Some majors worse off than others, graduating students rethink careers

MIGUEL CHATELON Contributing Writer

Recent information from the Career Services office shows that some majors will be doing significantly worse than others in South Florida when it comes to finding jobs right out of college.

Traditional majors such as philosophy, English, history, journalism and political science are going to face challenges as the job markets in those fields have been decreasing, according to information compiled by Career Services from U.S. news and the Department of Labor Statistics.

This news has caused several graduates to rethink what they will do with their degrees.

Christopher Lee Reyes received his Bachelor’s in Arts degree in political science and international relations Spring 2010. While he would love to see himself working as a congressional aide and analyst in Washington, the 23-year-old is now taking a preparatory course for the Law School Admissions Test. While he would love to go to law school, he is not sure if going to the University of Florida as a backup plan.

Peter Thompson, economics professor and chairperson at the Economics Department, says will be inevitable for graduates looking for jobs in South Florida’s harsh economy, stating that it may be smarter to actively search for an ideal job, working at a stable one.

Thompson also stressed that the success in job searching depends on geographic mobility, saying that while 75 to 85 percent of the FIU student body lives in South Florida, only 55 percent of them will actually work in the region 5 to 10 years after graduation. “FIU’s history is sort of [about] opening up doors to students, but those doors aren’t necessarily local,” said Thompson.

While smart job searching is important for all fields of study, Ledesma believes certain majors will be better off as Florida moves slowly out of the recession.

Job markets such as nursing, engineering, computer software, computer engineering, information technology, occupational therapy, special education, and financial advising are now seeing increases by as much as 26 percent.

More jobs are promised in environmentally related fields, Emily Eisenhauer, a researcher associate at the Labor Center’s Research Institute on Social and Economic Policy said that “there’s a lot of interest in anything that promotes green and environmentally friendly areas: everything from trades and construction related jobs.”

Another option for students to consider is the Federal Government. Ledesma states that the FBI is known to hire those with accounting, engineering, computer software, computer engineering, information technology, occupational therapy, special education, and financial advising.

Florida’s unemployment rate, which has been above the national average during the recession, decreased from its highest in its history at 12.3 percent in February, to 11.2 percent in June, according to the Federal Bureau of Labor Statistics.

A total of 296 students came out to vote during the Green Energy Fund referendum and constitution amendment special election on Wednesday June 30.

According to Luis Robays, the newly appointed Student Government elections commissioner, out of the 296, 201 students voted for the amendments to the Student Government constitution while 46 voted against it and 49 abstained.

The Green Energy Fund passed with 222 students voted for it, while 46 students voted against and 10 abstained.

The Green Energy Fund is a Florida student-led initiative with the goal of giving students at individual universities the right to vote on and approve minimal fees to generate large sums of money for campuses to spend on energy efficiency and renewable energy projects.

Cara Cooper, president of Students for Environmental Action, is thrilled with the show of support from the Student Body for the Green Energy Fund, and is now anticipating the process in which they will take the official turnout numbers and present them to the Board of Trustees for approval.

“What happens now is that SEAL and the Sustainability Committee go to the Board of Trustees and make their case,” said Helena Ramirez, Student Government at Modesto Maidique Campus president.

The Green Energy Fund will be presented by SEAL and the Sustainability Committee in September, at the first BOT meeting during the fall semester. If the BOT approves the fee, it would then be taken to the State University System Board of Governors for final approval.

“The Board of Governors last year was given the power to create a new fee or to give fees to the Universities through the legislature,” Ramirez said. Once it gets to the BOT, they may choose to approve it or deny it.

If the BOG approves the new fee, the University would have to hold another referendum in which students would vote on whether or not they truly want the fee, and if so, how much money they would be willing to pay.

According to Ramirez, the final student vote on the Green Energy Fee would present voters with a number of options. Students may vote yes and select if they would like the fee to be 25 cents, 50 cents, 75 cents or $1. Students may also vote against the fee altogether.

Ramirez stresses that this initial referendum was “basically a student consensus” for SEAL and the Sustainability Committee to present to the Board of Trustees when they make their case for the fee in September.

