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The 3rd Annual FIU Festival of the Bands took place on Feb. 26 at the Herbert and Nicole Wertheim Performing Arts Center. Southwest Senior High School performed amongst other South Florida high schools.

MAGNUM OPUS

MELISSA CACERES
Staff Writer

Adding a new face to the Office of the Provost, recently Becerra-Fernandez has accepted the position of vice provost of Academic Affairs.

A professor of management and information systems, Becerra-Fernandez is the director and fellow of the Pino Global Entrepreneurship Center within the College of Business Administration.

Her appointment comes after the previous Vice Provost, Michele Ciccaruzo, stepped down during the fall semester to become the interim dean at the College of Public Health and Social Work.

“I’m looking forward to serving the University in this new role and continuing to work to make every student’s degree more valuable,” said Becerra-Fernandez, who graduated from FIU as the first female Ph.D. student in Electrical Engineering in 1994 and is the current recipient of the Engineer of the Year award from the Association of Cuban Engineers.

Through her role as the vice provost of Academic Affairs, Becerra-Fernandez will support the Provost in setting overall academic priorities, overseeing university-wide implementation of student-centered initiatives and maintaining academic policies. These policies also include those affecting faculty and instructor appointments and developments.

An issue currently being addressed under Becerra-Fernandez’s new position is the standardization of the clicker technology used in many classrooms. The vice provost will be creating a task force in order to address the concerns many students have about the cost of the clickers and that many cannot be reused for different classes.

“FIU has made very important gains. We’ve made great strides and achieved national and international attention,” said Becerra-Fernandez.

VICE PROVOST, page 2

Professor Webb’s career shaped by childhood experiences

NICOLE CASTRO
Staff Writer

Whether it was the first man landing on the moon or the launch of Spartnik I, the 1950s and 60s were not only defining moments for mankind, but for Dr. James Webb, professor of Astronomy and Physics. “1969 was a big year,” said Webb, recalling the significance that time had on his life. “I have to point back to that year since it was a deciding factor of what I was going to do with my life. The basic influence was watching people walk on the moon. It was incredible.”

Webb was in high school when Apollo 11 landed on the moon, and he recalls every moment he saw on TV and collecting clips from his local newspapers in Anderson, Indiana. Looking back, Webb sees the “space race” as the moment he saw on TV and collecting clips to point back to that year since it was a deciding moment in his life. “I have my signifi cance that time had on my life. I have my signifi cance that time had on my life.”

Most Patient Man in the Universe.

“Most Patient Man in the Universe.” WEBB claims that his drive to pursue a better career for astronomy and physics also came from his frustration with the current facilities at the University. “There were many times when Webb wanted to quit his funding for the center, but time and time again he found the drive to keep going.”

Much of his frustration, according to Webb, came from the lack of immediate action from the administration to fund the new building after the old observatory was deemed unusable.

“This should have been done as soon as our old observatory was not usable but it took this incredible amount of effort,” said Webb.

Webb expresses no greater satisfaction than knowing that the plans for construction are taking place.

“I want to thank the current administration for pushing this through because there was a big moment there where it really required their backing to get this done. And they stepped up to the plate and really did it,” said Webb.

Recipient of several Faculty Awards and even the President’s Teaching Award, Webb looks back to his introduction to the telescope on the heels of this recent accomplishment. Looking out of a brand new Knut telescope, Webb looked up at the night sky for the first time. “I took it home and just out of luck the first thing I pointed it to was a bright star in the sky which turned out to be the planet Saturn with the rings and everything,” Webb said.

From then on, he never stopped using a telescope, which led him to gradually become an amateur astronomer.

Professor Webb graduated with a Ph.D. in Astronomy and a B.A in Physics at the University of Florida and Ball State University respectively. He has given public lectures on topics ranging from String Theory to Astronomy of every type. Throughout his career, Webb has published over 60 refereed journals in Extragalactic Astrophysics and nearly ‘0 conference abstracts.

Ever since his youth, Webb saw himself as a “sort of quiet, nerdy person.” However, his “nerdy” persona never stopped him from playing sports in his hometown.

