Non-governmental organization run by youths builds homes

GABRIEL ARRARÁS
News Director

College students across the nation are making a difference in the world, one roof at a time.

"Un Techo Para Mi Pais," or, "A Roof for My Country," is a non-governmental organization founded in 1997 by college students and young professionals. It started in Chile and eventually began expanding in 2000 after earthquakes struck Peru and El Salvador.

Since then, UTPMP has mobilized over 250,000 volunteers and has been actively building over 70,000 transitional houses in 18 Latin American countries, including: Bolivia, Colombia, Costa Rica, Ecuador and Mexico.

"Since 1997 it's become one of the largest NGOs throughout the region and it recently got into the Caribbean because of the earthquake in Haiti," said Alexander Regens, an FIU student majoring in international relations who is also director of outreach in the United States for UTPMP.

UTPMP chose to help Haiti, a country that is still reeling from a catastrophic 7.0 magnitude earthquake that hit the nation's capital 10 months ago, which according to the Red Cross, affected over three million people and destroyed over 250,000 residences. Currently, the NGO is organizing 2,500 volunteers to travel to Haiti from Jan. 6 to Jan. 17. They hope to construct around 2,000 homes.

"The reasons we are going to Haiti on these dates is because it will be a year since the earthquake, so it's a very special date," said Molly Superfine-Rivera, an international relations major who is volunteering with UTPMP.

UTPMP is mobilizing students from colleges across the nation for this upcoming trip to Haiti, including the University of Miami which is fully sponsoring 20 students to go on this trip. Miami Dade College has also volunteered some help for the program, with around 60 students from MDC expected to attend the trip.

According to Regens, UTPMP does most of its fundraising through corporations and receives support from The United Nations and The World Bank. When the NGO travels it becomes embedded in the community, creating large camps where those affected by extreme poverty or disasters can stay until their work building houses is complete.

"We are the organization that has built the most homes in Haiti ever since the earthquake, so the Haitian people love us and respect us," said Regens. "We don’t need very high security because we stay with the families and they stay with us in the campsites."

"If you’re wearing a “Un Techo” t-shirt, you’re welcome to any house in Haiti, believe me," Regens added.

Regens and other members of UTPMP met with University President, Mark Rosenberg, and other...
University declines to support group

Scott ready to persuade legislators

Decal prices go up to recover costs
WINNING BY ANY MEANS

Golden Panthers overcome deficit

RICO ALBARRACIN
Staff Writer

Teams find out how mentally tough they are, not through easy victories but through struggles and trials. Facing a test, bring down 2-1, the Panthers passed with flying colors.

Junior (16-10, 10-4 Sun Belt Conference) overcame an uphill battle to beat University of Louisiana-Lafayette in five sets, 25-17, 25-19, 24-26, 25-15, 15-10.

“I’m very proud of them,” Head Coach Danijela Tomic said. “This was a tough win. This was a tough team to play. We thought it would be a tough team match. We came out ready to play.”

The Ragin’ Cajuns played tough, and gave FIU all they could handle. Junior Sabrina Gonzalez was impressed with their performance.

“They have a lot of heart and as they continue to develop, they’re going to be a good team,” Gonzalez said. “I have to watch out for them in the conference. With teams like that, that’s how teams upset other teams. So we need to be careful and continue playing our game.”

Gonzalez, who sat out of the last match due to a tear in her abdomen, played through the pain to contribute to the win.

“I’m gonna play through it. I’m not gonna sit out,” Gonzalez said. “I’m gonna be good for the conference tournament. I’m gonna take as many pain relievers as I can at this rate.”

In the first set, the Panthers stormed out to a 7-1 lead. Leading the charge for FIU was Jovana Bjelica and Gonzalez with kills that stumped the Ragin’ Cajun (17-13, 7-7 SBC). ULL would eventually bring the game closer, as the set would show 13-9. That would be the closest that the Ragin’ Cajuns would get, as FIU would cruise to a first set win.