When asked why SGA chose to hold the elections during the Summer B semester, when there...
Gulf oil spill prompts action from FIU researchers and student groups

ALEXANDRA CANEJO
Asst. News Director

While the British Petroleum oil spill continues to wreck the waters of the Gulf of Mexico, researchers and environmental organizations at FIU are taking the helm of crisis aid and prevention research across the state.

Since the April 20 Deepwater Horizon explosion, which resulted in the death of 11 workers, millions of gallons of oil have spilled into the Gulf, resulting in severe devastation to wildlife on the shores and in the ocean. The ongoing destruction has prompted action from FIU student groups and faculty members alike.

Dr. Michael Heithaus, the Director of the School of Environment and Society, is mobilizing research and providing public education about the impact this oil spill will have on the human and environmental society.

Heithaus has corralled a team of FIU researchers to study the current water quality and biological communities of southern Florida. By understanding the state of ecosystems before oil arrives, Heithaus and his team expect to be able to effectively document the effects of the spill.

Through the efforts of the school’s researchers and Dr. Heithaus, FIU is involved in numerous fronts aiming to improve the current situation in the Gulf and spread education that will reduce a demand for oil.

Aside from the teach-in conducted by a panel of experts on May 15, FIU is also collaborating with other universities involved in the State University System’s Oil Spill Academic Task Force, hoping to appoint the most equipped team to bear on the problem in the Gulf. By doing so, it is the hope of Heithaus and FIU researchers that they can prevent another disaster like this from occurring—especially after witnessing the damage being suffered by the Gulf’s ecosystems.

“Huge areas of marsh that provide habitat for many species of fishes, birds, invertebrates, and other animals have been destroyed or damaged. It is going to take years or decades for the Gulf ecosystems to recover,” states Heithaus.

It is this ecological destruction that has sparked such fervor involvement from one of FIU’s prominent environmental voices, Student Environment Action Team (SEAT). The organization has hosted several events across campus, and is currently working with a non-profit organization, Matter of Trust, focusing on the collection and creation of hair braids.

According to SEAT President, Cara Cooper, “Hair braoms are essentially nylon panty hose stuffed with hair clippings. They are extremely efficient at removing oil from water as well as off the beaches.”

While any student can offer assistance by visiting the Students for Enviromental Action Facebook page, SEAT is now urging students to contact their elected officials and voice their support for energy alternatives.

Heithaus gave another suggestion that he believes will create a more permanent effect.

“Probably the best things that most people can do is to reduce their use of energy so that there is a reduction in demand for oil. This will prevent the chances of something like this happening in the future.”

No set plans as to what Green Fund will provide

REFERENCE, page 1

are far less students enrolled in comparison to the Spring or the Fall, Ramirez explained that the amendments to the constitution had to be brought up before the start of the fiscal year, which is July 1.

Other major Florida universities which have passed a green fund include University of Florida and Florida State University; both included in their Student Government general elections ballot. According to Sandy Vernon, the UF-SGA office manager, their green fund passed in spring of 2007 “with 5,838 votes in favor and 1,632 against.”

FSU included it in their general elections last February, and according to FSU-SGA Advisor Joyce Howard, 3,241 were in favor of green energy fee, while 1,627 were against.

Initially, the green fund was supposed to be included on the ballot for SGA general elections this past spring semester, where around 1,200 students came out to vote; however, due to complications with the voting system used by SGA, Votenet.com, the fee was left out of the ballot.

“Last spring what ended up happening was that when coming up with the wording for both these articles, we had to turn it into the online company, but the online company said I’m sorry you’re actually a couple of days late and they would not let us open it up again,” Ramirez said.

Ramirez’s Vice President, Nick Autiello, recently told Student Media that he was against the fee and that he believes “this is not the appropriate time to be assessing fees on the student body for things that the university should be doing anyway.”

“I feel that students realize the important of this fund. They can understand where their money is going to go,” said Cooper in response to Autiello’s comments.

Cooper went on to say that there is no specific plan as to where the funds received from green fee implementation will go; however, she says it “has to be used for energy efficiency and clean energy technology.”

According to Dean Williams, the SGC-MMC press secretary, the fee could generate around $900,000 which would be allocated by a committee for projects that will reduce energy costs on campus. Members of the committee would be chosen by University President Mark Rosenberg and SGC President Ramirez.