“Growing up in Indiana you have to play basketball, but I was always interested in science and math and would read encyclopedias,” said Webb. “I’ve been preparing for this moment for 15 years, so I knew exactly what I was looking for and it was great. It’s like when a kid gets a new comic book.”

JAMES WEBB
Professor of Astronomy and Physics

Webb, “Somehow I managed to do athletics.” When Webb is not monitoring the progress of the AstroScience Center or lecturing, he can most likely be found at the Recreation Center in a different type of meeting—Faculty staff noon ball.

“It was something I started a long time ago,” he recalled. Webb and other faculty members can be seen on the basketball court tri-weekly.

Aside from his ventures on the court, his interest in music sprouted from an acquaintance with an acoustic guitar—something he has infused with his ventures in astronomy.

“I play at the star parties that I hold,” said Webb. “Since my hobby is playing music, I work my hobby into my job.”

In his current agenda, Webb is putting a science foundation grant to professionally record his Astronomy songs, in order to distribute them to planetariums.

“They are sort of educational songs. They get you thinking about astronomical concepts,” said Webb, who not only hopes to get students majoring in Astronomy thinking about astro-nomical concepts, but the general public as well.
New VP looks to build off successes

Resignations, page 8

After Garcia was asked by Student Media for comment on his claims, however, she was taken aback and said many of his statements were inaccurate, including that though she communicated she would be applying for the full time job, she hasn’t been hired yet.

Garcia also said she wasn’t aware that Ivanov was about the homecoming issue, but he would know it was discussed at length between both councils if he had attended the hearings, but didn’t attend due to prior engagements and other commitments.

“The point is, you can either bar, or you can get something done,” Garcia said.

Furthermore, Garcia felt betrayed because though she knew there was tension in their speaker and speaker-pro-temp relationship, she thought it had been worked out.

“We had a deep meeting not too long ago where we hashed out all the drama. I mean, we shook hands,hashed out all the drama. I think he barked, I thought we connected,” Garcia said.

“And I hear this and it’s like, “You think we’re a slap to my face."

In the meeting, she said they decided to communicate through her preferred method, documented email, whereas Ivanov likes to speak on the phone or face-to-face. “Now, if we’ve established a certain way of how we communicate, we are going to conduct a relation as speaker and pro and for him to turn around and resign things he resigned and kind of just throw in the white flag, I feel like he decided it was the right time on his day,” Garcia said.

“We had a great meeting and we want to talk about great things and great goals to work on together.” Garcia said.

“I can’t accomplish everything and he can’t accomplish everything, and that’s the problem I have right now.” Garcia said.

Ivanov saw many other issues: unfulfilled promises initially made in a retreat, the continual appointments of inexperienced senators, and a chief justice that doesn’t fully know the constitution and is overstepped as a peer advisor at MMC. But there was one thing he couldn’t ignore.

“My biggest problem is Anaisabel because a lot of things that we could have done have been postposed or not done at all because of her not having time, because of her dedicating more time for her family and for some reason the career doesn’t work for her or not work for her, and that’s why I’m here to achieve that.” Garcia said.

“I want to stay in the University, Becerra-Fernandez, who considers herself bicultural. “Miami reflects our diverse community,” said Becerra-Fernandez, who was born in Cuba and raised in Puerto Rico, and is overextended as a peer advisor. I think there is a lot of reason for me to be here.”

Becerra-Fernandez has been rarely taken by women. “I think that it’s a good time for the Provost’s office to start looking at how we can create opportunities for more cross college collaboration, and build on each other’s successes. It’s important for the university to do the next level.”

Born in Cuba and raised in Puerto Rico, Becerra-Fernandez received her bachelor and masters degrees at the University of Miami and soon after, worked for Florida Power and Light for six years.

Upon accepting her doctorate, she joined the Southern Technology Application Center at the University of Florida, which commercialized technology developed by NASA—a career path she feels has been rarely taken by women.

“Electrical Engineering is just one of those areas that is very male dominated and for some reason the career doesn’t attract as many women as we would like,” said Becerra-Fernandez.

“I’ve recently been involved with Venture Capital and it’s also very male dominated, so there are still a few folks that we need to women we need to break through.”