ULL would start off the second set strong as junior middle blocker Lesley Mirarchi and freshman Taylor Meade would lead the offensive spike for a 13-9 lead.

It seemed that no matter how many points the Panthers would score, the Cajuns had an answer for them. The closest that the Panthers would get would be 17-23, as the Cajuns put two more put down to win the second set 25-17.

The third set proved to be a battle, as neither team held a lead greater than two. The Ragin’ Cajuns showed that they had strength on the outside to attack. The Panthers responded well at the net, with Bjelica and junior Andrea Lakovic pushing the Panthers offensively.

Late in the set, with ULL leading 23-22, a dig attempt by Bjelica sent the ball up and hit the speakers above the court, awarding a point to the Cajuns. Down two, the Panthers responded to tie the set at 24. It was not enough, as ULL scored two points to finish the set 26-24.

The Panthers entered the fourth set with a look of desperation, as the Cajuns were one set away from getting out of Miami with a much-needed win. The Panthers held strong through the set, especially when Gonzalez came back into the match after sitting out significant time throughout and provided a spark to help FIU gain a 17-11 lead.

After a service error by senior Natalie Valentin, the Cajuns responded with an error of their own by Meade to give FIU the set 25-15.

“When I go out here, all I want to do is help my team,” said Gonzalez, after she came back into the game. “I know what I can do on a good day. I know what I can do when I am healthy. All I want to do is contribute to my team and if I do that, we should win.”

Freshman Una Trkulja came out strong for the Panthers, as FIU took a 7-5 lead in the final set. After trading points, the teams switched sides. The Panthers pushed their lead greater than two. The Ragin’ Cajuns would be able to find their way to the win, as the match ended up being one set 17-11 and two sets 15-12.

As FIU (7-10-0, 1-7-0 C-USA) battled SMU (15-1-0, 7-10-0 C-USA) they encountered violent changes in possession as both teams recorded a total of 37 fouls (SMU 21, FIU 16). At the beginning of the second half, FIU found themselves in quick break away away away off a cross from senior Marcus Harrison. Carlo Schmid was able to push the shot past the far post into the back of net to tie the game up in the 47th minute.

For the next 40 minutes frustration would build as FIU would not be able to put SMU six to four in the second half after being out shot by SMU eight to two in the first half. With overtime looming, Ekertbi put in Sebastian Frings and gave Jahhari Willis more playing time to see if they can produce for FIU’s struggling offense.

As pressure amounted, SMU head coach Tim McClements would receive a red card for what seemed to be his continued disagreement with the referee’s strict calls. With only eight minutes gone by in extra time SMU’s Payton Hickey fired a long shot at Lopez. Lopez was unable to hold off and off the deflection T.J. Nelson plugged the rebound in the back of net to give the Mustangs their 15th win of the season. Lopez had seven saves on the night, one shy of tying his career high eight saves that he marked earlier this season.

Return of Bjelica gives team vital spark

The emergence of Una Trkulja and the promise of Marija Prsa have hid the fact that the Golden Panthers have been missing something very important this season.

That was addressed in the team’s three-set victory over Troy on Oct. 30, when outside hitter Jovana Bjelica made her season debut.

The sophomore, stepping in for Prsa, had a career best 20 kills against the Trojans, giving FIU a mental edge aside from her obvious athletic prowess.

Bjelica, one of the elite underclassmen in the nation, is without question one of the best players in the Sun Belt Conference. She has immediately brought a special combination of power and skill to the floor for FIU.

The team has won four straight games since she stepped on the court after she sat out the majority of the season for undisclosed reasons, and has made Natalie Valentin’s life a lot easier.

“Aggressiveness and that
Bjelica’s impact on lineup relieves Valentín of pressure

VALERIA ROMAGNOLI/STAFF PHOTO

Araujo’s return bolsters defense

Regina Bjelica’s return to the Golden Panthers lineup has helped Relânia Araujo continue to thrive on defense.

Araujo’s return bolsters defense

The Golden Panthers have continued to rely on Relânia Araujo for her defense.

