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 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 set 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.

According to Cal, there is an industry standard that says it should be 42 degrees, but they have concluded that they could still be efficient at 45 degrees.

Candidates for Student Government elections announced

VINCENT FERNANDEZ
Staff Writer

The release of the 2011-2012 Student Government Council at Modesto Maidique Campus election candidate list shows that for the first time since 2008, elections at MMC will have a contested presidential race.

Out of the last five elections, four have been uncontested. The last contested election was between former SGC-MMC President Anthony Rionda and current SGC-MMC President Helena Ramirez go unchallenged.

A total of three candidates are running for the position of president, including: former SGC-MMC Senator Anthony Rionda and current SGC-MMC President Helena Ramirez go unchallenged.

The elections deadline for application submissions passed on Feb. 18, raising concerns about the amount of advertisement done by SGC-MMC.

“As far as I know two people have emailed me with concerns,” said SGC-MMC Elections Commissioner Andra Alhadari. “We’ve had an overwhelming amount of applicants this year and I feel that we definitely advertised adequately.”

Alhadari went on to explain that the application deadline was advertised in several places around campus, including the TVs in the Graham Center and through various emails.

When asked whether applications will be opened once again, Alhadari explained that after meeting with the elections board and administrators, the decision was made that the application process would not be reopened.

However, Alhadari did mention that this decision was being appealed, leaving a possibility of applications becoming reopened.

Also released were the candidates for the SGC-MMC Legislative Branch, which has several seats hotly contested. The senator of the College of Arts and Sciences position has the most applicants, with nine. Housing came in second with seven applicants, while the College of Business has six.

“This year we have positions that in previous years would have one to two applicants that now have six to seven applicants each,” said Alhadari.

According to Alhadari, the only two senate seats going uncontested for SGC-MMC positions include seats for the College of Arts and Architecture and the College of Public Health.

The list of candidates is final, assuming that all candidates attend a mandatory candidate information session. Candidates who do not attend will be disqualified and cannot participate in SGC-MMC elections.

For the SGC-MMC Legislative Election Candidates, turn to Page 2.

2011-2012 SGC-MMC EXECUTIVE BRANCH ELECTION CANDIDATES

President
• Alina Gonzalez
• William-Jose Velez
• Patrick O’Keefe

Vice-President
• Kevin Gonzalez
• Cristina Loreto
• Sanjeev Udhandi

For the SGC-MMC Legislative Election Candidates, turn to Page 2.
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 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 open left either because of resignations or promotions. With the resignation of former Senate 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: Obama admin will not defend federal marriage act in court

In a major reversal, the Obama administration has notified Congress that it will no longer defend the federal law that says marriage can exist only between a man and a woman.

Attorney General Eric Holder says he and the president agreed that the law is constitutionally discriminatory against same-sex couples who are legally married but whose status is not recognized by the federal government.

The administration has concluded that classifications based on sexural orientation must be subject to a higher constitutional standard than ordinary laws. And the federal Defense of Marriage Act does not.

Report: Ex-minister says Gadhafi ordered Lockerbie

Libya’s ex-justice minister on Wednesday was quoted as telling a Swedish newspaper that Libyan leader Moammar Gadhafi personally ordered the Lockerbie bombing that killed 270 people in 1988.

“I have proof that Gadhafi gave the order about Lockerbie,” Mustafa Abdel-Jalil was quoted as saying in an interview with Expressen, a Stockholm-based tabloid.

Abdel-Jalil, who stepped down as justice minister to protest the clampdown on anti-government demonstrations, didn’t describe the proof.

New Zealand continues search for survivors after earthquake

Emergency teams from around the world are working in Christchurch, New Zealand, in a race to find people buried beneath the rubble after a 6.3-magnitude quake hit the city Tuesday afternoon. Some 75 people have been declared dead and another 200 people are still missing.

A New Zealand newspaper reports that 90 percent of the city was still without water and about 40 percent of the city had no power. Prime Minister John Key said there was still hope that people would be found alive but there were no positive signs coming from major buildings where people were believed to be trapped.

Water sensors and light motion detectors help save energy

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 the implementation of water sensors and light motion detectors throughout campus. The implementation of water sensors and light motion detectors throughout campus aided the University’s conservation efforts.

Both Cal and DiCicco note that though it was a facilities driven accomplishment with the aid of outside vendors campus, campus constituents also played an essential role.

