University ranked first in energy conservation

NICOLE CASTRO
Staff Writer

A report released by the Florida State University System ranked FIU number one among all state universities in energy conservation during the fiscal year 2007 to 2009—saving the University of Millions of dollars in utility expenses. FIU is one of five state universities that was able to meet the 10 percent reduction goal set by a state mandate requesting colleges to reduce energy consumption by that amount using the 2007 to 2008 fiscal year as a benchmark.

Along with Florida Atlantic University, University of South Florida, Florida State University and New College of Florida, FIU submitted a report in January regarding the specifics of how each university achieved the reduction goal.

Out of the 11 state universities that participated, five universities were able to meet the 10 percent goal. However, FIU surpassed that goal with 11.5 percent—reducing consumption by 1.5 percent and utility costs by 12 percent.

The University’s effort to perform at its fullest potential proved rewarding as there was a $3 million disparity between FIU and the University of Central Florida, which ranked second. The data also indicates that if the University had performed at the SUS average, it would be spending $21 million more than its current expenses.

“We believed we had a good program here so we thought we’d be in the top three. This was the first time we got to see data from the other schools, so we are thrilled that we ranked at the top,” said John Cal, associate vice president of Facilities Management.

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Senate fills all remaining vacancies for the first time since fall of 2009

VINCENT FERNANDEZ  Staff Writer

For the first time since the fall 2009, the Student Government Council at Modesto Maidique Campus senate is operating at full capacity.

During the latest special elections session at a senate meeting held on Feb. 21, the SGC-MMC senate filled their last three vacancies. These included the College of Engineering and Computing, Lower Division and Housing seats.

All positions that needed to be filled had been left open either because of resignations or promotions. With the resignation of former Senior Speaker William-Jose Velez, one of two College of Engineering and Computing seats was left open. Andrea Fajardo was elected to this seat, after being unanimously voted in by the senate.

Next to be filled was the Lower Division seat, which was left open after Senator Patrick O’Keefe was elected to become SGC-MMC Finance Committee chair. Two candidates were brought forth for the empty Lower Division seat. With a vote of fourteen to nine, Sebastian Larrazabal was selected over current SGC-MMC Intern Rudy Leal-McCormack.

For the empty Housing seat three candidates were presented, including: Giovanni Correale, Tiffany Reid and Dean Williams.

Williams, who previously served as SGC-MMC press secretary and currently serves as executive assistant to SGC-MMC President Helena Ramirez, was elected as the new housing senator with 18 votes.

While the SGC-MMC senate only has a few months left in session, the confirmations of Fajardo, Larrazabal and Williams will have the senate tackling the remainder of their work at full capacity.

Vincent Fernandez works as a Beat Writer, covering the Student Government Council at Modesto Maidique Campus.

## 2011-2012 SGC-MMC LEGISLATIVE ELECTION CANDIDATES

### Arts & Architecture
- Daniel Diaz
- Cristina Bosmenier
- Jesus Borrego
- Giovanni Cornele
- Juanito Louis
- Sebastian Larrazabal
- Jose Navarro
- Nairi Olubara
- Jorge Fernandez

### Business
- Ceci Chiquituta
- Adam Redolfi
- Robert Ibara
- Gabriel Feitais
- Daniel Ramirez
- Bryan Wiggins

### Engineering
- Janet Reyes
- Andrea Fajardo
- Fernando Pinheiro
- Kholid Chaur
- Ekatera Ekwere

### At Large
- Kristen Ribofield
- Alessa Torres
- Leonardo Evora
- Carlos Rodriguez
- Samir Patel

### Graduate
- Rachel Ems
- Dharmian Pires
- Sai Panagakumara
- Aedel Janmal

### Honors
- Jose Garcia
- Fabio Pinazo

### Housing
- Thayron Latham
- Tiffany Reid
- Dean Gabriel Williams
- Lauren Smith
- Graciela Aguero
- Larry Brown
- Janiel Verges

### Lower
- Liana Sippin
- Almizal Ponce
- Rudy Leal-McCormack
- Nicole Buchely
- Carlos Cheuca
- Kevin Hernandez

### Public Health
- Janis Verwey

### Empty Seats
- Education
- Nursing

### Uncontested
- Public Health
- Architecture & Arts

### Important dates

#### Voting:
- April 5-6
  - To vote: my.fiu.edu or a campus voting site

#### Announcement:
- April 7 at 12 p.m. in the Graham Center

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**SAVINGS, page 1**

On the supply side, the University adjusted its air conditioning temperature from 72 to 75 degrees. Another major contribution to FIU’s top ranking is everyone culturally conscious of what we are trying to do. We are in a low watt bulb, more often than the actual room light,” said Amanda Munee, mass communications major and resident of Panther Hall.