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Students work the runway for a Cause

Students modeling at the 2009 FIU Fashion Show held in the GC Ballrooms.

ALEX MACIEL
Contributing Writer

Not many campus events are as glamorous and elegant as a fashion show. This fashion show, however, isn’t just about glamour and glitz but in support of a sister.

Every year the women of Phi Sigma Sigma host an annual fashion show to raise money for a non-profit organization. This year the show’s proceeds go to Janelle’s Wishing Well Foundation, set up in honor of Janelle Bertot, a former Phi Sig member. Janelle was 19 years old and on her way to her second year as a pre-med biology major at Florida International University. She died in 2004 when a leak in her car caused carbon monoxide poisoning.

Many people were devastated, but out of this a helpful foundation was formed.

The purpose of the foundation is to raise public awareness regarding the potential dangers of carbon monoxide can cause. Last year carbon monoxide detectors were given out on campus to help prevent something like this from happening again.

Many of the donations help provide a scholarship, The Jenelle Bertot HOSA Memorial Scholarship Award, for other students interested in a health care profession, like Janelle.

Barbara Bertot, Janelle’s mother, says, “The girls from Phi Sig are extremely generous for supporting this cause after her accident in 2004. The message tends to be lost over time, but Janelle’s legacy is known in each Phi Sig generation. Now awards and grants are raised in all their Greek chapters.”

This is Phi Sigma Sigma’s second year holding a fashion show in honor of Janelle’s Wishing Well Foundation and even new members are aware of her involvement and memory.

Ms. Bertot hopes that this fashion show will help bring awareness to the dangers of carbon monoxide.

Last year’s fashion show was based around an exotic earthly theme called “Exotique”, but this year the ladies are showcasing a "Winter Wonderland" spectacle, embracing the soon approaching winter season. There will be many accessories and attire to suit the overall theme. Jessica Schumacher, the overall director of the fashion show, says, “Many of the outfits will be colorful and extravagant, but the makeup, body paint and white crystals are in support of the theme.”

The Electric Boutique has helped by providing outfits for the show. Some of the designers that made the cut include Jimi Zee, Demi by Desi and other boutique designers. They have been extremely helpful in donating their time to the cause according to the event coordinators. The designers will sponsor the event. Professional modeling judges make the final selections and then offer critiques and suggestions for the best runway performances.

Schumacher also notes, “Last year’s event had a great turnout, and this year there have been accommodations made in expectation of a larger crowd.”

Although it is hosted by Phi Sigma Sigma, this event has support from fashionistas representing a number of sororities, fraternities and organizations. Each supporter is representing a member from Pan-Hellenic. These men and women will display the designs on the runway to raise money or working the crowd the night of the fashion show.

Amanda Curballo, the male model coordinator, says, “It’s less about the clothes and more about tying the FIU community together in honor of Janelle. Giving the students an opportunity to participate in the foundation’s cause.”

The chapter has built up an audience over the nine years they have put on the show. They hope that through this Janelle’s memory can stay alive along with her message.

The show is Nov. 12 and starts at 7:00 p.m. The event will be held in the Graham Center Ballroom on the Modesto Maidique Campus. Tickets are $7 pre-sale. Proceeds go directly to Janelle’s Wishing Well Foundation.
FOOD FOR THOUGHT

Disney World’s food festival offers international flavors

On Oct. 30, I managed to travel the world one bite at a time at the Epcot International Food and Wine Festival in Orlando, FL. Held every autumn for the past 15 years, this celebration is open to all that enter the Epcot Theme Park with a regular admission fee, giving vacationers a chance to sample the best cuisine of many nations.

While touring the World Showcase Promenade, small booths were set up with a small plates menu, costing between $3-$7 per bite according to the nation you’re visiting, making it a fairly cost-effective way to try new cuisines.

During my “world tour,” I started off with something fairly familiar: chicken souvlaki with tzatziki from Greece. The savory chicken mixed with the cool, refreshing creaminess of the tzatziki ensured that I began on a good note.