The Student Green Fund website provides sample project ideas for the fund including: energy monitoring systems, weatherization of old buildings, and solar energy projects.

When asked on her thoughts on adding another fee when students are already facing a 15 percent tuition increase, Ramirez acknowledged that it “isn’t ideal.”

I recognize that not all students will be able to afford this fee. Although it’s a quarter to a dollar a credit, it’s a quarter to a dollar more that they would be paying; fifteen dollars maximum per semester that they could’ve used on gas, food, or other things that they really need. To some students this isn’t a necessity,” Ramirez said.

If the Green Energy Fund gets approved by the BOT and the BOG in the fall, Ramirez believes the final vote on the fund “would be matched up with SGA elections” next spring.

Florida economy faces slow recovery

Major, page 1

of Labor Statistics, hinting at the start of a recovery.

Economists are now saying that while the state and the nation’s employment is recovering, it is going be a long time before pre-recessionary rates are seen. The Florida Reserve predicts an 8.1% to 8.5% unemployment rate by the end of 2011.

“This is going to be a very slow recovery and it’s turning out to be even slower than what the pessimists said,” said Thompson, “If we’re lucky, we might be down to 9% by next year.”

The slow decrease in unemployment can be attributed partly to hiring practices as RISEP Research Intern Carlos Sanchez said the economy exits the recession, employers will find ways to increase productivity, such as giving employees more work hours, before seeking more employees.

While the unemployment rate can be discouraging, the biggest mistake, Ledesma says he sees, are people who are dissatisfied in their career path and end up working at a well paying job that they dislike and suggests “don’t do what’s in the demand, follow your passion.”
AN UNCOMFORTABLE REALITY

Expectations of loyalty from athletes is unreasonable

The idea of team loyalty, or hometown loyalty for that matter, doesn’t exist in sports anymore.

With the recent departure of LeBron James from the Cleveland Cavaliers to our Miami Heat, we saw an ugly side of the average NBA fan.

Fans from the teams who thought they had the chance turned to the Internet to voice their displeasure.

Furthermore, the haterade flowed heavy in Cleveland, where fans took to the streets to burn his jersey and protest the departure of their hometown hero. The pyromaniacs where fans took to the streets, though, did not commit the biggest trespass of all.

That evening, Cavs owner Dan Gilbert wrote a scathing open letter to fans criticizing James’ decision.

“This shocking act of disloyalty from our home grown ‘chosen one’ sends the exact opposite lesson of what we would want our children to learn. And ‘who’ we would want them to grow up to become,” wrote Gilbert in a scathing open letter to fans criticizing James’ decision.

“Where is the loyalty there?”

This idea of team loyalty in sports today is a naïve assumption, both on a professional and collegiate level.

Whether the player leaves as a free agent, is out on the injured list, or is traded by the front office; sports is a business and in business there is only the bottom line.

College athletes stick to a team hoping that for that team will get them a chance to go pro. Though the chances of a college athlete leaving their team is less prevalent than in pros, it has happened, and it has led to similar controversies.

In 2009, after former Golden Panther basketball coach Sergio Rouco was on his way out and Isaiah Thomas was on his way in, Golden Panther standout Freddy Asprilla wanted to leave FIU, but Athletics and its director Pete Garcia were having none of that, and didn’t release him from his scholarship.

Garcia refused to comment on the matter, opting to not write an open letter to fans on FIUSports.com that looked like a child typed it up on PrintShop Pro. But it is safe to say that Athletics could have released this student from his scholarship, letting the star center go on his merry way. Just saying.

Whether it was personal or not, Asprilla’s situation, and the University’s decision to not release him from his scholarship was a business decision.

A sport in this country is a lucrative business; sometimes you win big and sometimes you lose hard. But people in the front office, people in the stands forget that, or rather try to forget that the best they can.

In the end, LeBron James coming to the Heat, Freddy Asprilla playing for FIU is a great thing, but they aren’t beholden to us. They are businessmen, doing what they think is right for them.

They don’t want games or championships for us. They win for their legacies and their bank accounts.

MEN’S SOCCER: NOTEBOOK

Coach Eketebi expects competition for numerous positions in lineup

JOEL DELGADO
Assistant Sports Director

It has been an active off-season for head coach Munga Eketebi, who is confident that his team is poised to turn a corner after a disappointing 2009 campaign in which the team, plagued by injuries, struggled in conference play.