In order to hold the University’s position in the rankings, Facilities Management plans on automating the utility plants. It is their hope to obtain real time data instead of having to wait for the end of the month report.

In the design and planning stage of future constructed buildings on campus, the University will continue to model the energy use so that it can implement the most efficient systems.

This was started by the completion of the Leadership in Energy and Environment Design certified SIFA and the College of Nursing and Health Science building.

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Water sensors and light motion detectors help save...
Dodds earns win in first start as a Golden Panther

ANDRES LEON
Staff Writer

After a long baseball weekend the Golden Panthers bounced back against St. Thomas University at home.

Redshirt junior Logan Dodds made his first start of the season as a Golden Panther on Feb. 23. For Dodds, a transfer, it was an opportunity to showcase his arm and bring a pitching comeback for the Golden Panthers after a poor day on the mound Sunday against Southeastern Louisiana.

Dodds pitched five shutout innings as he led the Golden Panthers to an 8-0 win over their cross-town NASA foe.

"Early on the fast ball wasn’t working for me, but by the fourth inning I got it going, the infield played great behind," Dodds said after the game. "It was good to get out there, show them what I’m capable of. I’m here to help the team."

After three scoreless innings, the Golden Panthers began capitalizing on offensive opportunities in the fourth inning. Third baseman Jeremy Patton knocked a base hit to get things started for FIU.

"We are going for the long stretch here, it gives us momentum with the hits we got today," Patton said. "We just got to keep swinging at it."

With runners on first and second, Mike Martinez came to the plate and hit a ground ball up the middle past the diving shortstop, bringing Jeremy Patton home for the first run of the game and giving the Golden Panthers the lead.

"Coach [Turtle] Thomas keeps us up to par with our swings, we were focused on the outside pitches and that gave us a couple extra base hits," Martinez said.

FIU would not look back from that point forward.

With runners on the corners, the Golden Panthers were poised to build their lead. Second baseman TJ Shantz came into the batter’s box and hit a sacrifice fly to bring Wittels home to give the Golden Panthers a 2-0 lead.

SLIDING FINISH

Right fielder Yosnady Barroso came to the plate to get an early hit. Immediately after STU starter Corey Estrada plunked centerfielder Joel Capote bringing him to first base. Off a costly error, Barroso ran home and took a slide that knocked the wind out of the STU catcher.

The umpire made the call, giving the Golden Panthers the 3-0 lead over the Bobcats. The very next play Jeremy Patton hit fly ball out right field bringing Capote home and taking him all the way to second.

With runs coming in easy, FIU forced STU to make a pitching change, bringing on Elio Rey to close out the inning.

Pitching changes took place for the Golden Panthers as well. After five innings, Dodds was replaced by Mason McKay a lefty.

BRINGING IN THE RUNS

With early inning hits by Martinez and Flores, Shantz came into the box hoping to make a play for Golden Panthers.

Shantz sent a bunt and STU catcher Roy Rodriguez muffed toward third, allowing Barroso to score. Martinez and Flores were focused on the outside pitches and that gave us a couple extra base hits," Martinez said.

"We got off to a slow start," coach Turtle Thomas said. "We got some hits and got on a roll, but what was good was that we kept adding to our lead."

With a four game weekend ahead of them, Thomas says the team "needs to improve on execution."
orchestrating the trade talks for Carmelo Anthony to go to the New York Knicks, and no true denial of involvement, have risen and it makes Thomas and Knicks owner James Dolan look foolish. This has been an ongoing courting of Thomas, as the first instance of this came near the beginning of the NBA season when Thomas was offered a consulting job with the Knicks. Thomas was not allowed to become a consultant because of the possible tampering issues that would arise.