However, my European tour took a turn for the daring as I tried French escargot for the first time. To be honest, the thought of eating snails bathed in a butter garlic sauce scared me.

As it turns out, my $4 were well-spent. The escargot was tender, flavorful, and the mini brioche they were served in soaked up just the right amount of sauce. I may have found my new favorite food.

I ended my tour of Europe with Belgian mussels in garlic sauce. The mussels were fantastic and the garlic sauce was surprisingly mild. I just wish the bread they served alongside it wasn’t stale.

The next stop was Asia. Once again, I started off with an old friend of sushi, a maki with tuna, avocado and futomaki with tofu. Anyone recognize-ably mild. I just wish the bread they served alongside it wasn’t stale.

In keeping with my vow to try some-thing new, I found myself with a plate from Singapore: a shrimp cake with spicy noodle salad.

The shrimp cake had a yummy crusty shell from searing and a slightly sweet center full of its namesake. However, the noodle salad’s spiciness literally cleared my nostrils. Thankfully, the sugarcane garnish cleansed my palate so I could feel my taste buds again.

Latin and South America rounded out my trip around the world, with bites from Mexico and Brazil.

I’m a consistent fan of Mexican food, but this was the first time I’ve tried Tamal de Pollo: corn tamale stuffed with shredded chicken topped with queso blanco and toma-tillo sauce.

The first few bites were welcome, but the heaviness of the tamale and the absurd absence of chicken soon made this a bore. I only got three-quarters of the way through.

On the other hand, the Brazilian shrimp stew, made with lime and coconut and served over rice, was divine. The mild flavors with just a hint of citrus were a satis-fying reminder of summer. I knew I loved this when I started searching for the recipe immediately after I returned home.

A note about dessert: the dessert trio was a godsend. Although this booth boasted no specific region, it did serve up a sampler of strawberry shortcake parfait, pear tartlet and chocolate truffle.

I’ve had the parfait and the truffle a couple of times, but the pear tartlet was the star of this plate. The pears were perfectly ripe and the juice made a natural syrup that I couldn’t get enough of.

This was yet another recipe I researched upon my return.

In all, I enjoyed my time at the Epcot Food and Wine Festival. Hopefully, when I return, I will be able to sample the food of more nations.

Better yet, I hope that more nations are present to show what they are made of.

HEALTHY BITES

Tailgating doesn’t have to break diet, options available

Football season is upon us, and when attending the games the tailgate is half the fun. We all love spending time with friends, laughing, and enjoying a game but who said it can’t be done in a diet friendly way?

Typical tailgating foods are high in calories, fat, and low in nutrition. Incorporating healthy and delici-ous options is simple, and doesn’t require sacrificing great taste. Just try some of these tips at your next tailgate party.

1. LEAN MEATS

Tailgating usually involves grilling meats, which is a healthy preparation method so you are halfway to a healthy choice. Mix lean proteins such as boneless skinless chicken breast marinated in barbecue sauce, lean ground turkey breast for burgers, and veggie burgers. Cut portions of the hamburgers by preparing mini sliders.

Try purchasing whole-wheat burger buns for additional fiber. Prepare fish such as tilapia by cooking it over the grill in an aluminum foil envelope. Boost the flavor with herbs, spices, lemon, and olive oil. Also, bring a bean salad that is served cold as a delicious gluten free alternative. Just toss in rinsed canned beans into your usual salad and use low-fat dressing.

Incorporate more vegetables by offering grilled veggies such as corn, asparagus, onion, peppers, squash, mushrooms, and tomatoes. Try making vegetables kabobs with alternating mixed vegetables. Addi- tionally, offer finger veggies such as raw broccoli, baby carrots, cherry tomatoes, and celery sticks with a homemade low-calorie ranch dressing. Prepare this ranch dressing by mixing a ranch seasoning packet with low-fat sour cream and non-fat plain Greek yogurt. Also, load your burgers up with freshly sliced tomatoes, onions, and lettuce to add bulk and a crunchy bite.