Through her relationship with NASA, and federal agencies like the National Science Foundation and the Air Force Research Lab, Becerra-Fernandez managed to secure approximately $2 million in federal grants as a principal investigator under the guidance of the NASA Knowledge Management Laboratory, which she founded.

“With her appointment in the College of Business and her Ph.D. in engineering, she covers a breadth of areas in the academy that someone in that position needs to cover,” said Laidlaw Professor Douglas Wattock, adding that her academic background and numerous publications helped in his hiring decision.

According to the provost’s memo- randum to the University, Becerra- Fernandez has published three books, 24 refereed journal articles, 47 conference papers, seven book chapters and edited one research monograph.

Last November through the Pine Global Entrepreneurial Center, she launched the FIU’s America’s Venture Capital Confer- ence, which provided opportunities for around 350 Latin American and U.S. entre- preneurs to network with financiers, service providers and many others involved in Latin American business.

“FIU really reflects our diverse community,” said Becerra-Fernandez, who speaks fluent bi-lingual. “Miami itself is a microcosm of cultures and you really get to experience that here at this University.”

Melissa Caceres works as a Beat Writer, covering the FIU Foundation, Board of Trustees and Faculty Senate for The Beacon.
BASEBALL

Bermudez scores five times in Golden Panther win

ANDRES LEON
Staff Writer

Pablo Bermudez had a career night in a weekday win against Rhode Island on Feb. 28, reaching base each of the five times he went up to the plate, walking three times and picking up two singles. He scored each time, helping propel the FIU offense in a 13-5 victory.

He also stole four bases on the night, helping the FIU pitching staff constantly on watch and helping open up opportunities for the Golden Panthers throughout the game.

"We got a lot of good hits out there," coach Turtle Thomas said. "Pablo [Bermudez] played well and Garrett [Wittels] backed him up just as well. The thing is that if you don't open up your pitching early on it really leaves you in bust and you don't open up your pitching early. That's all we practiced in batting practice," Martinez said after the game. "These games can make a difference especially late in the season when you're trying to win the conference and make a regional bid. These games really help our team mesh." FIU would keep piling on their lead in the fifth inning. Yoandy Barroso would hit a line drive single into center field, scoring Jabari Henry to give the Golden Panthers a commanding 14-0 advantage.

MVSU managed to grab one run in the seventh inning, but it was too little, too late.

Jabari Henry hit his first homerun of the season in the bottom of the eighth, a solo shot, to give the Golden Panthers a 15-3 lead.

"Last week we didn't swing the bats in well," coach Turtle said. "I'm happy out there," said Spenceley, as the Eagles are accustomed to playing in a controlled environment, with their home matches being played indoors in Ypsilanti, Mich.

"I feel we're moving in the right direction now," Applebaum-Dall'au said. "We have set high standards as a team this year. It is more important to meet your own standards than to meet an expectation in my opinion."

The victory was the fourth of the season for the Golden Panthers, improving their record to 4-5 on the season.

The UNLV Lady Rebels are ranked 45th in the nation, led by Alejandro Juslofska, who was named player of the week in the Mountain West Conference.

"I expect us to put it all out there on the courts," Applebaum-Dall'au said. "It will be a real test to see how the girls perform when they're out of their comfort zone."  "I'm really excited for the trip. I love it out there," said Spenceley, a senior on the team. "I feel we are similar to them and will compete well."

"When you pitch well you give your offense more of a chance to find their rhythm," coach Turtle Thomas said. "We had good pitchers and even better hits."

TENNIS

Golden Panthers sweep Eastern Michigan at home

BRANDON WISE
Contributing Writer

Coming off an impressive perfor-

mance against Louisiana Lafayette, the Golden Panthers continued their winning ways with a 7-0 sweep of the Eastern Michigan Eagles on Feb. 28. Coach Melissa Applebaum-Dall’au is happy with the direction the team is heading.

"I feel we’re moving in the right
direction now," Applebaum-Dall’au said. "We have set high standards as a team this year. It is more important to meet your own standards than to meet an expectation in my opinion."