Then again, maybe there was always a thought in the players’ minds that this would happen. Thomas has brought a spotlight with him since his arrival to FIU. Whether that spotlight was good for the University is for people to decide.

With the national eye on the school for a bad situation already in Garrett Wittels’ sexual assault charges, having Thomas allegedly being the puppet-master for the organization he once left in shambles does not help get that negative focus off of the university.

Now Thomas has put himself in a situation to deny any such rumors. Whether Thomas was behind the 15-player mega deal that the Knicks pulled off to get their man, we’ll truly never know. There are rumblings among league executives that Thomas is indeed there.

CBSSports.com senior writer Ken Berger wrote that Thomas is just extremely eager to be involved. Berger writes, “Thomas still has Dolan’s ear, is as power-hungry as ever and would love nothing more than being able to paint himself as the savior in New York.”

Thomas has always been able to have a smile on his face through any situation. Yet, if these rumors are true, how can Thomas be in the eye with that smile and tell them he is not involved? The situation could become a nightmare for FIU, who is already trying to clean up one mess. Drugging out a decision would not be fair.

It’s not fair to the Knicks organization. Not necessarily Dolan, who continues to listen to Thomas and undermine general manager Donnie Walsh. But to Walsh and others who helped rebuild the Knicks after it was left in shambles.

It also is not fair to FIU, a school that gave Thomas a second opportunity after leaving New York on bad terms. Also a school that has stuck their neck out for their students and faculty, while risk their already bruised image.

Ultimately, it is not fair to the basketball players who play in a Golden Panther uniform: young men who believed in Thomas when he recruited them, men who were probably awestruck when a NBA legend came to them and wanted them to play under his reign.

At this point, everyone is second guessing Thomas and questions continue to pop up everywhere. Would the Knicks really want Thomas back? What happens to FIU if Thomas leaves? If Dolan pulls off to get their man, we’ll truly never know. Yet, when Thomas leaves Miami for the city that never sleeps. A coach that knows the game well, and that is worried more about the X’s and O’s of the game than the spotlight that comes with it. And someone who is disciplined and is ready to put FIU on the map for their play, and for nothing else.

The season will most likely end in a couple weeks unless this FIU team can make a run in the Sun Belt conference tournament. Once the season is over I hope for, the sake of everyone involved, Thomas makes his decision.

Nothing is worse than waiting for the inevitable, like Anthony’s trade to New York. The last thing we need to see is this being dragged out.
Apple’s new App Store subscription model is looking to print media like iTunes changed the music industry. But instead of creating a new business model for a hurting industry, it is alienating content companies from a thriving ecosystem.

Earlier this month, Apple announced that it would implement a way for users to subscribe to content through the in-app purchases API, the code that creates a section in an app that allows the user to buy added content from directly inside the app, eliminating the need to exit to buy added features.

Users encounter this API often, such as in the popular game Angry Birds. If you can’t get through a level simply head over to the main menu and purchase the Mighty Eagle for 99 cents and charge through it. On the surface this seems great, particularly for iPad publications that will allow users to subscribe to their content straight from the app, but there is a catch. Actually, a few catches.

First, if you bill through the store’s in-app purchase API, the transaction is handled through Apple’s billing system. Publishers would have to forfeit a 30 percent stake in each subscriber on top of a 2.5 percent transaction fee.

So a $40 yearly subscription to Rupert Murdoch’s The Daily would net Apple $13. On top of that, publishers can’t access the customer records for their AppStore subscribers, meaning that important demographic information that publishers use to sell ad space would be inaccessible.

App store publications like The Daily and Wired magazine are not the only ones subject to these policies. Apple looks to be extending this policy to all content providing apps in the AppStore, including popular streaming services like Netflix and Rhapsody.

“An Apple-imposed arrangement that requires us to pay 30 percent of our revenue to Apple, in addition to content fees that we pay to the music labels, publishers and artists, is economically untenable,” said Rhapsody in a written statement to Engadget.

