban-American from Miami, Fla. is simply looking to spread the love of surfing to all beach goers.

“I started surfing when I was 13 years old and I started shaping my own boards back in 2005 when I was 16 years old,” stated Gonzalez. “I just wanted to make my surf better, so I looked at how I could do that and just taught myself how to shape boards that would work for me” explained Gonzalez.

It wasn’t until a year ago he decided to start selling his customized surfboards online under the business name of Rubio Surfboards.

The name Rubio holds a special place in Gonzalez’s heart.

“I choose the name Rubio in honor of my dad,” Gonzalez said. “It’s his nickname and he’s always supported me in everything I do.”

Rubio Surfboards is built upon a philosophy of friendly customer service.

“It’s all about making the best

possible board for the person surfing in South Florida...I’m just trying to spread the love of my sport,” Gonzalez said.

This philosophy is also why the shop has a low price range for its boards.

“We give you everything you need included with the board plus a custom design, all at a lower than market price,” Gonzalez said.

Most surf shops might sell a board for \$700 or more; Gonzalez sells his for around \$500.

“Although prices vary based on what a person can afford; I always try to help the person out,” Gonzalez said.

Though the surf scene in South Florida isn’t as big as in other parts of the country or even further north, Gonzalez sees a potential in the South Florida surf scene.

“I think the surf scene in South Florida can be pretty big, it already is a close knit family,” he said.

This prompted the young surfer to establish a company team of his own. It consists of eight team riders at the moment, with a few riders competing in the Eastern Surf Association, the premier surf circuit for east coast surfers.

“It’s great to see these guys out there doing their thing at competitions and I’m proud of them,” Gonzalez said, while also adding



PHOTO COURTESY OF CHRISTOPHER GONZALEZ

Christopher Gonzalez, a junior business major and an avid surfer, opened his own surfboard shop in 2010. He also manages a team of eight surfers.

the competitive aspect isn’t his cup of tea.

“While going out to these tournaments really isn’t my thing, I support them nonetheless, plus I’m always on the lookout for new riders.”

His boards were recently featured in surf magazines such as East Coast Surf, Global Surf

News, and Wahine Surfline.

“It’s nice to be acknowledged by these great magazines. I know part of why they featured me is because the company is different and it’s a nice niche company in South Florida.”

Gonzalez has already started to apply what he’s learned in class.

“My classes have definitely helped me to better manage and organize my company.”

While at the moment there may not be much money out of this type of work, Gonzalez isn’t in it for the money.

“My joy is I just love seeing people riding my boards and enjoying themselves.”

FIU Live has comedy for the first day, magic for second

NADRA MABROUK
Staff Writer

FIU Lives kicks off this week with two events aimed at getting students to laugh out loud and “ooh” and “aah.”

On Monday, April 11 comedians Jim Tavare and Ronnie Jordan will perform in the Wolfe University Center at 8 p.m. The following day, Tuesday, April 12, magician Peter Boie will also perform in the theater at 8 p.m.

Tanha Dil, president of the Student Programming Council at the Biscayne Bay Campus and communications major, discovered both the comedians and the magician through the National Association for Campus Activities.

NACA was established in 1960 with a goal of advancing business and learning partnerships creating educational and business opportunities for

any participating college and professionals.

Dil was at NACA in November 2010 in Chattanooga, Tennessee. Catherine Vega, SPC-BBC marketing director; Mittra Mollaie, treasurer; Tamicha Roger, secretary; and Wolfgang Acevedo graduate assistant for Campus Life all accompanied Dil in Chattanooga. They found the comedic acts of Tavare and Jordan were entertaining and unique.

Both events are free to University students, faculty, and alumni with a ticket. Tickets may be picked up in the Campus Life office in room 141 of WUC.

Tavare is a British actor, stand-up comedian and musician. He played the part of Tom the bartender from the Leaky Cauldron in “Harry Potter and the Prisoner of Azkaban.” Oftentimes during his comedic performances, he plays bass. He was a

FIU LIVE EVENTS		
Kick-off Event and Comedy Show	Magic for non-believers	FIU LIVE Panther Palooza
<ul style="list-style-type: none">Time: 12 & 8 p.m.When: April 11Where: Panther Square & WUC Theatre	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Time: 8 p.m.When: April 12Where: WUC Theatre	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Time: 3 p.m.When: April 13Where: Field area behind pool

finalist in the NBC show “Last Comic Standing” and received fourth place. Tavare will be the opening act and Jordan will be ending the night.

Jordan has broken college touring records last spring after touring in 102 colleges in 112 days, according to ronniejordan.net . He also broke booking records in three regions during

his first year with Auburn Moon Agency. He was featured on BET’s “Comic View” and “P. Diddy presents Bad Boys of Comedy.”

“My wonderful council has worked tediously this school year to bring the best programming experience to our students of Biscayne Bay,” Dil said, “With open arms, we welcome

the student body to come end the year with our FIU Live week. That’s the best feeling in the world for us!”

Both comedians complement each other, as they are different from each other in their approaches to the audience during their acts, Dil said. Tavare