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University celebrates Hispanic heritage

ANALIA FIESTAS
Contributing Writer

With more than sixty percent of the students being Hispanic, the University is giving students the chance to experience their native cultures while celebrating Hispanic Heritage Month. According to Lucas Calafell, treasurer of Latinos Unidos, an annual collaborative event that brings foreign students together, the event is “completely open.”

Students and various club organizations gathered to watch different performances of cultural dances from countries such as Peru, Bolivia and Chile on Oct. 11 to kick off the month’s celebrations. Samples of a variety of Latin food such as Cuban pasteles and Colombian empanadas were on hand for the festivities which gave foreign students such as sophomore Fausto Peña, a Dominican Republic native, a taste of her homeland.

“It is nice to know that although many of us are not in our native lands, FIU makes us feel like we are,” said Peña.

Latinos Unidos, an annual collaborative event took place on Oct. 14 as part of the University’s Wertheim Lecture Series and was titled “Leadership Success in a Changing Media Landscape: A Conversation with Jeff Zucker.”

During the lecture, Zucker mentioned the responsibilities presented to him upon becoming an executive at the network, forming Hulu and the situation earlier this year between his company, Jay Leno, and Conan O’Brien. Before his current position, Zucker was president of NBC’s “Entertainment, News & Cable Group” and president of NBC Entertainment. In this role, he was responsible for the network’s lineup of primetime shows, which included “Friends” at the time, and how to position them against those of other networks.

He said he came up with the idea of “superizing” their shows.

“We had to fill up two hours of content with four shows,” Zucker said. “The only problem is that we only had three good ones.”

“If friends,” and the other shows it shared Thursday nights with, was made into a 45-minute show from its original 30 minutes.

Zucker tied in his segment on Hulu – an ad-supported video streaming website that is a part of NBC Universal, NBC News Corp., and Walt Disney Co. with the digital distribution of content which he said is the “singular issue facing media companies.”

“You can’t deny this is the way people are consuming content, and you also can’t deny that piracy is a huge issue,” Zucker said on the objections received from within NBC on the Hulu idea.

He described Hulu and superizing the prime-time shows as “successful threats to the status quo,” but said moving Jay Leno to prime-time “did not work at all.”

“Both Jay’s show at [10 p.m.] and Conan’s show [at 11:35 p.m.] did not work,” Zucker said.

He also added that a lesson from that experience is not to be afraid of making mistakes and accepting them.

“We weren’t afraid to say ‘we tried something it didn’t work and we’re going to fix it,’” Zucker said.

Before concluding, Modesto Maidique, president emeritus of the University, presented Zucker with the Wertheim crystal. The crystal is a token of appreciation given to all Wertheim lecturers, according to Silvia Arrastia, events manager for the College of Business.

In a brief interview with Student Media, Zucker said he is interested in the quality of questions students asked him.

“The questions were sharp,” Zucker said. “I hope to be invited again.”

Regarding his future after NBC Universal, Zucker said he is interested but he is still uncertain as to what he will do.

Sanjeev Udhnani, a junior international business major, said although he enjoyed Zucker’s lecture what matters most is the University’s exposure.

“It’s important that FIU gets its name out there,” Udhnani said. “Getting people like Zucker here will broaden FIU’s social perception.”

Jeff Zucker
Former President of NBC Universal

We had to fill up two hours of content with four shows. The only problem is that we only had three good ones.

ZUCKER, page 2

PHILIPPE BUTEAU
BBC Managing Editor

Jeff Zucker, former president and CEO of NBC Universal and Miami native, chose to keep his lecture short, instead focusing on the question and answer session, which he made “completely open.”

The lecture took place on Oct. 14 as part of the University’s Wertheim Lecture Series and was titled “Leadership Success in a Changing Media Landscape: A Conversation with Jeff Zucker.”

Regarding his future plans, Zucker tied in his path to be the country’s leader within three years.

“After being a part of the United States Marine Corps for four years and enduring two combat tours in Iraq, former Marine Sergeant and current FIU student Zacory Ruiz has created an organization aimed at providing student veterans the support to get acclimated with their civilian lives once again.

“Moving to the Marine Corps as a whole inspired me to start the Future Veteran Leaders of America because I met some of the most capable and intelligent leaders I’ve ever seen. I know that if I could get these people to come together as civilians we could really start making a difference,” said Ruiz.