“We battled through a lot of injuries last season and we had to dress some guys who may not have been completely healthy,” Eketebi said. “If we were healthy I believe this team could have won 10 games.”

The team won four of its final six matches last season and will look to find a way to carry that momentum into the fall.

But losing Jair Cabas, who opted to go professional and sign with Miami FC of the North American Soccer League (NASL) instead of returning to FIU for his senior year, will leave the Golden Panthers searching for ways to replace one of the team’s leading goal scorers.

The Golden Panthers also have a new gap to fill at the goal-keeping position after the departure of senior Phillip Lamarre, who signed a pro contract with FC Tampa Bay of the NASL.

Sebastian Fings, who led the Golden Panthers with nine goals in 2009, returns and is expected to carry the team on offense this fall.

“I hope he does have a bigger impact after having a pretty good year as a freshman,” Eketebi said. “We are expecting even more from him this year.”

REINFORCEMENTS

According to Rise.ESPN.com, the Golden Panthers received three 2010 commitments and may bring in even more players for the upcoming season, including goalkeeper Alex Bolowich from Chapel Hill, N.C. Bolowich, who played with Triangle United and attended Chapel Hill High School, earned the Addidas Golden Glove Award in 2008 and 2009 for his abilities as a goalkeeper.

“He is a very talented player who could challenge for the goal-keeping position right away,” Eketebi said.

FIU also picked up midfielder Edgar Escobar, who attended North Broward Prep and played with South Florida Elite and earned an Honorable Mention in the Miami Herald’s All-Broward selection.

North Broward Prep played for the 3A state title earlier this year, but fell just short of delivering the school’s first.

The Golden Panthers looked to bolster their backbone with the addition of Jesse Henriques, a defender from Langley, Va. who played for Langley High School and played with McLean Premier.

The team might also be bringing in some international recruits who may be able to compete for a spot right away when practice begins on Aug. 14.

“This is going to be one of the more competitive camps we’ve had in two or three years,” Eketebi said. “Now that we have our scholarships back we can keep bringing in players that will challenge for spots quickly.”
Jimenez will start over Johnson at all-star game

JANIE MCCAULEY
AP Baseball Writer

Ubaldo Jimenez is always eager to share his accomplishments with a support system that runs from Denver to the Dominican Republic.

His home nation and adopted hometown will be tuned in when Jimenez takes the mound for one of his most memorable outings yet. The Colorado ace will start for the National League in the All-Star Game, while the AL will try to break the losing streak.

“Not only is he my guy, I don’t think you look any further than that. I love the challenge that’s in front of me and we’re on the right track,” Johnson said after a report in The Chicago Tribune about the same job at DePaul University.

A few months before, fiosports.com stated that Thomas could join the Los Angeles Clippers, in which FIU team spokesman Paul Dodson said that no offer was made shortly thereafter.

“One of the great talents and get a big hit,” A-Rod said.

“They announced it off Wood, we’ll have good recruits coming in in ’12.”

In this year of the chicken, we’ve got good recruits coming in in ’10 and ’11 and knock on wood, we’ll have good recruits coming in in ’12.”

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Thomas, who saw FIU go 7-24 last season, has stated as recently as the season that his desire was to remain with the Golden Panthers. Last April, Thomas’ name came up in a report in The Chicago Tribune about the same job at DePaul University.

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Incoming freshman Dominique Ferguson told Student Media last week that Thomas assured him during the recruiting process that he would not leave FIU before next season.

VOLLEYBALL
FIU Volleyball Head Coach Danijela Tomic is set to begin the 2010 Coach Tomic Volleyball Camps, Inc., with the first summer camp scheduled to start on Monday, July 12, as Tomic and her staff prepare to host three All-Skills Camps and a pair of skill-specific clinics in July, according to fiosports.com.

Walk-ups will be allowed for all camps and clinics. The three All-Skills Camps will be held on July 12-15, July 19-22 and July 26-29, while a Setter/Hitter clinic and a Ball Control/ Libero clinic are each slated for July 17.

All camps and clinics will be held at the U.S. Century Bank Arena on the Modesto A. Maid-ique Campus.