The victory was the fourth of the season for the Golden Panthers, improving their record to 4-5 on the season. This was also the third victory in a row for the team. Senior Lisa Brito felt very good about how the team played today.

"There was a lot of wind and heat to deal with," Brito said. "I had to put more spin on the ball, but I felt very comfortable out there. Our team came out very strong and put forth a great effort."

The heat and wind conditions played a factor in the match this afternoon, as this was one of the first matches that Eastern Michigan has played outdoors.

The Eagles are accustomed to playing in a controlled environment, with their home matches being played indoors in Ypsilanti, Mich.

Brito and her doubles partner, Maria Spenceley, rolled in their match 8-3 over Miriam Westerink and Nino Mebuke. The teams of Lisa Johnson and Rita Maisak (8-1) as well as Giulietta Boha and Christine Seredni (8-3) also picked up wins for the Golden Panthers.

Brito, who is ranked number 88 nationally, started off the singles matches for the Golden Panthers. Brito picked up a strong victory over Miriam Westerink (6-2, 6-1) in straight sets. Lisa Johnson then followed her by defeating Nino Mebuke (6-0, 6-2), also in straight sets. Giulietta Boha then clinched the match for the Golden Panthers, with her victory over Georg de’Lisle-Tarr (6-4, 6-1). Matches were also won by Chrissie Seredni (6-2, 6-2), Maria Spenceley (7-6(3), 6-4), and Rita Maisak (6-4, 6-4).

The team is now looking forward to their road trip to Fresno, Calif., where they will play University of Nevada Las Vegas on Saturday, March 5 followed by Fresno State on March 6. The Fresno State Bulldogs are ranked 60th in the nation, led by junior Laura Pola.

The UNLV Lady Rebels are ranked 45th in the nation, led by Aleksandra Juslofska, who was named player of the week in the Mountain West Conference.

"I expect us to put it all out there on the courts," Applebaum-Dall’au said. "It will be a real test to see how the girls perform when they are out of their comfort zone."

"I’m really excited for the trip. I love it out there," said Spenceley, a senior on the team. "I feel we are similar to them and will compete well."

"When you pitch well you give your offense more of a chance to find their rhythm," coach Turtle Thomas said. "We had good pitchers and even better hits."

Women’s Tennis vs. UNLV

- Time: 1:00 p.m.
- When: 03/05/11
- Where: Fresno, California

Giulietta Boha [above] helped clinch the victory over Eastern Michigan.
(1) Debra Kuhn, a hospitality student (far right), serves food in one of two Hospitality tents. The festival is a collaboration between the School of Hospitality and Tourism Management and The Food Network. (2) Miranda Purvis (center), acts as an information guru for guests at the festival. (3) Paul Murphy, a senior hospitality major, mans the grill. (4) Sonny Anderson from “Cooking for Real,” Chef Emeril Lagasse and Robert Irvine, host of “Dinner: Impossible” introduce Guy Fieri. (5) Guy Fieri pours vodka into his cauldron as part of his onstage presentation.
Golden Panthers squared-off with North
infield single to score Arcuri and give the
base. With two outs, Alfonso would post an
on the board, allowing Arcuri to steal second
first base on a fielder's choice with one out
to third and freshman Erika Arcuri reached
bunt by freshman Rachel Slowik moved her
home plate. In the bottom of the eighth, a sac
apparent home run, however the score was
scoreboard.
the Nittany Lions off of the
scoreboard. McClain pitched a one-
led the Golden Panthers to a 1-0 win over
State, as junior pitcher Ashley McClain
with an extra-innings victory over Penn
Carolina Classic on Feb. 27 and came away
winning two games against Big Ten and
Atlantic Coast Conference foes.
The Golden Panthers (7-8) began Sunday with an extra-innings victory over Penn State, as junior pitcher Ashley McClain led the Golden Panthers to a 1-0 win over the Nittany Lions. McClain pitched a one-
hitter to keep the Nittany Lions off of the
scoreboard.
PSU lead-off the top of the fourth with an
apparent home run, however the score was
called back after the runner did not touch
home plate. In the bottom of the eighth, a sac
bunt by freshman Rachel Slowik moved her
to third and freshman Erika Arcuri reached
field wall to tie the game at four.
With one out on the board, in the bottom
of the seventh, Burri hit her first home run of
the season with a solo shot over the left
field wall to give the Golden Panthers a 5-4
victory.