The organization’s primary focus is to assist veterans in professional endeavors, which Ruiz claims is one of the hardest adjustments many of them will undergo.

“These student-veterans are trying to begin their professional careers but they really aren’t connected to each other and they aren’t being exposed to the hiring firms that are out there. I wanted to connect this amazing group of leaders,” said Ruiz.

Although FVLA has only recently become a full-fledged club this semester, Ruiz already has enthusiastic aspirations in mind.

“We want to get our name out in the commu--

FVLA, page 2

ORGANIZATION helps veterans move on

VINCENT FERNANDEZ
Staff writer

After being a part of the United States Marine Corps for four years and enduring two combat tours in Iraq, former Marine Sergeant and current FIU student Zacory Ruiz has created an organization aimed at providing student veterans the support to get acclimated with their civilian lives once again.

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“We want to get our name out in the commu--

FVLA, page 2

HERITAGE, page 2

Lauren Duca
Couple’s babies born 8/8/8, 9/9/9, 10/10/10

Having a child born on 10/10/10 is pretty cool, but having that birth follow two others on 8/8/08 and 9/9/09 — that’s got to be impossible, right?

Well, Chad and Barbie Soper, whose daughter Coral was born on Oct. 10, whose other daughter Chloe was born on Aug. 8, 2008; and whose son Cameron was born on Sept. 9, 2009.

The family from Rockford, Mich. has attracted national attention since the birth of Cameron, the家族’s third child born on the “miracle” date.

But having that birth follow two others on 8/8/08 and 9/9/09 is getting normal.

In fact, there are no plans to aim for a child on 11/11/11.

Jeff Zelaya, a senior marketing major, thought Zucker was very well prepared.

“THe movie is in Spanish, and that is great. I feel that Hispanic heritage is truly being celebrated by showing a movie in Spanish with English subtitles instead of the other way around,” said freshman Kelly Mayorga.

That same day, the College of Nursing and Health Sciences hosted its first National Latino AIDS Awareness Day in front of PG5 Market Station.

The Spanish-inspired “Paella Block Party” provided rapid HIV testing and counseling for interested students as well as informative games and giveaways.

“It is fun to explore different cultures, so students are always encouraged to participate in all the festivities,” said Calafell.

The second week of Hispanic heritage festivities began with a focus on the historical significance of Hispanic culture. SPC presented a collection of art pieces, memorabilia and cultural artifacts from the Bolivian and Cuban revolutions in the GC pit.

“I am excited to see all the artifacts that will be on display,” said Valerie Torres, a native of Peru. “I want to see if the museum will actually represent our Hispanic countries’ history.”

SPC Director, Max MacAvoy, anticipates that the month’s festivities, including the final upcoming events, will be enjoyed by all students.

Zucker very ‘open and candid,’ students get questions answered

“I have faith that most of the students would come and see if the museum will actually represent our Hispanic countries’ history.”

SPC Director, Max MacAvoy, anticipates that the month’s festivities, including the final upcoming events, will be enjoyed by all students.

He pretty much gave us information we already kind of knew,” Zelaya said.

He added that Zucker’s tip was that businessmen and women should get to know each other better.

“There are things beyond personal strengths (that we should know),” Zelaya said.

Veterans aim to move deep into the community

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**FALLING BACK**

Panthers third in conference play after Denver defeat

**WOMEN’S SOCCER: DENVER 1, FIU 0**

**DENVER, page 4**

Goalkeeper Melanie Raimo’s six saves were not enough to earn a win for FIU.

**MEN’S BASKETBALL NOTEBOOK**

Practice opens with added size in Moore, Frederick

**BASKETBALL, page 4**

When Phil Gary Jr. suited up for the Golden Panthers first practice of the season on Oct. 15, the dynamic of the team was noticeably dissimilar.

That can be attributed to the presence of Erick Frederick and Brandon Moore. The 6-foot-10 Moore is eligible after sitting out last season due to NCAA transfer rules, and the 6-foot-8 Frederick will play immediately after transferring from Highland Community College.

The pair will immediately be relied upon to aid the team’s purrid play inside a year ago, which ranked second to last in the Sun Belt Conference in rebound margin, getting out boarded by over four rebounds a game.

“The coming along great right now. This is a big step up from what we had last year with our big men,” Gary said.