Last month’s Kill-a-Watt energy saving competition between all housing buildings on campus, hosted by Intellectual Decisions on Environmental Awareness Solutions, saved the university over $21,000.

“It doesn’t match up the three million but it gets everyone culturally conscious of what we are trying to do and all those little things help. If it weren’t for their active participation it would have been tougher to achieve these results,” said Cal.

Even when there are no energy competitions being held, campus constituents, particularly those living in the residence halls, strive to maintain eco-friendly lifestyles.

“Whenever I leave my room I always make sure to switch the lights off and try to use my lamp, which has a low watt bulb, more often than the actual room light,” said Amanda Munroe, 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 SIPA and the College of Nursing and Health Science building.
Dodds earns win in first start as a Golden Panther

MIKE MARTINEZ / 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 NCAA 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.

Mike Martinez came to the plate to get an early hit. Immediately after STU starter Corey Estrada plunked center fielder Joel Capote, Martinez knocked the ball over the left field fence.

The umpire made the call, giving the Golden Panthers a 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 third base.

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 McVay 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 went with a bunt and STU catcher Ray Rodriguez misplayed toward third, allowing Martinez and Flores to score and give FIU a 4-0 lead in the bottom of the sixth.

Martinez hit a driving ball down a gap in left field bringing Wettels home for his first score of the season giving the Golden Panthers a 7-0 lead in the bottom of the sixth.

Martinez would score later in the inning, bringing the score to 8-0 for the Golden Panthers.

BRYAM GARCIA / staff writer

Bryam Garcia came into the mound to close the game for the Golden Panthers.

“We got off to a slow start,” coach Turtle Thomas said. “We got some hits and got on a roll, but what was most 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."
the puppet-master for the organization he once assault charges, having Thomas allegedly being light was good for the University is for people him since his arrival to FIU. Whether that spot happen. Thomas has brought a spotlight with thought in the players' minds that this would happen. Anthony to go to the New York Knicks, and orchestrating the trade talks for Carmelo makes Thomas and Knicks owner James Dolan. The biggest issue is that Thomas is macho 'Big Apple' while the group of young men put their confidence in him. Thomas has recruited young, talented men who in turn have put their trust in him. The talent is there for this team to succeed. Young men like Dominique Ferguson and Phil Taylor, who are playing tough and showing their talents on the hardwood, all while their coach is flirting with the idea of leading the Knicks once again. 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, can Thomas lie to anyone 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. Dragging 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 left in shambles. It is also 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 with Thomas in good times and bad and raised 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. A few weeks working in Mark Johnson's gym changed all that. They say that this is Johnson's best work. Johnson has already seen one start off with a 2.39 ERA. But there was a clearly a point in 2010 where the 6-foot-7 man can throw 98 mph started slowing down a bit. In his first 20 starts, Johnson was 10-3 with a 1.61 ERA, 141 strikeouts, 29 walks and opponents were hitting .207 off him. From July 27 on, he was only 1-3, the ERA jumped to 4.20, the strikeout-to-walk ratio dropped in half and he was getting hit at a .283 clip. His last outing was Sept. 4, before the Marlins decided that the smartest move was not to force any more from their top starter. Johnson has been one of baseball’s best over the last five years. Johnson learned that his strength was out of balance. Years of concentrating on the right side of his body left him vulnerable in other areas, and that may be why his back muscles strained last season. Johnson has the arm strength to make 200 starts a year. The only thing Johnson said is “I don’t set any number goals,” Johnson said. "I don’t set any number goals," Johnson said. "The only thing I say to myself is that I want to improve on every part of my game."
Apple’s new business model alienates publishers and users

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 exited. 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 App Store 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.
2010, despite a few shining moments, was a remarkably forgettable year in cinema history. Blue Valentine was, in my opinion, the best film I saw last year, a transcending tale of a devastating 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 83rd Annual Academy Awards. Of course, this certainly isn’t the first time I’ve disagreed with the Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences.

Still, despite my personal misgivings and opinions on snubbed films, this is not a terrible year for the academy. The best thing I can say about this year’s nominees and performances is that none are exceedingly terrible and some are rather good.

I won’t have to suffer through another repeat of the 2006 Oscars ceremony when Clooney, i.e. the idea’s guide to racism in America, was undeservingly awarded for wallowing in its mediocrity. I dislike awards shows and I dislike the politics that surround them. Studios begin marketing potential Oscar contenders as early as September in trade papers and from that point on, the press junkets, interviews and pimping of their work doesn’t stop.

