Marilyn Lopez
Contributing Writer

Paying for college is stressful for junior Melissa Grabiec.

"With the tuition that increased, I put it into my credit card. What can I do?" Grabiec said. "People say to stay out of credit card debt, but it's all education expenses."

Grabiec and others in her situation should note that University-wide scholarships are available to help.

FIU offers 23 scholarships for students with award money ranging from $750 to $3,500. In total, FIU is giving more than $225,000 to help students pay for college at a time when tuition is rising.

"It's a great opportunity, whether in need or not. Some scholarships are need-based and some are merit-based, but it helps ease the burden of college classes," said Bill Beesting, assistant dean of Undergraduate Studies.

Freshman Patricia Perez thinks she'll check out the scholarships available.

"I really need financial aid. I can't afford most of the things I need for school and I don't have a job. It wasn't a big shock for that tuition increase since it's my first year at FIU," said Patricia Perez, majoring in education.

How to Apply

Go to http://www.fiu.edu/scholarships or the FIU homepage and click on the scholarship link on the left-hand side. Students can apply for more than one scholarship.

Requirements

Undergraduate students must have a cumulative GPA of 3.0 or higher, and graduate students must have a cumulative GPA of 3.3 or higher, unless otherwise indicated. Students with lower GPAs should still investigate these awards because there are some with lower GPA requirements.

Interested students must have at least nine undergraduate credits or six graduate credits during the semester the award is given, unless otherwise indicated.

Students will need an unofficial transcript from FIU, or if students have less than 12 credits, an official transcript(s) from the other college(s) attended must be submitted.

The application also requires students to write a typed two-page essay. The essay should be double spaced, describing educational and professional goals, and tell how being a recipient of a scholarship will help fulfill them.
Online voting glitch does not affect record turnout

According to Carlos Ordoqui, SGC-UP elections commissioner, voter turnout nearly tripled last year. Ordoqui attributes the rise in to several key factors including the fact that this year, more than one ticket ran for president and vice president. The availability of online voting for the first time also helped.

"In our first day of voting, we did last year," Ordoqui said. "I definitely believe the online voting played a huge part in it. The fact that we have so many more candidates helped. I saw a lot more campaigning this year than last. People were trying a lot harder to get those extra votes."

Following tradition, Meyer was taken to the fountain in front of Primera Casa and thrown in, as is the tradition for newly elected SGC-UP presidents. Later LaPointe and some of her campaign members also took a dive in the fountain.

In addition to the elections, an initiative to change the current SGC-UP constitution passed with 2015 votes in favor and 315 against. The new constitution creates new representative seats in the SGC-UP, among other changes.

Voting began April 1 and it started with a glitch that made it impossible for students to cast their votes from roughly 9 a.m. to 9:30 a.m. Jose Toscano, SGC-UP advisor, commented that a missing "s" from an Internet link was to blame.

Online voting was a joint venture of University Technology Services and Acceleration – a software company located in Gainesville. The link the company provided with the missing "s" made voting hardly possible. However, students who could not vote in the half hour time frame were able to vote once the error was corrected by UTS.

According to Toscano, no votes were lost as a result of the glitch, as the glitch stopped votes from being cast in the first place.

The promotional materials for the Madique’s appearance incorrectly stated that the medical school’s opening would be delayed, but both public relations and Madique made sure to correct the mistake.

“I have complete confidence that our friends in Tallahassee will make sure our college of Medicine will open on time,” said Madique.

In a newsletter sent out on March 27, Madique said that the state legislature hasn’t yet approved the school’s funding, but he expressed confidence they would.

Rock talked about the Medical school’s community outreach programs such as the Neighborhood Health Education Learning Program, which will integrate health students into community based teams to help lower income families with health care and expose students to the complexities of health care delivery to underserved populations,” according to FIU’s Legislative priorities.

“We have a community focus,” said Rock. “How can we be a part of the solution and help neighborhoods?”

Madique concluded with a metaphor for FIU’s current status, saying that the medical school and athletics were on target due to their independence from the general operating funds, but that the rest of the school will be dependent on the funding the state allows.