“We gained like four of five inches from our big men so it’s going to help. I think both of them are going to contribute to both sides. We got Brandon who is a great shot blocker and Erick who is a great post player on the inside and can hurt you outside.”

The Golden Panthers were forced to rely on 6-foot-6 Marlon Bright at center last season after Nikola Gacesa suffered a season ending knee injury. The team was left scrambling for interior offense after former SBC freshman of the year Freddy Asprilla left the school. The team finished last in the SBC in blocked shots.

Head coach Isiah Thomas will attempt to maximize his new post players’ impact. The Golden Panthers will also likely add freshman forward Dominique Ferguson by the spring as he clears eligibility cases.

“It helps, but we just got to figure out how to get those two defensively sound where they are not committing a lot of fouls,” Thomas said. “You can always do better defensively.”

The team is pleased to have a clean slate after a 7-25 season.

“IT was great. We still have a lot of work to do but it was a great way to start the season,” Gary said. “I mean I know what to expect now. New guys come up to me now and ask questions. I kind of know what to expect from coach and how practice goes.”

**CLEARING THE AIR**

After a media buzz in the off season in which Thomas took a gig as a consultant for the New York Knicks and was the object of numerous rumors, Thomas has made sure his team understands that he...
VOLLEYBALL NOTEBOOK

Una Trkulja replaces Rosa adequately

Trkulja replaces Rosa adequately

**RICO ALBARRACIN**
Staff Writer

Una Trkulja has an intense look on her face. It can be seen whether she is running suicides in practice, warming up during pregames, or spiking the ball for a kill in match, her look is still the same. There is a look on her face, not of intimidation, but of intensity as she plays.

The freshman outside hitter was placed into a role that not many freshmen handle with ease: replacing Yarimar Rosa, who is good for sixth best in the Sun Belt Conference, all while adding 128 digs on the defensive side.

‘The game is not much different as she was pushed into the starting situation.’

Thomas said. “I go out and practice, and play hard every game.”

“We’ve been together a year now, so we have seen what we can do,” said. “I think this is a great opportunity for her to play this much her freshman year. This is going to make her so much better next year.”

Despite slew of rumors, Thomas insists he is staying

**JOSH DELGADO**
Assistant Sports Director

With an opportunity to crawl back into the Conference USA contention with a weekend matchup at home, the Golden Panthers (6-6, 1-3 C-USA) were unable to capitalize as they were blanked 2-0 by the visiting University of Alabama Birmingham Blazers (8-4, 2-2 C-USA) on Oct. 16.

A goal in the twelfth minute by Josh Stewart after Golden Panthers keeper Shane Lopez failed to effectively clear the ball out of harm’s way after a corner kick gave the Blazers the early lead.

Despite a close scoring chance by Sebastian Frings just minutes later, the Golden Panthers remained scoreless in the half.

The Blazer’s added an insurance goal at the beginning of the second half when a handball was called inside the box, leading to a penalty kick opportunity for Babayele Sodade. Lopez was unable to stop the shot and Sodade’s eighth goal of the season put the Golden Panthers in a two-goal hole that was too steep to overcome.

Stewart received a red card late in the game to give FIU a one-man advantage in the final minutes of the match, but the Golden Panthers were unable to score.

The loss snapped a two-game skid and ended a chance for FIU to pick up its longest winning streak in Head coach Munga Eketebi’s tenure at the helm of the men’s soccer program.

FIU now stands in eighth place in the C-USA standings just ahead of last-place Memphis, who has failed to win a game in conference play this season.

**Record Dive**

**Swimming**

In their first home meet of the season, the Golden Panthers swimming and diving team cruised to a victory over the North Florida Ospreys with a final score of 177-64.

Freshman Sabrina Beaufure broke the Biscayne Bay Campus pool record for the 1-meter dive with a score of 298.72 and also won in the 3-meter dive, earning a score of 291.45.

Kayla Der also had an impressive meet, picking up two individual wins in the 100 and 200 freestyle, helping lift FIU in Randy Homer’s first home meet as head coach.

In team events, the Golden Panthers also fared well, winning the 200 free-style relay and 200 medley relay.

**FIU’s Florian Schwertl looks to evade a UAB player in a loss.**

Despite slew of rumors, Thomas insists he is staying

**Basketball, page 3**

will continue to lead the Golden Panthers.