Second, this new policy requires all apps in the store to switch to the in-app purchasing model or be exiled. According to the App Store guidelines, “apps utilizing a system other than the In App Purchase API to purchase content, functionality, or services in an app will be rejected.”

So will Apple reject apps like Amazon’s Kindle app because it kicks users over to the web browser to buy books directly from the company’s website?

Apple has the right to implement this policy, and I do believe that whatever the percentage share that publishers have to pay is the price to play for accessing an app ecosystem where users are willing to pay for quality apps.

But this particular policy should only apply to print publications that deliver content on the AppStore and should be specifically tailored to fit their needs rather than be broadly applied to all content providers.

As it stands, this policy being applied to apps like Rhapsody and Netflix only stands to alienate these companies from being represented on the platform. The iPad is great hardware but what brings in the users is what it can do.

Fistfuls of Tech! is a weekly column on all things technology.
2010, despite a few shining moments, was a remarkably forgettable year in cinematic history. Blue Valentine was, in my opinion, the best film I saw last year, a transcendent tale of a dangling marriage.

Carlos, a five-hour long epic on the life of Carlos the Jackal, is as personal and intelligent an epic as I've seen come out in the past decade. Shutter Island is among Martin Scorsese's long list of triumphs. None of these films were nominated for the Academy Awards and performances is at the heart of the film.

It's not a bad film, but just light with good work from its cast.

Still, I can't ignore the ceremony and so I thought I'd toss out my predictions for the winners in major categories at Sunday night's celebration.

**BEST PICTURE**

The King's Speech. At the end of the day, the best picture race is a competition between an inspirational post-Victorian era historical drama and the little nerd with the Gap hoodie who could.

Out of the films nominated, The Social Network is my personal favorite, but word of mouth within the industry is that the King's Speech has made a tremendous impact among academy voters and is the front-runner coming into Sunday night.

It's not a bad film, but just light with good work from its cast.

**ACTOR IN A LEADING ROLE**

Colin Firth – The King's Speech. His performance is at the heart of the film.

Firth is an expert at playing sad sacks effectively and should have been awarded for his efforts in 2009's A Single Man. The academy has made a mistake for directing the franchise. The academy loves Pixar.

**ACTRESS IN A LEADING ROLE**

Natalie Portman – Black Swan. It's intense and engrossing, his best work since The Machinist and could very well take the award. This is certainly going to be a tight race.

**ACTRESS IN A SUPPORTING ROLE**

Hailee Steinfeld – True Grit. She should have been nominated in the lead actress category; she is the lead character in the film after all.

Keisha Castle Hughes was 12 when she was nominated for her work in Whale Rider. Regardless, the academy tends to award supporting roles Oscars to up andcomers. It helps that her role trumps the work of the other nominees easily. Amy Adams and Melissa Leo are both nominated for their work in The Fighter but will probably split academy votes.

**BEST ANIMATED FEATURE**

Toy Story 3: It's a critical and popular darling. The weakest of the three films but a hell of a tear-jerker at the end. It's a fitting if underwhelming close for the franchise. The academy loves Pixar. Up, Ratatouille, The Incredibles, etc.

And this is after all, only the third animated feature to be nominated for Best Picture. It's a lock. The Illusionist is a masterpiece, by the way. Just in case you didn't know, it's a bitter-sweet tribute to magic and the films of French master Jacques Tati.

**BEST DOCUMENTARY**

Inside Job: A film about Wall Street, financial fraud and economic meltdowns. The liberal Hollywood base will love it. Restrepo is a much more affecting piece about the mundane and pressures that soldiers feel while on a tour of duty in Afghanistan. This film could be the dark horse.

**BEST FOREIGN LANGUAGE FILM**

Beautiful: Javier Bardem's nomination for Best Actor in the leading role was somewhat unexpected for this Alejandro Gonzalez Inarritu film which garnered mixed reviews among critics.

Bardem won't, but his nomination seems to confirm that this film will.

**WRITING (ORIGINAL SCREENPLAY)**

David Seidler – The King's Speech: The idea here is that if a film is picked for best picture, it’s bound to get picked in most other categories down the ballot. You know, kind of how most people vote every four years.