“Students, of their own will, have increased the Athletics fee,” said Madique.

“My wish is to have FIU funded competitively with major universities around the country.”
Grammar pageant benefits Youth AIDS program

ANNA PEREZ
BBC Life Editor

Imagine a beauty pageant filled with long legs in bikinis and smiles wishing for world peace. Now, erase that image and instead picture 10 FIU students competing in an educational yet entertaining pageant while supporting a cause - fighting AIDS.

On April 4, the School of Journalism and Mass Communication will present the "Where Brains Meet Beauty" grammar pageant in the Wolfe University Center ballroom at 7 p.m. All proceeds will benefit Youth AIDS, an AIDS education and prevention program of Population Services International, an international nonprofit organization that provides health care services, support and education. The group uses media, pop culture, music, theater and sports to fight the spread of HIV/AIDS and reaches 600 million young people worldwide.

Youth AIDS is sending a video to show at the pageant in the Wolfe University Center Student Government Council event on April 5. "We want to get the students involved with their community and also to have a great time," Chaundry said.

"We want to provide an opportunity for networking that students normally do not have because of their busy schedules," Chaundry said.

Free parking will be provided and there is no dress code for the event.

"I know we had really committed ourselves to trying to make grammar less of a taboo subject and realize that it’s important, and then with the AIDS thing, its two issues that the school believes are really important and I figured if we put them together it’s bringing awareness to both of these issues in a lighthearted, fun way.

In addition to SIMC, AdScene, Media on Demand and PRSSA have helped promote the grammar pageant.

Visit www.FIUSM.com for the complete story.

NADER VS. BIG BUSINESS


Silva ready to serve her campus

SGC-BBC, page 1

"If you were on campus at all during the campaign period you would definitely see that Ana was out there and she was pushing. Her family was out here, her friends and her supporters were out here and they were really pushing," Saintable said. "So students who don’t know neither Kanasha, nor Ana, nor Shane, if they see them and speak to them the first day of elections or the day before elections and tells them where the free pizza is, that’s who they vote for. Visibility and marketing is important and she definitely had that on lock.

Along with promotional flyers, Silva’s strategy included referring to her brother, 2006-2007 SGC-BBC President Camilo Silva, for advice. "I had a campaign team and basically, first and foremost, it was my family - my parents and my brother," Silva said. "My brother was my campaign manager so he helped me with a lot of ideas, a lot of strategies for talking to students."

Katiana Saintable, current SGC-BBC president, said "Her family, friends and supporters were out here and they were really pushing ... visibility and marketing is important and she had that on lock.

Silva appreciated the student body’s support in electing her and looks forward to the 2008-2009 school year. "I feel the 2008-2009 year is going to be a good year for campus involvement because now that the campus knows who I am it’s going to be easier to reach out to the students and invite them to events, invite them to be involved," Silva said. "I’m very happy to be elected as SGC-BBC and Pines Center president.”

Saintable hopes the new council will continue to maintain BBC’s standard of excellence. "With each time the torch passes, it is going to be a good year for campus involvement because now that the campus knows who I am, it’s going to be easier to reach out to the students and invite them to events, invite them to be involved," Silva said. "I’m very happy to be elected as SGC-BBC and Pines Center president.”

"My hope is to see that they go above and beyond and really make BBC a student dynamic,” Saintable said. "Not just keep our head above water but keep doing really good things to continue to be a really great campus; to have students feel that this is a community.”

THE RESULTS ARE IN

POST CAMPAIGN: SGC-BBC presidential candidate Shane Gray reacts to the election results on April 3. Gray lost to Ana Maria Silva.

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"My hope is to see that they go above and beyond and really make BBC a student dynamic,” Saintable said. "Not just keep our head above water but keep doing really good things to continue to be a really great campus; to have students feel that this is a community.”
FEES

The definition of these candidates is how they would handle a proposed increase of Activities and Services fees, the per-credit-hour fees that make up SGA's budget.