In his second year as a Golden Panthers’ coach, Thomas ended up backing off of the Knicks consultant job after conflict of interest issues arose.

“We’ve been together a year now, so we understand people will say things and we’ll deal with them,” Thomas said.

Gary said the team is at peace with the situation.

“I mean, coach got such power that anything he say’s, people are going to run with it,” Gary said. “He let us know all the time not to listen to what’s going on and just listen to his word and he tells us all the time he isn’t going anywhere.”

**On Television**

FIU’s game at Denver on Jan. 15 will be broadcast on Fox Sports Network Rocky Mountain. This is the only regular season meeting between the two teams, with FIU winning eight of 14 games in the series’ history.

**Panthers seek to enter post-season tournament**

**Denver, page 3**

Texas, and are also on a three game slide.

With only three games left on their schedule, no chance can be had at getting out of the number one seed come playoff time. Second place is still feasible, and that is what the Golden Panthers will aim for next.

Teams would most likely require them to win the rest of the way, which is not impossible.

There is good news for the Golden Panthers, though.

Their next opponent is last place University of Louisiana Monroe, who has yet to secure a win in conference this season.

No team should be taken lightly, but to end a three game losing streak, it seems like the scheduling gods picked a good time for the Golden Panthers to play the Warhawks.

The game is scheduled for Oct. 21 with a 7 p.m. kickoff.
On Oct. 16, psychedelic rock group The Flaming Lips brought their visually spectacular show to Sunset Cove Amphitheater in Boca Raton.

Drawing on their extensive discography while focusing mostly on their last four albums, the group put on a show that featured lasers, disco balls, dancers dressed in Yo Gabba Gabba costumes, and a multitude of other details adding to the spectacle.

The show kicked off with lead singer Wayne Coyne walking across the crowd in a plastic bubble and didn’t let up for a rollicking two hours.

SPC Heritage Month brings hispanic comics to stage

ALFREDO APARICIO
Contributing Writer

As per SPC tradition, the committee has organized another comedy show featuring comedians Oni Perez and Bill Santiago.

When searching for a headliner, SPC decided on Bill Santiago, a comedian from Puerto Rico.

Having seen Santiago on Comedy Central, the members of SPC enjoyed Santiago’s brand of comedy, which was described as a cross between George Lopez and Carlos Mencia.

“He appeals to the middle class,” says Robert Brown, the SPC’s programming director, “and many of his jokes center around cultural differences in the Hispanic culture.”

Santiago, having worked with The New York Times and the Post as well as having written a book called Pardon My Spanglish, was more than willing to participate in the SPC’s Hispanic Heritage Month events.

Having won over the crowd the last time he was at the University, Oni Perez was invited back to entertain the student body once more.

Oni Perez is a South Florida comedian best known for his participation in the South Beach Comedy Festival and for being a member of the Miami Comics, a comedy troupe consisting of six South Florida comedians.

His comedic routine took him to the finals of the Lucky 21 contest in Las Vegas, NV.

In choosing the various artists which attend the events, Robert Brown, the director in charge of coordinating the event, says, “It’s a very interactive process with the students. We are more about the community and programming for the school.”

First, it is decided what type of event people want to see, then with the use of tools such as surveys, which encourage students to voice their opinions about which artist(s) they want to see, SPC goes back and votes on which they want to bring to the school.

The comedy show took plenty of work, and not all of it was pretty.

“We [SPC] have to come up with the idea, envision what we want to do, what crowd we want to appeal to, book the artist, set up contracts, plan the event, have AV set up the room, all unseen work which makes sure the students attending the events enjoy themselves. Much as they did this semester with the first Dive in Pool event with Iron Man 2, RHA sometimes comes together with SPC to help create events,” says Brown.

The comedy show takes place Wednesday, October 20 at 6:00 p.m. in the GC Ballrooms and tickets are available for free with your Panther ID in the Campus Life office in GC 2240.

The month of October marks Hispanic Heritage Month, and the Student Programming Council has dedicated a month full of events to recognizing Hispanic culture.

“Even though it’s a Hispanic heritage event, it is open to everyone. We want to expose our students to the Hispanic culture and teach them about what is out there, the culture and difference between cultural aspects,” says Brown.
The entire DC universe has been going through some major changes. The evil Max Lord has come back from the dead and is preparing to wipe all the super-powered beings in the world off the map. Bruce Wayne is lost in time without his memories, and even Superman is planning on taking a road trip through America to reconnect with the normal “working” man. With all this turmoil going on, it might be hard to find a reason to take a distracting, non-sequitur trip to jolly ol’ England where business is running as usual.