Golden Panthers were able to end weekend road trip on a strong not with
comeback win over N.C. State on Feb. 27.

Miami Heat acknowledge tough road ahead

Dwyane Wade cannot remember the last time the Miami Heat faced a stretch like this.
Starting Thursday, it’ll be five games in eight days, with the oppo-
nents all almost certainly playoff-
bound having a combined winning percentage of 682.
If that wasn’t enough, the season’s most critical stretch to date is coming while the Heat are struggling.
Sunday’s 91-86 home loss to New
York left Miami with more questions
and answers, but the third
game in eight days, with the oppo-
nents all almost certainly playoff-
bound having a combined winning percentage of 682.
That’s why we continue to play
these games. We continue to build
habits. Hopefully, eventually we’ll
learn the corner.”
With 22 games remaining, that
corner is coming up quickly.
and with limited success.
The Heat are 5-11 in games
decided by five points or less, and
13-14 against teams with a record of
500 or better compared to 29-2 when
facing teams with losing records.
Considering that the next 10 games are all against teams currently
with winning marks, that may be a
serious concern.
“It depends on who you ask,”
Heat forward Chris Bosh said Sunday
night. “I guess I’m optimistic, if you
will. It doesn’t make it tougher.
We wanted to win the game. We didn’t
win the game. There’s nothing we
can do about it now. We’ll look at
where we made our mistakes and
move on. We have too many games and
it’s getting too close to the end of
the regular season to worry about
stuff.”
It may have been a welcome
respite.
The Heat still own a comfortable
lead in the Southeast Division, are
almost assured of a top-three spot in
the East and have two of the league’s
top four scorers in LeBron James
(26.2 points per game, second-best
in the league) and Wade (25.5 per
game).
The classroom of the 21st century, for the most part, is highly efficient, especially at the University. Each student has access to the campus-wide wi-fi network, increasing the convenience and, in some cases, the necessity of notebook computers. This cyber-integration of the University and other college campuses has led to the rise of online mediators between professors and students, the most recent of which being Moodle. These systems are designed to allow professors to make the content of the course they are teaching accessible at any point for students. Despite this advancement, there is a lack of development in the area of content variety. Though this campus has constant access to the Internet, it is still a less common occurrence for professors to actually pull things from the web and apply them to the classroom. This is especially true in lower-division classes.

Some professors rarely use any other information other than the textbook to teach the class, while other professors chose to rise above this norm and incorporate other resources that not only supplement the base course material, but also make it relevant to students. In an Environmental Science class I took last semester, our professor used Moodle to link students to various types of media that linked the basic concepts to the issues facing the world today, such as global warming and overpopulation.

Making content relevant to students is important because technology has narrowed the typical student’s attention span. Today’s students have been conditioned to processing copious amounts of information on a regular basis. Facebook posts, Twitter feeds and homework assignments are mentally jumbled with varying degrees of difficulty, and many have simply lost the ability to prioritize what is truly important. This makes it even more necessary for students to actually recognize what they learn rather than simple memorization. Monotony has become even more of a threat to a fruitful learning experience as the exchange of information becomes even more dynamic.

Healthcare, heating subsidies for the poor and Planned Parenthood

By threatening to shut the government down unless their demands are met, Republic- ans are able to play the card of fiscal responsibility and paint Democrats as wasteful bureaucrats who do not want to prevent the government from shutting down because they refuse compromise, with good reasons, to be an option. Before the House Republicans thought that shutting down the government was a good idea, the House was attempting to pass into law H.R. 1, the 2011 Fiscal Year Appropriation Bill, which would set the budget for the remainder of the year.

Proposed cuts to Planned Parenthood and subsidies for heating all target the poor. The Low Energy Assistance Program, which would have provided $50 million in subsidies to the poor, were rejected by a huge margin because if it is anyone who do not need subsidies from the government for healthcare and heating, it is the disenfranchised.