Then again, I like to focus on film as an art form or entertainment, not as mere business. But the Oscars ceremony is the big show in town.

John Huston said in Chinatown, “Of course I’m respectable. I’m old. Politicians, ugly buildings, and whore all get respectable if they last long enough.

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-Vietnam 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 selected Jeff Bridges for his work in Crazy Heart after he was snubbed several times as the academy is apt to do on occasion. This will be a conciliatory award then.

It is altogether ironic that Bridges, whose work in Crazy Heart was less than that of Firth’s, gave a memorable turn in True Grit. He is also nominated but will not win.

ACTRESS IN A LEADING ROLE
Natalie Portman – Black Swan: It’s the most unsettling role of all the nominees.

Personally, the naturalism of Michelle Williams’ performance in Blue Valentine is preferred but Portman’s dark journey into self-awareness gives enough range to impress the academy.

ACTOR IN A SUPPORTING ROLE
Christian Bale – The Fighter: Bale’s work is intense and engaging, his best work since The Machinist and once again shows his dedication to the school of Method Acting. His performance is the best of the other nominees.

Geoffrey Rush is an academy favorite and could very well take the award. This is certainly going to be a tight race.

ACTRESS IN A SUPPORTING ROLE
Haiile Steinfield – 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 and comers. 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 voters.

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. 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 Finch has been around for almost two decades and has been nominated before. 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 Finch has been around for almost two decades and has been nominated before. 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.

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BEST FOREIGN LANGUAGE FILM
Beautifull: 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 win, but his nomination seems to confirm that this film will.

WRITING (ADAPTED SCREENPLAY)
Aaron Sorkin – The Social Network: This is the only major nomination that this film seems to have locked.

Sorkin’s razor wit and fiery dialogue and understanding of the ongoing phenomena that is Facebook make this into a tragedy of Grecian proportions.

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.

Heat Versus Knocks
WHERE: 10 p.m. WHERE: Miami Beach American Airlines Arena
ARTWORKS: THE BUILDING BLOCKS OF MY LIFE
WHERE: Frost Art Museum
MARIOTTES DE LA ESQUINA: THE CIRCUS
WHERE: 2 p.m. WHERE: Bayfront Park
CARNIVAL STUDIO THEATRE: “THE CIRCUS”
As a University community, we are regularly preached to about the evils of alcohol abuse, domestic violence and criminal activity, and we heed our heads in agreement. In spite of a seemingly united front in the face of such behavior, a large portion of the community passively endures it by buying the products of or supporting many prominent figures in the media today. By supporting them despite their illicit activities, we are condoning their behavior. One of the biggest problems faced by today’s artists are the notions of superficiality and materialism. At the epicenter of this message are so-called “artists” such as Lil’ Wayne. His latest hit, “6 Foot 7 Foot,” amidst rampant cursing and materialism, presents an insidious message for such a serious crime. In 2009, two years after he was released, Vick was signed to the Philadelphia Eagles for a one-year $1.6 million deal. The despicable presetations about the presence of celebrities such as Lil’ Wayne and Vick, especially at the University, is not that they appeal to a small population of like-minded individuals, but to the majority of people both in the University and all across the country. In a recent classroom discussion, students were quick to defend Chris Brown, who is known for assaulting his女朋友 Rihanna, claiming that his products are separate from who he is as a person. In the same discussion, the show “Jersey Shore” was also defended, despite its arguably deplorable content. I asked how many people in the classroom listened to Lil’ Wayne, and unbelievably more than half of the students raised their hands. The students in that classroom discussion are representative of both the University’s student population and the public as a whole, then there is a serious problem. If it is so difficult to distinguish between what is acceptable and what is not in pop culture, then it becomes even more difficult to determine in actual society. American culture, especially within the younger generation, has become heavily dependent on the media for both knowledge and entertainment. However, the two have become so heavily integrated that there really are no contexts in which right and wrong. When the public is factored into this amalgamation, it only serves to disorient society’s moral compass.

College students must be encouraged to think critically when it comes to observing the public, especially regarding to entertainment. With the immense amount of content that the average student is exposed to, it becomes difficult to form opinions that are morally justified. To put it simply, a person must think twice about choosing to watch a football game or listen to a song and consider whether or not it is worth it to endorse such a person.