3. FRUITS

When tailgating outside in the heat, nothing is as refreshing as cold fruit! Also, this healthy treat won’t weigh you down like some of the other foods you may consume. Bring cut watermelon wedges to the game for an easy and delicious snack. Other great snacking fruits include grapes, melon wedges, and pineapple. Keep on ice to keep cold until ready to serve, and enjoy.

4. HYDRATE

Make sure plenty of cold water is avail-able and that water is the drink of choice over sugary drinks such as soda. Drinking water instead of soda is an easy way of saving calories, but if you must have soda, you have one can and then enjoy water for the rest of the game. Keeping water on hand at all times will encourage consumption and will help fill you up without additional calories.

5. CHIPS AND DIP

Redo the traditional chips and dip by making fresh Pico de Gallo ahead of time and bringing it to the party. Dice tomatoes, onions, and cilantro and mix with lime-juice to make a tasty dip. Add jalapeños for some spice. Next, try baked tortilla chips instead of the regular fried ones and significantly cut the calories. This swap won’t sacrifice any flavor.

6. ADDITIONAL HEALTHY TIPS

Even if you are not the person preparing the food and you are just a guest, bring a healthy dish to the party so you can keep yourself on track. In addition, once you are done eating, chew on gum or suck on mints to keep your mouth busy without consuming additional unnecessary food. Last, Never show up to a party on an empty stomach. To avoid overeating at the party eat a small healthy snack before going such as an apple or a slice of whole wheat bread with low-fat cream cheese to curb your appetite.

This week on campus

WEDNESDAY, NOV. 10

ORGANIC FARMERS MARKET

Sausage, organic produce, smoothies, yoga and more! Where: 12-3 p.m.
How: Free
Where: Along the red wall behind the Green Library

SPC LECTURE: MICHAEL USMAN

Michael Usman is the origina- tor and executive producer of the Baton Rouge music scene. He will talk about his career and how he brought Louisiana to the big screen.
Where: 6 p.m.
How: Free for students. Tickets available in GC 2340, Campus Life.
Where: GC Auditorium

THURSDAY, NOV. 11

TARGET WEDNESDAY AFTER HOURS

Separate food and drinks with Xavier Cortado and Dr. William K. Hatcher of the Dept. of Anthropology.
Where: 6 - 9 p.m.
How: Mixer/Mixer and open to the public
Where: Frost Art Museum

THE GREAT ROMANTICS

Celebrated by the FIU Music Chamber Music Series. Where: 7:30 p.m.
How: Mixer/Freely available
Where: Will be announced

FREE YOGA

Hustle in the Yoga Club at the Farmer’s Market. Spanish will be available too!
Where: 1 p.m.
How: Mixer/Mix
Where: To be announced by the GC Central Fountain.

A VERY WOLFSONIAN WEEKEND: Speed Limits Celebration

Come celebrate the Wolfso-

nian 6-15th anniversary. Free event at the FIU Performing Arts Center, 400 SE 2nd Ave.
How: Free
Where: Carbon Corridor - MMC

DIVERSIONS

5. CHIPS AND DIP

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To solve the Sudoku puzzle, every row, column and 3x3 box must contain the numbers 1-9 only once. Check your answers on FIUSk.com

Puzzle Difficulty: Evil

Write to calendar@fi usm.com
Sound bites a deficient source of political info

JASMYN ELLIOTT  Asst. Opinion Editor

In a world of news snippets and fast information, people often rely on sound bites to get a handle on what is said by many public figures, including celebrities and politicians. However, these sound bites are an inherently flawed source of information, as they are often taken out of context and, thus, can be easily twisted to make anyone sound like someone he is not.

Take, for example, the “Tailban Dan” ad. Florida Representative Alan Grayson, a Democrat, showed an ad depicting his Republican opponent, Dan Webster, as an extremist who supported the principles of the Taliban, particularly in relation to making divorce illegal and making women’s rights a thing of the past. The audio-visuals used in the ad showed Webster saying things such as “We’ve submit ourselves to your own husbands,” and “She should submit to me.” That’s in the Bible.