"When this issue does come up to vote, Paige and I will definitely hold forums, and surveys," Meyer told The Beacon in an interview.

Ruiz took a less democratic approach to speaking to a potential fee increase.

"An A&S fee increase would be the most amazing thing ever," Ruiz told The Beacon.

"As you know those are the funds that [Student Government] gets to appropriate.

Governments, even at the student level, it seems, are all to quick to spend other people's money.

While an increase in fees would provide more funding to on-campus services, it should be as up to the students, based on their own financial situations, campus experiences and research on the current efficiency of SGA, whether or not more money should be poured into SGA's budget.

Our elected representatives should not be so quick to assist that higher fees will be better for us.

PRIORITIES

Both sets of candidates had a list of goals to accomplish if elected.

These goals were made well known during the campaign process and now that the ballots have been cast, it is time to finalize the populations which will attend.

Both camps listed increasing safety as a top concern. This should be priority number one.

This semester, The Beacon has reported on faulty police radios, a high number of car thefts on campus, trespassers loitering in campus rooms, mysterious persons tapping on the windows of female housing students and exposed that during at least one shift, as little as two public safety officers were on duty to protect the entire University Park campus.

It's not that officers aren't doing their job, but in an urban university with as many students as us and so many entrances, resources for safety are simply not there.

The beginning phases of a program to install emergency telephones in every classroom may help in responding to incidents (if there are enough officers on duty during that shift, with working radios), but only increased visibility, with more vehicle and foot patrols can prevent crime.

SGA should continue to start and fund its own initiatives related to safety, such as the Panther Safety Tram, and do whatever it takes to let the powers-at-be know that FIU is behind our police, but demand more resources.

Other initiatives include positive environmental action and student involvement. SGC-UP's foray into "going green" is somewhat of a shift from this past year, in which SGC-UP charged the lead.

In the Nov. 27, 2007 issue of The Beacon, Meyer said that SGC-UP prefers not to start environmental initiatives of their own, while Cassadene Andrade, SGC-UP's vice president said that her campus has been dedicated to achieving their goal of having a more environmentally friendly campus.

Both goals of environmental action and student involvement are noble, but SGA must realize that many companies are taking advantage of the "green" craze and not get caught up in any expensive endeavors which it may not be able to afford at the moment in order to achieve its environmental initiative.

On the token of student involvement, Greeks and non-Greeks, housing students and commuters, undergraduates and masters and doctoral students should all be considered when programming student involvement.

TO THE EDITOR

Structure of allocating student fees has some flaws that should be questioned

Why would anyone pay for something that they would not use? Should one disburse funds from their wallet for something they really aren't interested in?

The answers to both of these questions are obvious.

Yet thousands of students at FIU waste hundreds of dollars on student Activity and Service fees each year.

Sure, the money is reinvested in students so that they will "develop a better sense of community and develop into exceptional student leaders,

but is this actually the case? The funds collected are not allocated equally to student organizations.

Sometimes, this is merely because student government leaders are afraid to hurt the feelings of organizations that have been given special treatment for a long time (by not treating them special anymore).

The entire system for allocating A&S funds to organizations is being suffocated with flaws. Funds should be distributed based on those generated them.

Instead, hundreds of thousands of dollars are distributed and ambitious student leaders plan and coordinate events to which a mere one or two percent of the entire FIU student population will attend.

Reasons for not attending range from, "I wasn't interested," "I had no idea such an event was taking place," or "I had to study," to "I didn't have transportation."

Meanwhile, organizations with insufficient funds and a growing student population are scrutinizing every dollar spent and reconsidering event ideas ever so carefully because they were not given the funds they requested for the events they planned.

So is it really worth it for students to pay hundreds of dollars in A&S fees each year when all it does is put another financial burden on them?

Sumnia Chaudhry
Finance
Junior
In the spirit of April Fools Day, comedy troupe Just the Funny took audience involvement to the next level.

A cellphone erupted a brawl between two audience members, who were actors, and ended up just being part of the laughs; a staged joke from the troupe.