CONSUMERS MIGHT QUESTION CELEBRITY MORAL CHARACTER

PAOLO RAMOS
Staff Writer

Film portrays casual sex in distorted light

The film No Strings Attached portrays an uncommitted relationship as being glamorous and attractive. Such a relationship, if you can even classify it as such, only makes those involved believe that love can be found from a twisted and incomplete lifestyle. In reality, one can never be satisfied with this “in-between” phase. As humans, we never are.

Conventional dating is usually how people find their way into a relationship. Within this time frame, getting to know, understand and grow on one another is nowhere remotely close to a dysfunctional and no truly passionate one night stand. The term “making love” has been reduced to “having sex,” considering that the lack of commitment and creativity in the air, leaves no room for actual love to develop.

Additionally, there is always the chance of having an unwanted pregnancy with a person who obviously does not want to be in a committed relationship. This has become an overlooked factor, especially the complications of payments for medical bills and child support, not to mention getting together “for the sake of the child,” abortion or adoption planning for a relationship that had no plan from the beginning of the affair.

There is also the probability of getting a sexually transmitted disease. This also may occur in a serious, committed relationship, but with the nontraditional routine an uncommitted relationship begets, there are more chances of catching an STD, especially if one of the casual partners is unaware of their condition.

Furthermore, heartbreak and obscurity are big factors in such a scenario, where it is hard to make the distinction between love or relative attraction. Clarity becomes foreign, your mind becomes fogged with confusion and you begin to lose sight of your actual desires.

No Strings Attached is one of those films that make audiences believe that a casual affair is okay and normal, but it is not. A ‘friends with benefits’ relationship cannot and will not work. To have a real relationship, you have to work at it and you might have the downfall of getting emotionally distraught and hurt, but it is worth trying, rather than having one night stands and be guaranteed heartache.

A ‘no strings attached’ relationship is an excuse to not to have a real one, that will last and grow into something that someone who settles for one-night-stands cannot comprehend.

It is often said that those students in that classroom discussion are representative of both the University’s student population and the public as a whole, then there is a serious problem.
FOODGASM

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 this time I was working the events from the other side," Torres said.

“Since I am going with Bianca [to this event], I’ll be a guest and that’s something I never experienced since I am usually working the events,” Torres said.

The Allen Brothers will present the Burger Bash, which takes place on Feb. 24, and Rachel Ray will host it. This event will include Chefs on the Beach and guests will get to experience different flavors from the chefs, according to Torres.

Torres will also help with “Perrier-Jouet Bubble Q” on Feb. 25, which the Allen Brothers will present and Bobby Flay and Friends will host.

You get the chance to meet important people in the industry and obtain the experience within a working environment. It eventually leads to better opportunities that you wouldn’t normally gain," Torres said.

Torres began her involvement on campus as an SGA intern in the 2007-2008 academic school year and the year after became a lower-division senator. Torres was a peer advisor and a peer mentor in 2009.

Torres is the web master for her sorority, Sigma Kappa. Her position requires her to manage their website and the social media concerning the sorority.

Torres was also the treasurer for Stonewall Pride Alliance, a club dedicated to catering to the needs of gay, lesbian, bisexual, or transgender students.

She was a recipient of the University’s “Outstanding Leadership Award” from Student Life as a freshman in 2008.

At the moment, Torres is the reservation specialist at the Savoy hotel in South Beach where she deals with customers, answers calls, deals with their room reservations and assists guests. Torres is hoping to obtain a manager position in the hotel business.

“Of course, there are things that you wouldn’t be able to unless you have the money for it,” Torres said.

FUN AND GAMES

Students playing games and receiving educational material at the Sex Carnival in Panther Square at the Biscayne Bay Campus on Feb. 10.

RECIPE FOR BEER CAN CHICKEN

1. First, preheat your grill. If using a gas grill turn it to medium-high heat.

2. Next, clean the insides out 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.

3. Open the can and let it sit on the hot grill for 5 minutes, which will allow it to heat up a little bit before removing it from the heat.

4. Once the thermometer reads 165 degrees Fahrenheit. You can tell if it’s done without a thermometer—just pull it out.

5. Check and rotate the chicken every 20 to 30 minutes so it cooks evenly and don’t burn. 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.

6. Put the can from the finished chicken. If the can doesn’t slide right out, use tongs to pull it out.

7. Enjoy your delicious beer can chicken.