The smooth operations over in England are due largely in part to thanks to the dynamic duo of the U.K.: Knight and Squire.

Originally created during a minor story arc in a Batman comic as the “Batman and Robin” of England, DC’s newest mini series sheds light on the mysterious duo and their goings on. Despite being unrelated to most of the current story arcs within the DC universe, readers will find a welcome breath of comedic relief and levity within the pages of Knight and Squire.

From the very first page the reader is thrust into a long set of dialogue that makes absolutely no sense, unless they were born on the east side of the pond. Large and small allusions are dropped throughout the rest of the book, referencing “Britishisms” such as Paul Mccarthy, Monty Python and Winnie the Pooh. If those don’t seem British enough, take comfort in the fact that I only mentioned the ones that made any sense to me at first glance.

Non-Brits need not despair, the very last page of the book contains a detailed decoder for all the jokes and cultural references littered throughout the pages. Aside from the clever form of humor, the series seems ready to elaborate on Knight and Squire’s long history in their own little world.

Issue 1 focuses on a monthly get together at a local pub where hero and villian alike can relax, socialize and talk about their day. Due to age-old magic, provided by none other than Merlin himself, all super powers and weapons are deactivated within the bar. This illustrates a major difference, as Squire explains to the newest pubs goer, between the British superheroes and the Yanks in the colonies who are always knocking over buildings and the like.

The difference is that the British super-powered world values moderation. Who better to explain moderation to a bunch of Americans than the British? Don’t be afraid you’ll be bored to tears, before the issue is over, some dazzling meager disengages the magic protection of the pub, and all the moderation goes out the window to provide room for a good old fashioned bar-fight.

If you’re a reader who’s tired of the dramatics on the American side of the DC universe, take a break with Knight and Squire’s limited 6 issue run.

I myself with DC would practice less moderation with gems like these and commit to an ongoing series, but either way if you’re interested, grab this comic before your local retailer pulls the plug.

Panel Panel is a bi-weekly comics column. Look for it every other Wednesday.
Organization has solved many of society’s problems for thousands of years. With some of the most advanced of the popula-
tion involved in organized religion in some way, there has to be something to it.

But in today’s modern society, religion doesn’t sell as well as it used to. In the past, many used religion and their various interpretations of God to explain the meanings of certain phenomena that occurred here on our planet, such as the rising of the sun, rain, and sudden deaths of fellow man to name a few simple examples.

These instances can now be explained rather than being left to the primitive and the scientific processes that they allow. This leaves little room for an all knowing and all powerful being pulling the strings behind the scenes.

Although the applications of science do not rule out the possibility of intelligent design, it does provide a much more logical explanation for worldly events.

Organized religion, in many cases, has provided moral guidance with a set of rules to abide by to be an ideal citizen. While “thou shalt not kill” and “thou shall not steal” may come to mind for some, it is unlikely that guidelines for living such as these have to be passed down and taught by religious figures.

They are necessary for a society to thrive successfully under the presence of religion or otherwise and therefore, will be passed down by the society itself through social reinforcement. Religion is undoubtedly still something that brings many people together, however.

Yet in light of many events that still happen routinely around the world, it seems that reli-
gion is undoubtedly still something that brings many people together, however. Y
eing the consequences. To me, it would be selfish to think it exists entirely for us. It may be a better use of time to take logical steps to make goals a reality instead of praying, wishing, or hoping for things to unfold under the care of a Godly figure, which in all honesty, may not even exist.

It is a chaotic universe we live in and things may very well happen for no rhyme or reason other than to just happen. When it comes down to it, it is better to congratulate yourself when things go well and to blame yourself when they don’t. We already have many of the answers we need, or at the very least, the minds to find those answers ourselves when questions arise.

New York City Council is passing legislation that would mandate “Crisis pregnancy centers” upon arrival to inform women that they do not offer abortion, referral to abortion services, or contraceptives, and only offer non abortion related options counseling.

It is essential that this bill is passed and repli-
cated on a national level to demonstrate the need to protect pregnant women from being manipulated and duped by anti-choice organizations that politi-
cize women’s health.