Audience involvement seems to be a focus of the troupe, as JTF regularly presents a Chicago-style improv show based on suggestions from the audience.

It’s “Saturday Night Live” meets “Whose Lines is it Anyway?” This weekend, audience members can expect a special April Fools edition of JTF’s monthly performances.

Each month, members of the board of directors for JTF take turns programming different comedy shows. For April, Jennifer Buddin is in charge of the April Fools theme.

“This is the perfect holiday for us to exploit,” Buddin said. “All of us have a little prankster in us.”

The two-night event kicks off on Friday, April 4 at 9 p.m. This show is typically more family-oriented and open to all ages. The second showing starts at 11 p.m. and is meant for mature adults. On both nights, the 9 p.m. event will feature a prank created by JTF. Each night, pranks will be different — whether it be a mock fight or the use of some strange object kept under wraps.

When it comes to improv comedy, every JTF show is always fresh and new. “If I did a play for 13 years I would be bored by now because it’s always the same thing. Unlike with improv where you can always try something new,” said David Christopher, a founding JTF member.

JTF was started by a group of friends who are UM and FIU alumni. Christopher is currently part of the FIU Alumni Circle for the School of Business. Although his comedy was not inspired by FIU, it has helped him in the business aspect of JTF. Before getting their own theater, JTF rehearsals were held at FIU’s Deuxieme Maison in any empty room.

Today, the troupe performs at their own theater at 3119 Coral Way.

Tickets for the 9 p.m. performances are $10 and the 11 p.m. performances cost $5.

“It’s a cheap date if you don’t want to go to the movies and a good way to get into the pranking season,” Buddin said.
EDUARDO MORALES
Contributing Writer

For the past two weeks, the second floor of the Green Library has been home to a mysterious maze, a chaotic piece of art and a fallen soldier with something to say.

The Aesthetics and Values Exhibition, open now for viewing, is entirely organized by Honors College students currently in their third year. The exhibition serves as a project in the art as a social studies class, taught by Professor Bailly.

“We learn about art through history and how it reflects the time it is from,” said junior Gabriela Perez, who is involved in the project.

While a large percentage of time during the class is spent organizing the exhibition, students are responsible for several other things as well.

“They also write research papers about different artists, read books, complete visual thinking projects and do exhibitions for those projects,” Bailly said. The class was also responsible for a film festival earlier this semester.

Besides turning in research papers, attending field trips and reading several books, the class was hard at work on every aspect of the display, from filling the floor with art to creating the Web site advertising the event, http://hon.fiu.edu/%7Eav/. Getting the art pieces on display was a hard and daunting task for the students.

Bailly put out a list of local artists that the students could choose from and represent, but students also had the option of selecting artists outside the list.

“If we found an artist that wasn’t on that list, we approached John to see if he’d allow them,” said junior Sarena Bahad.

“We had the power to choose an artist that intrigued us and go about it in our own way, which is excellent for this project.”

The exhibition’s main piece is “Man Down,” which was picked by students to stand prominently in the center of GL’s second floor.

The artwork, created by Guerra De La Paz and valued at $25,000, shows a fallen soldier with his arm in the air, middle finger on display.

The piece has received quite a response from the University.

On one occasion, someone left toy soldiers scattered around the display. An unknown viewer made physical contact with the piece and placed the finger down, only to have it back up again soon after.

While the artists are thrilled at the response, Bailly is curious as to how one can interfere with art.

“How can you compromise the integrity of this powerful statement?” Bailly said.

Juniors Andrew Scharhag and Andrea Lahoz are the two students who worked together with De La Paz to put the work on display.

Other pieces such as “The Maze” required juniors Cindy Kohn-Cybulkiewicz and Christian Villaseca to put it together.

“Please Don’t Stop the Music,” a work that symbolizes the chaos and disconnection in our lives, is a maze that intrigued the University.

It’s shaped differently every time it goes.

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“Please Don’t Stop the Music,” a work that symbolizes the chaos and disconnection in our lives, required assembly as well.