Baseball
FIU infielder Garrett Wittels will find out if he won the ESPY award for best Male Collegiate Athlete today at 9 p.m. The junior-to-be will be in attendance at the event, taking a break from his duties with the Alabama State League. He is stacked up against former Kentucky basketball standout John Wall and Alabama football star Mark Ingram, among others.

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KATHY PAZ
Staff Writer

On June 18, the Islands of Adventure theme park in Orlando, FL opened its doors in celebration of the latest addition to the park’s diverse quarters and reined in thousands from around the globe. What was capable of generating such massive attention and following? Well, that would be Harry Potter.

This one name describes the phenomenon that has gripped and captivated audiences worldwide for over a decade. With seven books, soon-to-be eight movies, heaps of memorabilia and innumerable fans of all ages, it seems only fitting that the young wizard and story brought to life by the pen of J.K. Rowling be given a real-life world to inhabit. Such was the task undertaken by the executives of Universal Orlando. Three years and over $200 million later, the fantasy became reality.

From the moment you walk through the arch exposing the entrance to Hogsmeade Village, you’re transported to another world. Cobble streets give way to tall buildings, each adorned with snow-cover rooftops and chimneys.

Anxious to greet all visitors is a replica of the famous Hogwarts Express, which blows steam and, on occasion, is accompanied by its conductor. If you happen to run into this chap, be sure to ask to see his pocket watch. You haven’t seen a timepiece quite like this, folks.

In the center of Hogsmeade Village lies Ollivander’s Wand Shop. This familiar spot offers visitors an interactive experience where one person, usually the youngest in a large group, is chosen to find his or her wand. Also present in Hogsmeade are Honeydukes and Zonko’s Joke Shop. Zonko’s offers a variety of practical joke items, and Honeydukes is a giant candy store selling notable treats from the series such as Chocolate Frogs, Sugar Quills, Chocolate Wands and Bertie Bott’s Every Flavour Beans.

If you’re on a budget, a chocolate lover and looking to indulge your sweet tooth, give to a Cauldron Cake. It’s like a cupcake filled with mousse and it costs only $3.95. Okay, now for the main attractions: the rides, of course.

At the very heart of the Wizarding World rests a monumental landmark that eyes from all over the world can recognize. Towering high in the sky and visible from multiple loca-

Microsoft’s Kin: social project equals an epic social fail

Have you heard of the Microsoft Kin? Probably not.

After six weeks of sales, nearly two years of development and an estimated hundreds of millions of dollars in costs, Microsoft killed the Kin line of phones, a product that is far and away the company’s biggest failure. The Kin was a project that Microsoft embarked upon after acquiring Danger, the makers of the famed Sidekick series of phones. These phones were aimed at a younger crowd by relying heavily on the cloud storage and social networking capability.

The Kin’s flaws were many and mortal. The Kin One and Two were oddly designed and expensive. The operating system was closed, had a terrible browser, and it wasn’t as socially media-friendly as it seemed.

The Kin’s main failure, and it’s largest one, was that it was a dumb phone competing in a smart phone world. It required a lot of data bandwidth because it uploaded virtually everything to Kin Studio, the phone’s cloud storage service.

This led the devices to be paired with a large monthly data fee that priced it out of the feature phone segment and put it against Verizon’s impressive line of smart phones. Parents baying their kids a phone found better deals and more features in other Verizon smart phones like the HTC Incredible and the Motorola Droid.

The Kin’s quick death, however, revealed something much more unexpected: turmoil inside Microsoft. Employees on the project were angry, morale was low, and they were giving tech journalists quotes of a lifetime as a result.

“We had a huge launch party on campus and I bet that party cost more than the amount of revenues we took in on the product,” an anonymous Microsoft employee told Business Insider regarding the Kin’s launch party. “As an employee, I am embarrassed. As a shareholder, I am pissed.”

Final sales of the Kin have been rumored to be anywhere between 508 units and 10,000 units nationally in the six weeks the product spent on the market. In the words of every hipster on the Internet: epic fail.

The Kin represents something more than just a product failure; it confirms my previous suspicions that Microsoft is having a hard time seeing its inner beauty.

In a previous Fistfuls of Tech!, I discussed a slew of Microsoft products that were absolutely brilliant and yet seemed to fly under the consumer radar. But this time, I am not going to be so forgiving.