Inception could win for its convoluted plot that the academy mistakes for sheer originality. That would be a conciliatory award for the box office hit.

**DIRECTING**

David Fincher – The Social Network: Yes, Tom Hooper won the Director's Guild of America Award which is quite effective at predicting who’ll win for direction at the Oscars.

But Fincher has been around for almost two decades and has been nominated before. The idea among voters that, “It’s his time,” should apply here. It would also serve to award the film without giving it best picture, much like Steven Spielberg’s win for Saving Private Ryan in 1998.

Real Reel is a weekly column on films. Look for it every Friday.

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**OSCAR NIGHT AMERICA**

WHERE: Hall of America

**OSCAR NIGHT AMERICA**

WHERE: Eclipse

**OSCAR NIGHT AMERICA**

WHERE: Eclipse

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It has come to my attention that the FIU Student Government Council of Modesto Madique Campus sent a message to the student body regarding the Student Affairs application deadline when we wrote. I was informed that she wouldn’t inform the students of the election applications. So, Campus Life was sending email blasts to all the students who attend the Campus Life events, like NPC movie nights. I was glad that at least a select group of FIU students were informed, but what about the rest? Are they expected to know of an SGA elections application deadline when we can’t even inform them?

To my surprise, I saw in my inbox the next day an email from the office of the Vice President of Student Affairs. It was not my email; nonetheless, it contained the SGA election applications and the deadline, which was the next day, Friday, Feb. 18, 2011 at 5 p.m. I had mixed feelings when I saw this email. I felt that I was missed by one of my members, but I was happy to know that the students will have a fair shot at becoming student leaders.

Days later, after the deadline had passed, I had lunch with one of my fellow students. I was asked by that student if it was too late to run for a senate seat. I was at a loss for words, I informed him of the deadline and the email that Rosa Jones had sent out. He was upset, and I became upset as well with the lack of awareness. I thought things over and began to plan out a course of action.

I wrote up an email as to many student leaders as I could contact. I informed them of our Student Government Council with different deadlines. I asked them to express to the elections board how they felt. I want to get the student voice heard. I am a student and I am able to represent the entire student population at FIU. I am proud of that fact. But I want the students to take this cause into their own hands and show our administration themselves.

It is at the discretion of the SGA Elections Board to open the election applications again. As of right now, most of the seats are contested. My question to the students is how diverse is the applicant pool for each of those seats? How many of you may have wanted to run for an SGA position if you had been given more than 29 hours and 42 minutes’ notice?

Please visit the SGA office in GC 211, Campus Life in GC 2240, or Student Affairs in GC 219. You may also email me at Samir.Patel@fiu.edu and I will forward your email to the corresponding contact. Feel free to call the SGA office at 305-348-2211.

I hope that writing this letter will damage my relationship with some of the Administration of FIU, but I would be going against my morals by not writing it. At the end of the day, I am a part of SGA to help the students. I am an advocate of the students no matter what the cost.

-Samir Patel,
College of Education senator, Student Government Association
Beer can chicken combines three enjoyable pastimes

My experiment-driven attitude as well as my love for beer, grilling, and chicken made me jump for culinary joy when I heard about beer can chicken. I am always excited by new ways to prepare food, but this time I was particularly thrilled.

Different methods of cooking have health, flavor, moisture, or other benefits. This method includes all of those benefits. The most enjoyable way to cook food for me has always been the grill. Chicken is a staple for grilling, but never a whole chicken, until now.

Beer can chicken is a phenomenon. First an open can of beer (or many other liquids) is inserted inside a whole chicken. The chicken is cooked on top of the can, over a grill. The contents of the can infuse the chicken with flavor and keep it moist in the process.

The vertical position of the chicken allows the fat to drip off as it cooks. This system is like a stationary upright rotisserie. The finished product is succulent and tasty.

Preparing a beer can chicken is extremely simple and requires very little ingredients. Besides the necessities, which are a chicken, a can, and a grill, I also recommended a spice rub for additional flavor.