It’s shaped differently everywhere it goes.

The Aesthetics and Values Exhibition organized by the Honors College will be open until April 11 at the Green Library; the exhibition is sponsored by Burger King and the Student Government Association and the Resident Housing Association.

For more info, visit http://hon.fiu.edu/%7Eav/.

ART LINGO: Juniors Rachelle Galindo (left) and Monica Rodriguez (right) explain the new art exhibit in the Green Library.
Second inning rally spurs UM offense, Golden Panthers lose

BASEBALL, page 8

slavish in the 4th inning. Offensively, the Golden Panthers produced six hits with two runs to show for it. Tyler Townsend had an RBI groundout in the fourth inning, and Ryan Mollica singled home Steven Stropp in the seventh inning for the second run.

Junior Arrojo was thrown out at the plate by Hurricane right fielder Dennis Raben on the same play.

UM pitcher David Gutierrez (1-0) pitched 6 innings and allowed only one run off of three hits. He walked three and struck out only one.

Jorge Castillo singled in the fourth inning to extend his hitting streak to 26 games. He finished 1-for-4 on the night.

The two losses this week dropped the Golden Panthers to 11-19.

When asked about facing his former coaching partner in UM Coach Jim Morris, Thomas responded, “It’s not coach vs. coach it’s the players vs. the players. We got behind big early and their starting pitcher pitched very well.

The team will play the second game of the two-game set on April 23 at 6 p.m. in Coral Gables.

The attendance for the game was the highest at University Park so far this season as there were 1,786 fans in attendance. The crowd consisted of a mix between both Golden Panther and Hurricanes fans as expected.

Bullpen play sets up extra inning win

SUN BELT SOFTBALL STANDING

TEAM
Florida Atlantic 7-2  25-18 .581
FIU 6-2  22-23 .488
Troy 8-4  23-15 .605
ULL 3-2  23-10 .697
North Texas 7-5  21-17 .447
Middle Tennesse 5-6  12-17 .414
South Alabama 3-6  17-17 .500
UM 2-7  10-22 .312
Western Kentucky 2-9  14-20 .412

*All records up to date as of April 3

SUN BELT LEADERS

INDIVIDUAL BATTING
Min 2.0 AB G Avg AB R H RBI 2B 3B HR BB
Tankersley ULL 31 434 99 28 43 36 5 2 11 16
Smith ULL 29 420 69 22 39 5 1 0 10 10
White FIU 43 409 122 35 54 12 12 0 10 18
Carroll ULL 37 387 119 15 46 30 12 1 5 12

CROSS-TOWN RIVALRY ENDING; TEAM’S PITCHING FALTERS AGAIN

TOWERS, page 8

Team took very little time to establish their dominance over their cross-town rivals, tagging the Golden Panthers pitching staff for 12 runs during the first four innings.

The worst part of this scoring glut for the Hurricanes was starter Corey Polizzano and reliever Daniel DeSimone retiring the first two batters of the 2nd and 3rd inning, before being hit for six and five runs respectively.

Polizzano even struck out the first two batters he faced in the 2nd inning; making third baseman Mark Sobolewski and shortstop Ryan Jackson look foolish by changing speeds and mixing up his pitches.

Then everything came unraveled for him, as his pitches flattened out and found the fat part of the strike zone.

Hurricanes hitters pounded him to the tune of six runs on seven hits, including a mammoth home run from left fielder Dave DiNatale, whose shot landed well beyond the stadium and onto the soccer field.