Microsoft has a terrible habit of ignoring the good and marketing the bad. Microsoft killed the Courier project, a tablet PC that screamed iPad killer and had consumers clamoring. The Courier was proof that Microsoft had the chops to innovate, and the power to squash that innovation.

In the world of technology there are a lot of hit or miss moments, and the Kin was a large miss. But Microsoft is a company that has the resources, the market share, and the talent to innovate and really create something.

The Courier, the Zune Pass music service, and Windows 7 Media Center are absolute gems in the company’s line of products, yet they hide in the shadows or even worse: the morgue.

Microsoft is capable of making hits, and when backed up against the corner they create some of their best stuff. The Kin is not only a major failure, but it should be a major lesson learned as well.

Fistfuls of Tech is a weekly technology column.
Theatre festival features poignant play by Pulitzer Prize playwright Nilo Cruz

KATHY PAZ
Staff Writer

The second installment in FIU’s Alternative Theater Festival offered an intimate look at the life of a Cuban immigrant searching for freedom.

A Bicycle Country is a play written by Nilo Cruz, a Cuban immigrant whose family fled to Miami in 1969 following his father’s incarceration for opposition to the communist government. Upon his return to Florida in 2001, he became the playwright-in-residence for the New Theater in Coral Gables.

His other show, Anna in the Tropics, was awarded the Pulitzer Prize in Drama, becoming the first Latino play to earn that honor.

In A Bicycle Country, he focuses on capturing the same pressure felt by those in similar positions to his parents in Cuba. The story focuses around the idea of hope for a better life in a better place.

The show, which featured a brief intermission for changes, started off a few minutes late and lasted approximately two hours. It is directed by Marina Pareja.

Upon entrance into the studio, audiences were greeted by an intimate setting. Cuban music played in the background, and one of the actors was already in position. The set, which remained the same for Act I with the addition of props, was simple yet effective. Furthermore, it was versatile, starting as a house and transforming into a raft for the production’s second half.

Featuring only three actors, the opening scene introduces the characters Julio (Michael Fernandez), Ines (Victoria Collado) and Pepe (John Guzman). Fernandez gave a strong performance as Julio, the old daughter. After school hours. Monday thru Friday. Duties include: pick her up from school, help with homework and light cleaning. Start mid August. Please contact Karina (305) 335-4853.

The second installment in FIU’s Alternative Theater Festival featured a poignant play by Pulitzer Prize playwright Nilo Cruz. The show, which featured a brief intermission for changes, started off a few minutes late and lasted approximately two hours. It is directed by Marina Pareja.

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Though there is room for improvement, in areas such as time management, the experience with the FIU Alternative Theater Festival is a positive one. FIU’s Alternative Theater Festival kicked off its summer season on June 23rd with Caryl Churchill’s Top Girls. This program began in 2006 by professors Philip Church and Marina Pareja, it offers students the opportunity to experience what it would be like to own and run their own theater company.

All shows are held in the DM 150 theater studio and have a general admission of $10. Of that money, $1 of each ticket sale is donated to the Hope for Haiti effort.


The Wizarding World of Harry Potter adds magic to Orlando

The castle, home to Hogwart’s School of Witchcraft and Wizardry in The Wizarding World of Harry Potter in Islands of Adventure in Orlando, FL.

The Castle

The castle, home to Hogwart’s School of Wizardry and Witchcraft in The Wizarding World of Harry Potter pays extraordinary tribute to the series on which it was built upon and offers fans a surrounding area mimics the pressure felt by those who were full of raw emotion and conveyed through as Julio, a disgruntled man recovering from a recent stroke. His scenes were full of raw emotion and conveyed the frustrations, drive and struggles of his character.

Ines, hired to nurse and assist in Julio’s recuperation process, is a lively character full of passion with a desire for freedom from the environment she lives in. Collado, though overshadowed by Fernandez in the first few scenes, bounced back almost immediately, delivering a solid performance with the right amount of attitude and sass.

Her dialogue, though funny on its own, was elevated by her range of facial expressions and tone. Guzman portrayed Pepe, a loyal friend of Julio responsible for finding Ines, who joins them on their journey to flee the country. Though originally seeming to be comic relief, perhaps because his lines felt forced during Act I, he improved tenfold following intermission and ended the play on a high note.