However there are some specific details you should know. The chicken has to be large enough for a can to fit inside it. A chicken around 4 pounds will work. As for the beer it can be any variety of your choice, or can be something other than beer too. A can of pineapple juice, for example, will also work well. A charcoal or gas grill are both fine; however it is important the chicken, standing up on the can, fits under the lid.

The spice rub is also up to you. The spices I use are paprika, chile, garlic, and cayenne (tiny bit) all in powder form. These spices give the chicken a slightly spicy and smoky flavor. An easier variant would be using an already prepared spice mixture, such as Old Bay.

RECIPE FOR BEER CAN CHICKEN

- First, preheat your grill. If using a gas grill turn it to medium-high heat.
- Next, clean the inside of your whole chicken, leaving a large empty cavity for the can. Season the chicken inside and out with salt, as well as the spice mix if you wish.
- Open the can with a can opener so that the top is completely removed. Do this the same way as if you were opening a canned good. Remove half of the liquid from the can.
- While holding the chicken cavity open with your hands, mount the chicken onto the can, pushing the can completely in. Move the mounted chicken to the grill and stand the can on the grate using the chicken legs to keep it balanced. Close the lid of the grill.
- Check and rotate the chicken every 20 to 30 minutes so it cooks evenly and don’t burn. The cooking process should take about an hour and a half depending on the size of the chicken and the temperature of the grill. After about an hour and 15 minutes, insert a cooking thermometer into the thickest part of the thigh. The chicken is done once the thermometer reads 165 degrees Fahrenheit. You can tell if it’s done without a thermometer when the juices run clear, and the leg easily twists.
- Remove the can from the finished chicken. If the can doesn’t slide right out, use tongs to pull it out.
- Enjoy your beautiful delicious beer can chicken.

FOOD6645M

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Different methods of cooking have health, flavor, moisture, or other benefits. This method includes all of those benefits. The most enjoyable way to cook food for me has always been the grill. Chicken is a staple for grilling, but never a whole chicken, until now.

Beer can chicken is a phenomenon. First an open can of beer (or many other liquids) is inserted inside a whole chicken. The chicken is cooked on top of the can, over a grill. The contents of the can infuse the chicken with flavor and keep it moist in the process.

The vertical position of the chicken allows the fat to drip off as it cooks. This system is like a stationary upright rotisserie. The finished product is succulent and tasty.

Preparing a beer can chicken is extremely simple and requires very little ingredients. Besides the necessities, which are a chicken, a can, and a grill, I also recommended a spice rub for additional flavor.

However there are some specific details you should know. The chicken has to be large enough for a can to fit inside it. A chicken around 4 pounds will work.

As for the beer it can be any variety of your choice, or can be something other than beer too. A can of pineapple juice, for example, will also work well. A charcoal or gas grill are both fine; however it is important the chicken, standing up on the can, fits under the lid.

The spice rub is also up to you. The spices I use are paprika, chile, garlic, and cayenne (tiny bit) all in powder form.

These spices give the chicken a slightly spicy and smoky flavor. An easier variant would be using an already prepared spice mixture, such as Old Bay.

RECIPE FOR BEER CAN CHICKEN

- First, preheat your grill. If using a gas grill turn it to medium-high heat.
- Next, clean the inside of your whole chicken, leaving a large empty cavity for the can. Season the chicken inside and out with salt, as well as the spice mix if you wish.
- Open the can with a can opener so that the top is completely removed. Do this the same way as if you were opening a canned good. Remove half of the liquid from the can.
- While holding the chicken cavity open with your hands, mount the chicken onto the can, pushing the can completely in. Move the mounted chicken to the grill and stand the can on the grate using the chicken legs to keep it balanced. Close the lid of the grill.
- Check and rotate the chicken every 20 to 30 minutes so it cooks evenly and don’t burn. The cooking process should take about an hour and a half depending on the size of the chicken and the temperature of the grill. After about an hour and 15 minutes, insert a cooking thermometer into the thickest part of the thigh. The chicken is done once the thermometer reads 165 degrees Fahrenheit. You can tell if it’s done without a thermometer when the juices run clear, and the leg easily twists.
- Remove the can from the finished chicken. If the can doesn’t slide right out, use tongs to pull it out.
- Enjoy your beautiful delicious beer can chicken.