As the government races towards a shutdown, it is obvious that our culture of partisan politics has gotten in the way of our democratic system.

The last time there was a government shutdown was in 1995 under the Clinton Administration. The budget was not resolved in time and the Republican Party, which controlled Congress at the time, wanted cuts to Medicare and other social programs. I hope this is starting to sound familiar. As House Republicans continue to whine and make demands like babies Senate Democrats continue to be the dutiful babysitter: patient, understanding, but unwilling to compromise to the demands of a bratty child.

Cutting the budget is not just a financial matter, it is also a social matter. Both sides need to compromise on programs that do not affect poor and disenfranchised. As Democrat and Republican opinions crash about the role that the American government should have, it is clear that the role any government should hold is to function, regardless of petty differences and political infighting.

The Politic is a political op-ed column. Look for it every other Wednesday.

In a recent article by the New York Times, results of a study by the Organization of Economic Cooperation and Development reiterated a fact that has become common knowledge lately: the United States is falling behind in global education standards. The article also points out that students in America are “over-entertained and distracted.” In a society that pervades useless content rather than global news, an art form that is most beneficial for students is more of a necessity than ever before.

It is not just pop culture that draws students away from academics, it is the methods employed by the mass media outlets that hook them. Media development seeks to inte- grate itself into the most intimate aspects of a person’s life. Nearly every major business, public figure or product has ways of reaching its target audience, whether it be through social networking, smart phone applications but most importantly, sympathizing with the priorities of the younger generation in order to appeal to them.

Though nothing can replace the traditional academic experience provided by a university, there is a necessity for innovation. In an article by the Associated Press, graduation rates have dropped close to the 50 percent margin. To keep students in school, colleges must fully utilize the Internet as a tool in order to bring their teachings to the same levels as the student and make them realize how important what they are learning is to the real world.

The U.S. had the best education before a time for a reason, and that was because it was a revolutionization system at the time utilizing the best tools available at the time. It is time again for such another revolution, one that could determine the fate of the future of education.

As of late, education has received a heavy dose of modernization. Gone are the days of simple pen and paper assignments actual course sign-up sheets and the limited avenues of communication between students and professors.

In recent years, education has received an easy for House Republicans to get ahead in the argument. It was a revolutionary system at the time for a reason, and that was because it was a revolutionization system at the time utilizing the best tools available at the time. It is time again for such another revolution, one that could determine the future of education.

Though nothing can replace the traditional academic experience provided by a university, there is a necessity for innovation. In an article by the Associated Press, graduation rates have dropped close to the 50 percent margin. To keep students in school, colleges must fully utilize the Internet as a tool in order to bring their teachings to the same levels as the student and make them realize how important what they are learning is to the real world.

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Argentina

Dictators go on trial for baby thefts

A long-awaited trial began on Feb. 26 for Jorge Videla and Reynaldo Bignone, two former dictators who allegedly oversaw a systematic plan to steal babies born to political prisoners three decades ago.

Brazil

Car runs down bicycling demonstrators

A motorist sped his car through a pack of more than 100 bicycling activists in southern Brazil, sending bikes and screaming riders flying through the air and leaving hard on the asphalt.

Puerto Rico

Lawmaker resigns over failed drug test

Rolando Cocito, a member of the Puerto Rican House of Representatives, resigned his seat on Feb. 27, two days after officials disclosed that a drug test showed he had used cocaine.

South Beach Wine & Food Festival Edition

Festival’s benefits worth the weekend of working

I tend to be skeptical of hype, and they sure do a good job of building it for the South Beach Wine and Food Festival. Since I had never taken part in the festival, I wasn’t one of the particularly enthusiastic group of the events that I took part in, from Feb. 24 through the weekend, but have completely changed that. In fact, I’m already looking forward to next year’s festival. It’s hard to convey the magnitude of the festival. A picture of the entrance next to the 84th Carlton on Feb. 24 around 7 p.m. would have shown a crowd of people lined up from the beach all the way to Collins Ave. Out of the approximately 35 separate events, which comprise the festival, the five largest hosted an estimated 16,000 guests. The largest event, Bubble-Q, a barbeque extravaganza which Bobby Flay and friends hosted accommodated around 4,000 guests. Tickets ran for $350 and $450 for general admission and VIP reception respectively.