Overall, the show ran smoothly and was pretty good. The crew did an excellent job with sound and lighting and provided an organized set change during the intermission. The cast brought to life a play filled with metaphors connecting the sea to life in a tasteful manner.

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The site is phenomenal, a sprawling image of the castle seen in the movies and one that will have you staring up in awe for moments on end.

Hogwart’s is actually two attractions in one: a tour of various areas inside the castle, starting with the Dungeons and ending in the Room of Requirement, and the location of the attraction, Harry Potter and the Forbidden Journey.

If it’s your first time visiting the park and you’re a fan of the boy wizard, let’s just say that the long lines inside the castle are entirely worth it. You’ll be so busy going camera-happy that you’ll hardly notice. You may even be disappointed that you can’t spend more time inside Dumbledore’s office, Professor Binns’ classroom or the Gryffindor Common Room.

The other two rides in the Wizarding World are somewhat familiar to Islands of Adventure veterans, having been previous existing rides that were redone and re-decorated to match the Harry Potter theme.

Formerly known as The Flying Unicorn, Flight of the Hippogriff is a fast-paced, rollercoaster geared towards younger children and families. The ride takes place on the Hogwarts’ grounds and includes Hagrid’s Hut.

Dragon Challenge uses the same track designed for the popular Duelling Dragons attraction. However, the environment has taken on a Triwizard Tournament atmosphere with various items from the challenges visible from the queue.

Also deserving of mention are two spectacles known as Butterbeer and Pumpkin Juice. Brought to life from the books by the culinary team behind Universal, these two drinks are must-haves while visiting the park.

All in all, the Wizarding World of Harry Potter pays extraordinary tribute to the series on which it was built upon and offers fans a surrounding area mimics the pressure felt by those who were full of raw emotion and conveyed through as Julio, a disgruntled man recovering from a recent stroke. His scenes were full of raw emotion and conveyed the frustrations, drive and struggles of his character.

Ines, hired to nurse and assist in Julio’s recuperation process, is a lively character full of passion with a desire for freedom from the environment she lives in. Collado, though overshadowed by Fernandez in the first few scenes, bounced back almost immediately, delivering a solid performance with the right amount of attitude and sass.

Her dialogue, though funny on its own, was elevated by her range of facial expressions and tone. Guzman portrayed Pepe, a loyal friend of Julio responsible for finding Ines, who joins them on their journey to flee the country. Though originally seeming to be comic relief, perhaps because his lines felt forced during Act I, he improved tenfold following intermission and ended the play on a high note.

Overall, the show ran smoothly and was pretty good. The crew did an excellent job with sound and lighting and provided an organized set change during the intermission. The cast brought to life a play filled with metaphors connecting the sea to life in a tasteful manner.

Though there is room for improvement, in areas such as time management, the experience with the FIU Alternative Theater Festival is a positive one. FIU’s Alternative Theater Festival kicked off its summer season on June 23rd with Caryl Churchill’s Top Girls. This program began in 2006 by professors Philip Church and Marina Pareja, it offers students the opportunity to experience what it would be like to own and run their own theater company.

All shows are held in the DM 150 theater studio and have a general admission of $10. Of that money, $1 of each ticket sale is donated to the Hope for Haiti effort.

Green Energy Fund. A total of 296 students voted. The green energy fund resolution was outlined by Senate candidate and real American hero Alvin Greene of South Carolina.

A plan similar to what Alvin Greene is figuring as his plan can scarcely be put into words, so perhaps it's best to let the great man speak for himself.

“Another thing we can do is for jobs to make money for me, especially for the holidays. Little dolls. Me. Like maybe it would be nice if I was in an uniform, air force uniform, and me in my suit. They can make toys of me and my vehicle, especially for the holidays and Christmas for the kids. That’s something that would create jobs. So you see I fool around the box like that: ‘That’s something that could happen, that makes sense. It’s not a joke.”

The Guardian, a prominent UK newspaper.

And indeed it does make sense. Only a fool would look at this at a plan. The solution to our problems, as Alvin Greene says, is Alvin Greene toys.