The ruse of these centers is to manipulate preg-
nant women seeking options counseling think they are in a medical clinic, but in reality are in an anti-choice environment that propagates misinfor-
mation by non-trained “counselors”.

According to the National Abortion Federation, Crisis pregnancy centers, “deceptive tactics extend to their physical appearance as well. CFC’s often design their facilities to look like actual health care facilities, with a reception area, a designated check-
desk, and an ultrasound machine.”

Advertisements on billboards that read, “Preg-
nant? Scared? We Can Help.” lure women into centers where they are offered counseling and free pregnancy tests.

However, in a study conducted by National Abortion and Reproductive Rights Action League, the “counseling” women received could be more accurately described as a bombardment of non-
constitutional “statistics” about the trauma and harm of abortion.

Why are these crisis pregnancy centers so overlooked by this proposed legislation? If they have no hidden agenda to guard; why is it so problematic and offensive about clarifying the ideology that is inherently part of their business?

According to The Wall Street Journal, Marcy Sanick, executive director of a Bridge to Life crisis pregnancy center, said, “I don’t think we should be forced to [tell clients we are not a medical clinic].” She also expressed concern that women could “just walk out.” These women would presumably “walk out” because the centers are not what they originally thought they were, proving that this legislation is vital to stop the lies.

When calling “Option Line,” and inquiring what kind organizations I could be referred to and which services were offered, the operator informed me, that she could refer me to “find out what your concerns are. They won’t refer you to an abortion clinic but they will answer your questions.”

When I asked if there was a medical doctor at the clinic, I was informed that there was not, just “options counselors.” When I pressed further and asked if they were psychologists or trained thera-
pists, I was informed that “they are people who deal with your situation, everyday.”

Intentionally vague, I immediately thought of the danger of vulnerable girls and women seeking abortion services and instead being handled by non-trained therapists.

The potential misinformation and infliction of guilt is not only morally wrong but also detri-
tional to the women’s health; the longer an abortion is delayed, the more risk for complications there is. This legislation is simple and needed; it prevents centers from operating under a facade and illuminates an ideology that denies choice.
CHILE

Chile ponders what to do with capsules

Chilean officials are trying to decide what to do with the three rescue capsules built specially to bring out the 33 miners who were trapped a half-mile underground for 69 days.

HAITI

Violence erupts at Haiti prison

Two inmates were shot to death trying to escape from the roof of Haiti’s quake-damaged national penitentiary and a third was trampled to death inside during a prison riot Sunday, authorities said.

MEXICO

Borough makes world’s biggest enchilada

Residents of Littlerock cooked up a 2,530-foot-long (766-meter-long), almost 11-ton enchilada on Oct. 17. Guinness record official Ralph Han-ahk announced that it was the world’s biggest.

Meek’s College Tour included the University

DEBORAH SOUVERAIN Contributing Writer

The University was the second stop of U.S. Senate candidate Kendrick Meek’s College Tour and upon his arrival he had a roundtable discussion with students from various organizations on campus.

The discussion was held on Oct. 18 in room 155 of the Wolfe University Center. In attendance was not only Meek, Democratic nominee in the 2010 Senate elections for the seat vacated by Mel Martinez, but also members of the Student Government Council at Biscayne Bay Campus, the Black Student Union, and College Democrats at FIU.

In between occasionally alluding to his senatorial race and discussing his campaign platform, Meek briefly discussed issues that pertinent to students on the collegiate level, particularly the negative impact on students who fail to vote in non-Presidential elections.

Meek is currently the Democratic State Representative of Florida’s 17th District as well as the democratic nominee.

When SGC-BBC President Christin ‘Cici’ Taghian asked Meek to explain the importance of young voter turnout, he answered saying, “Voting is a state issue, not a federal issue...” the governor sets the budget of who receives what and when.”

Through this example Meek illustrated the direct impact of legislators decisions on college students.

“If young adults don’t actively participate in elections it makes it easier for folks to do things, such as raise tuition,” Meek said.

Meek added that failure to vote gives government officials free reign to do as they please, within constitutional boundaries, with any legitimate averseion.

“It is so high because young people don’t vote and it’s unfortunate that legisla- tors are using this to their advantage,” said Michael Santana, president of College Demo- crats at FIU.