If the coverage of the baseball team in this paper is starting to sound like a broken record, it is only because former head coach Dave Price left the team with a broken record, it is only because former head coach Danny Price left the team with a broken record, it is only because former head coach Danny Price left the team with a broken record, it is only because former head coach Danny Price left the team with a broken record, it is only because former head coach Danny Price left the team with a broken record, it is only because former head coach Danny Price left the team with a broken record, it is only because former head coach Danny Price left the team with a broken record, it is only because former head coach Danny Price left the team with a broken record, it is only because former head coach Danny Price left the team with a broken record, it is only because former head coach Danny Price left the team with a broken record, it is only because former head coach Danny Price left the team with a broken record, it is only because former head coach Danny Price left the team with a broken record, it is only because former head coach Danny Price left the team with a broken record, it is only because former head coach Danny Price left the team with a broken record, it is only because former head coach Danny Price left the team with a broken record, it is only because former head coach Danny Price left the team with a broken record, it is only because former head coach Danny Price left the team with a broken record, it is only because former head coach Danny Price left the team with a broken record, it is only because former head coach Danny Price left the team with a broken record, it is only because former head coach Danny Price left the team with a broken record, it is only because former head coach Danny Price left the team with a broken record, it is only because former head coach Danny Price left the team with a broken record, it is only because former head coach Danny Price left the team with a broken record, it is only because former head coach Danny Price left the team with a broken record, it is only because former head coach Danny Price left the team with a broken record, it is only because former head coach Danny Price left the team with a broken record, it is only because former head coach Danny Price left the team with a broken record, it is only because former head coach Danny Price left the team with a broken record, it is only because former head coach Danny Price left the team with a broken record, it is only because former head coach Danny Price left the team with a broken record, it is only because former head coach Danny Price left the team with a broken record.

The sad part about this game is that this healthy rivalry, which has seen the teams play each other at least twice in every season since 1973, appears to be ending following this season, as UM looks to be trying to distance themselves from their natural rival across town.

Whether it is because of the football fight in 2006 or UM head coach Jim Morris' dislike of new FIU head Coach Turtle Thomas, the fact remains that for both teams, this series has always brought in bigger crowds and better atmospheres.

If this is indeed the final time the two teams continue their rivalry, then I certainly can’t. This is the series we’ve been waiting for all season,” McClendon said.

The Beacon – April 4, 2008
LUCKY THIRTEEN

Two walk-off wins cap off slugfest, home doubleheader

LUCA MESSINA
Staff Writer

The first inning was shaky but no runs were scored off of FIU starter Corey Pollizano. He was poised to retire the UM hitters in order during the 2nd inning until Joey Terdoslavich’s single began a 2-out rally that ultimately doomed the Golden Panthers. The No. 2 ranked University of Miami Hurricanes (23-2) dominated the Golden Panthers 13-2 on April 2 at University Park Stadium in the first of two meetings between the two rival schools this season. The Hurricanes amassed 17 hits and were aided by four Golden Panthers errors.

“IT was just a very poor effort,” head coach Turtle Thomas said.

Coming off of a 13-6 loss to Florida Gulf Coast University on April 1, a game that saw FIU produce five errors, the Golden Panther’s early deficit was too much to overcome. By the bottom of the fourth inning, the Hurricanes led 12-0. Pollizano (3-4), usually a weekend starter, was on the mound for FIU and lasted only 1.2 innings before being yanked for freshman Daniel DeSimone. “I didn’t throw many good pitches tonight: I threw too many right down the middle,” Pollizano said. “I got behind the hitters too much and they were just too good.” His struggles were highlighted by a long two-run home run by UM left fielder Dave DiNatale. DeSimone entered the game in the second inning but could not stop the powerful Hurricanes’ offense as he let up five runs, none of which were earned. He ended up pitching one full inning and finished with two walks and a strikeout. He was also responsible for one of the four FIU errors when he threw an errant pickoff attempt.

Senior James Lajiness relieved DeSimone in the third inning and carried the load for 4.1 innings. He finished with a career-high five strikeouts and when he struck out the side in the seventh inning, he became the first Golden Panther pitcher to do so this season.

His only blemish was when he gave up a solo home run to designated hitter Joey Terdoslavich in the fourth. DeSimone entered the game in the second inning but could not stop the powerful Hurricanes’ offense as he let up five runs, none of which were earned. He ended up pitching one full inning and finished with two walks and a strikeout. He was also responsible for one of the four FIU errors when he threw an errant pickoff attempt.

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