For the past few weeks, some have questioned whether surprise Democratic primary winner Alvin Greene, a political neophyte, had the expertise and vision to lead South Carolina. This plan proves he does.

As Greene knows, the best way to get our economy going is to get people spending money again, and these dolls will prove irresistible to consumers.

Who wouldn’t want to spend money on an Alvin Greene doll? There are so many versions of Alvin Greene to love, from Lego Alvin to Teckle-Me-Alvin. And because the toys would create jobs, it would be every citizen’s patriotic duty to purchase the whole Alvin Greene product line.

In a way, Greene’s job creation strategy has worked in dictatorships for centuries. Employment through the glorification of a nation’s leaders has created countless jobs worldwide, from the sculptors of Alexander the Great to the builders of American Apache helicopters in Iraq, to the Americans who make massive buildings on the sides of buildings in countries like Iran.

Jobs like those could be created right here in the U.S.A.

People can have jobs building statues, painting murals, and yes, manufacturing toys of leaders like the mighty Alvin Greene all over South Carolina. People will come from miles around to see the larger than life depictions of Alvin Greene. For America, “for the kids,” this plan can work.

Our University could also implement such a strategy, to both generate revenue and create jobs.

Students can stand in awe as they gaze upon a larger than life painting of President Rosenberg, riding a fiery horse, eating a turkey sandwich.

Although we think the University’s push to be more environmentally friendly is a good thing, we do applaud SGA in their handling of the green energy fund. The referendum was implemented, will add a fee to students between $0.25, $0.50, $0.75 and $1.00, and a “no” option.

This means students will have another chance to balot will be an option for each credit per hour fee and save lives.

Our University could also implement such a strategy, to both generate revenue and
### ECO-CAMP ACADEMY DAY 5

**Wednesday, July 14**

**WHAT:** Introduction to mangrove ecosystems in south Florida.

**WHERE:** The Wellness Center

**WHEN:** All day

**CONTACT:** Jennifer Grimm (305)919-5700

### ECO-CAMP ACADEMY DAY 6

**Thursday, July 15**

**WHAT:** A training session for students of the School of Education on teaching environmental education after school hours.

**WHERE:** BBC

**WHEN:** 9 a.m. to 4 p.m.

**CONTACT:** Roger Ledesma (305)919-5700

### SUMMER DINING

**Friday, July 16**

**WHAT:** A dinner with dancing being held Thursday before the last football game of December honoring graduating seniors.

**WHERE:** BBC

**WHEN:** 4526

**CONTACT:** Jennifer Grimm (305)919-5700

### SEAS Environmental school makes strides

**SANDY ZAPATA Contributing Writer**

Although most University activities, like sports and homecoming, happen at the Modesto Maidique Campus, Ana Perez is making sure Biscayne Bay is not without school spirit. Perez, a senior journalism major graduating this summer, is the president of Panther Power, an organization on campus that focuses on student involvement in athletic and school pride. She has been president since Spring 2010 and “is the source of Panther Power’s new and innovative ideas,” such as new giveaways and tabling events at BBC.

The goal of Panther Power is to enrich the students’ experience at the University by getting them involved with campus activities such as football games, homecoming, pep rallies and other activities.

Perez says that her main goal as president at BBC is to help students realize the amount of events and relationships they can build from this campus alone.

However, BBC has a reputation of being a commuter campus, meaning most students come to class and then leave. Students never really take advantage of all that the campus has to offer, Perez said.

From the pool and Recreational Center to the Student Programming Council and Panther Power, BBC has a lot more to offer students than they are aware of and Perez is dedicated to making that known.

Perez and her new executive board are dedicated to making that known. As part of the College of Oceanic and Atmospheric Science, faculty from many programs, such as biological sciences, English, global and international studies, politics and international relations and others are spread across both campuses. Some work in locations like the Fairchild Tropical Botanical Garden and the International Hurricane Research Center.

As part of the University’s Earth and Environmental Science and Marine Sciences Program, the school works with local research institutions such as the Southeast Environmental Research Center in Biscayne National Park, Everglades National Park, and the Florida Keys.

“It’s going to take more than just science, but also people from different opportunities to write, communicate and give perspective to the importance of the environment,” Heithaus said.

For more information, visit the SEAS website located at cugroup.ufl.edu/SEAS/.