Meek, who scored 100 percent by the National Education Association on public education issues, supported Congress extending Pell grant year-round. The Pell grant is a program that awards need-based grants to low-income undergraduate and certain post baccalaureate students to ease the cost of postsecondary education.

“Hopefully the number will increase to make college more affordable,” Meek said.

Congressman Meek also scratched the surface on student loans and his goals to work to make it easier for students to pay back loans.

“He should have went into detail on the Student Loan reform bill, school loans are a big issue for students,” said Santana.

Meek’s College Tour was kicked off at Florida Memorial University on Oct. 17. Despite frequent campaign references Meek gave students what he called, “a vital key to protecting their interests” and that is to get out and vote. However, that was the only issue he elaborated on.

“I hope my presence here today will inspire students to get out and vote,” Meek said.

THE SCHOOL OF HOSPITALITY AND TOURISM MANAGEMENT

Student cooks learn to run a restaurant from start to finish

JONATHAN SZYDLO Contributing Writer

Every semester, students of the School of Hospitality and Tourism Management, provide guests with a fully catered gourmet lunch as a graduation requirement through the University has to offer.

For $18, HTM will provide guests a complete meal or a packaged-deal in which to develop and create a menu.

Grouped into six teams of six, students gain experience within each and every aspect of the restaurant industry.

Cooking, managing, serving and sanitation – these future culinary masters leave no stone unturned. Each group is given a two-week span in which to develop and create a menu and dining environment. The lead team is responsible for all the necessary details including: the promotion of the luncheon event with the number of guests being factored into their final grade.

Christiane Carter, an HTM senior, aspires to one day own and be an executive chef of her own Caribbean flavored, white tablecloth restaur- ant. Carter gives nothing but praise towards the experience that she is walking away with and attributes the course with allowing her to develop and refine her organizational skills along with her ability to manage and build a team.

Although Carter grew up in South Florida, nothing could have prepared her for the wide range of diver- sity amongst her peers within this completely hands on course.

However, this diversity has been beneficial not only to Carter, but for the class as a whole. It has allowed for a new perspective and channel of creativity, teaching the students invaluable lessons in coping with high-pressure situations and allowing for a breakthrough within cultural lines.

This wide array of diversity is one of the highlights of the Advanced Food Production Management course, according to Ruth Barrocas, an HTM senior.

Barrocas describes the course as arguably being the most social course the University has to offer.

“The level of interaction that students have with each other steam rolls through the walls of cultural and ethnic diversity,” Barrocas said.

FOODGASM

Pizza from scratch: making your own is the best option

GENE KRAVETS Contributing Writer

In the U.S. there seems to be a rift in pizza preference. The two main kinds are New York’s classic thin crust and Chicago’s more substantial heavy variety: the deep-dish. No matter your preference, good pizza is always a foodgasm.

When good pizza is a challenge to find, you can make your own. Anyone can pop a frozen pizza into the oven, but putting in a little more effort makes a world of difference.

The base of any pizza is the crust. For the crust, you can make your own dough, buy pre- made pizza dough or buy a ready made pizza crust.

The next crucial part is tomato sauce. Store bought pizza sauce is the easiest option, yet making your own can be very rewarding.

The last essential part of a pizza is the cheese. Mozzarella cheese is the type typically used, but it can be combined with Romano or Parmesan. I find that fresh mozzarella is a great choice.

Start the process by readying the dough, if needed. Roll it out to the desired thickness, which for me is as thin as possible. A little bit of olive oil drizzled on the dough will help it crisp in the oven.

Next, spoon a thin layer of sauce on top of the dough, leaving some space around the edges. Cover the sauce with your desired amount of cheese. Any other toppings you might want to add go on after, then the pizza goes into a preheated oven of around 400 degrees.

The pizza can be cooked on a pizza stone, if one is available, or on foil with some flour on it so it doesn’t stick. The cooking time will depend on the thickness of the pizza, but the crust should look golden brown when it’s ready. It can take anywhere from 5-15 minutes to bake.

For pizza lovers who don’t want to go through the trouble of making their own pizza, I can recommend a place. Anthony’s Coal Fired Pizza makes a delicious crispy pizza. Although I don’t typically go for chain restaurants, going to Anthony’s will most often result in a pizza- induced foodgasm.

Happy pizza making and eating. If anyone knows of a good pizza shop, please email me this valuable information at jksz64@fiu.edu.

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