However, when one looks at the original footage of this speaking engagement, Webster’s full statement is the following: “I have verses for my wife. I have many verses for my wife. But, don’t pick the ones that say ‘Shalt thou not follow me?’ That’s in the Bible, but pick the ones that you’re supposed to do.”

I could show several other cases where politicians and organizations conveniently used sound bites in order to push an agenda, many doing so successfully. It is unfortunate that they stoop to such a level of dishonesty. In my eyes, it shows a lack of faith in their causes, as if the truth is not enough to gain supporters. If they cannot gain support by being right, then they must rely on underhanded tactics and smear campaigns to show why their opponent is wrong, or at least inferior, then their own message must be flawed source of information, as they are often taken out of context and, thus, can be easily twisted to make anyone sound like someone he is not.

When the term “sex offender” comes to mind, the use of sound bites causes much more harm than good. In Grayson’s case, the court inexplicably granted the custody of the child to a sex offender instead of an eager father.

In a more chilling case, Helen Prince, who is accused of injury to her daughter over her ex-husband Johnny Smith, turned her cheek to the abuse inflicted upon her daughter by her new boyfriend and his son.

Smith has been fighting tirelessly to win the custody of his daughter, but has faced many financial and legal road blocks, creating an unnecessarily complicated situation that requires only a simple answer, which is to grant custody to the parent who demonstrates the moral capability to raise a child.

Smith essentially drained all of his finances in a struggle to save his daughter from an unfit mother; a fact that the courts and child services incomprehensibly chose to ignore for almost two years.

When the term “sex offender” comes to mind, the image of a middle-aged or older man immediately pops up. The woman is always seen as the victim and the man is demeaned without a doubt. As proven in the aforementioned case, women just as capable of sex crimes as men are. In Gallardo’s case, the line is clear and Duran is, without a doubt, the criminal. However, in Meyer’s case, the answer is not so simple. Most are ready to place the blame on Meyer because he is the adult, but ignoring the liability of the girl is both wrong and unjustified. By placing herself in the environment and by consenting to the act with Meyer, she should face some, if not equal, legal ramifications as Meyer.

She knowingly put Meyer in a criminal position, after she herself had committed a crime by sneaking into the event that was intended for an older crowd. She will most likely get off without any serious consequences, while Meyer is branded by a mark that will hinder him for the rest of his life.

Most young males are uninformed about the consequences of their actions. Some feel they have been granted immunity by their gender and may allow themselves too much dexterity and, as a result, find themselves in legal situations designed for them to lose.

They may lose a significantly important part of their lives, or their lives all together, if they are not careful. Gender bias goes both ways, and society must actively fight against this issue in order to retain integrity.

Reality T.V. is stupefying, degenerating

GIOVANNI GONZALEZ  Staff Writer

The reality television phenomenon, surprisingly, one that has proven to have some power over the masses and which has encouraged many different shows to emerge on various networks.

“Jersey Shore” and “The Real Housewives” series are two of the many popular reality shows one may currently come across while flipping through the dial. Despite their popularity, the content of these shows encourages shallowness and materialism among viewers.

Anyone who manages to sit through an entire episode either of these shows will surely find an overflow of senseless drama, irrationality and ridiculousness.

MTV’s “Jersey Shore” centers on a group of roommates who do nothing but promote promiscuity and immature behavior, drink and party endlessly and bicker amongst themselves.

The roommates seem to be devoid of the requirements to form meaningful relationships and they all spend their nights simply looking for the next hookup.

These ideals are detrimental to an already desensitized society. These reality shows glamorize meaningless relationships based only on partying and a lifestyle based solely on partying.

The term “reality T.V.” alone implies these are real people who actually live like this, but no one can actually have a party all the time partying and hooking up. It is a bad idea to popularize and pay people for living like this, because it can and will encourage such behavior among others.

“The Real Housewives” has popped up in almost every major city at present. However, these women are anything but real. This form of reality television follows a group of wealthy women in your preferred city and chronicles their lives from activities like shopping to social gatherings.

One housewife admitted to buying a different wig of human hair of the same style for every day of the week. When asked how much she spent on that habit, she responded with “about $400 per day.”

That is $12,000 of her husband’s money on hair per month and, keep in mind, she still has her own.

While these people surely have the means to live materially and wasteful lifestyles, it does not mean they should. The money they waste could be spent on an infinite variety of better ways. Also, their lifestyles go against the impression that material wealth will provide happiness, and there is definitely more to life than that.

These people have every right to have the material wealth they worked hard for, or married into, but they have achieved these profits through materialism, not through deeds that make a positive difference for others.

The idiocy of these shows promotes negative, selfish values that are too common in our society and their popularity only shows that people are willing to embrace them.

Perhaps the most important principle that lead to a better society seem to be lacking in television overall, but are especially absent in shows like “The Real Housewives” and “Jersey Shore.”

It is appalling to know that these people really exist and are centers of American entertainment. Though their exploits are often scripted to provide more drama, much of the settings and occurrences are, indeed, real.

This fad can only continue if we let it and we, as viewers, cannot continue to praise these shows with high ratings. Enough with idolizing people who have absolutely no positive contribution to society.
Hospitability offers scholarship money in exchange for volunteer hours

NADRA MABROUK
Contributing Writer

A new website has launched for student volunteers to register for the South Beach Wine & Food Festival, held Feb. 24 to Feb. 27, 2011. There were 435 student volunteers registered at the two-day kick off event for the site, sobefesti.u.edu, and the registration, Oct. 26 and 27.

Shena Corrado, student associate program manager, and Dale Gomez, associate director of University Computer Systems, have been working on creating the site together.

Student volunteers must be hospitality and tourism management majors or minors as of Spring 2011, taking a hospitality class or enrolled in an HTM certificate program.

Once students sign up, they may list their top ten favorite positions so student associates can see their preferences and attempt to place them in one of those positions. All students need to be assigned. Students also go through a ten minute interview with the student associate team members so their schedule availability can be matched with a position.

Students once placed with a position have varying duties. They range from helping with registering people into the festival, set up, and some even get to participate in the culinary aspect of the festival assisting celebrity chefs. They may also assist sponsors and help with guest services. Student volunteers also receive scholarship money based on the amount of hours they volunteered. According to the sobefest.fi.edu site, 834 students participated for 27,427 hours and in turn were awarded $361,836 in scholarship money based on the amount of hours they volunteered. According to the sobefest.fi.edu site, 834 students participated for 27,427 hours and in turn were awarded $361,836 in scholarships in the Spring 2010 festival. As of Nov. 9, there are 508 student volunteers registered.

Corrado writes some text on the site and tries to explain her vision of what the site will accomplish. Gomez works on coding and designing the website while managing the database.

The site for registration last year was a much simpler system. The registering volunteers process two years ago was less convenient using Excel to keep track of volunteers, as one example according to Susan Gladstone, activation manager.

“The site allows students to get more involved as it is much more dynamic and interactive than the past,” said Corrado.

The website has links to register, contact the office staff along with their different positions and a link to the official site of the festival.

In honor of the tenth anniversary of the festival, Corrado said it will be “bigger and better” with a tenth anniversary party.

“Let them eat cake” is just one event planned among many. Emeril Lagasse and Martha Stewart will host the event, which will be held on Feb 25.

ARGENTINA
Gays proud of 500 same-sex marriages

Thousands marched in Argentina’s Gay Pride parade, celebrating the country’s status as the last Latin American nation to legalize same-sex marriage and voting to campaign for new rights for transgender people.

CUBA
Disident vows hunger strike

A prominent dissident, vowed to begin a hunger strike to pressure the government to free the last 13 prisoners after a midnight deadline for the men’s release passed without any news of their fate.

HAITI
Gort suspets cholera has entered capital

Health officials said they are examining 120 suspected cases of cholera in Haiti’s capital, the most significant warning sign yet that the epidemic has spread from outliers areas to threaten as many as 1 million people.