Working at the festival was a lot of fun, an opportunity to live in the moment, and an opportunity to see a lot of people, a lot of activities, and a lot of food and decorations.

My position at an event called Burger Bash, which Rascal Roy hosted, allowed me the pleasure of seeing 3,000 people squeezed into a giant tent on the sands of South Beach. The tent was grandly adorned, and the burgers were delicious, but the shining moment for me was seeing the celebrated chef Momotomo at his booth. Through my eyes, the Iron Chef had the aura of a god.

The benefits of the festival for hospitality students are abundant. I got to meet and interact with a lot of people, including vendors, people in the industry, and fellow students that I probably would not have met otherwise.

One example is a gentleman I met during set up for Guy’s Big Beach Bar and Grill closing party. He owns a restaurant consultation company. It was nice to hear his insight on the business, as it is something I am interested in.

The festival proceeds also generate scholarship money for students and money for the hospitality program. The experience of festival was renewing for me. I have been seeing much of the hard work side of my chosen field lately, and anticipate seeing more in the future, but occasions like this remind me there is also a fun aspect.

Students Government Council

‘Background politics’ involved in senator’s resignation

BECCA GRIESEMER
Staff Writer

Three senators resigned from the Student Government Council at Biscayne Bay Campus last week, and another resigned on Feb. 28 in what Student Media described as a “GPA sweep.”

Student Government Council President Christin Halpin and they told me basically, “You’re the one who is wrong because you’re perceiving things in the wrong manner. That’s not exactly what we’re trying to do. But it’s more than clear than it is and I have seen a bunch of things that haven’t been going the right way.”

One aspect of the council Ivanov said he didn’t agree with is that the council’s leader, Battle, affects how votes are made on issues because of his attitude toward the council.

“I have a lot of times when she talks to us, and I believe that a lot of people on council feel like this as well as people that have resigned because of that,” Ivanov paused. “I feel less than a human being when she talks to me, you know what I mean? And I am trying to use the right words here, that’s why I’m thinking about it.”

Ivanov said he believed senators made vote the executive board would vote for it to be at MMC whereas they didn’t want it to be there because it’s a BBC-organized event.

“Same as when they found out that this is how I’m going to vote on the issue, this was one of the reasons why I didn’t become speaker-of-the-senate,” Ivanov said, a position he hoped to obtain.

Ivanov said in January, Garcia said she got a full time job for the City of Coral and would have to resign, and said that she has since missed three hearings and three senate meetings.

“When it comes to student government, I feel it’s a tool that’s not even that useful,” said Ivanov, who was appointed to the senate last year.

Before he resigned, Ivanov said he tried bringing up the issues he saw, and after about 10-15 emails, a meeting was arranged.

Ivanov said: “I sat down by my speaker of senate (Garcia) and my president of the senate (Denise Halpin) and they told me basically, ‘You’re the one who is wrong because you’re perceiving things in the wrong manner. That’s not exactly what we’re trying to do. But it’s more than clear than it is and I have seen a bunch of things that haven’t been going the right way.’”

While another of the resigned senators, Hernandez, agrees with Ivanov that right now the executive board has a lot of power, he doesn’t feel that they are abusing it.

“It’s not so much that they don’t want to help us, it’s just that they are pushing for other things too that are helping the school out.” Hernandez said. “But we have to bring the senate together and then go to the executive branch. We can’t expect them to do everything for us.”

But Ivanov said his thoughts on where the homecoming step show should be hosted, which was to be decided on in the budget deliberations, were ignored. Ivanov told the executive board he would vote for it to be at MMC whereas they didn’t want it to be there because it’s a BBC-organized event.

Student Media. “It’s very unfortunate to see him go as we had just started brainstorming ways to improve as speaker and speaker pro and we both wanted to work closer to create better initiatives for our senate and student body.”

RESIGNATIONS, page 2

SGC-BBC Election Candidates

President & Vice President
• Denise Halpin and Emilio Colyer

Senior Candidates
• Pablo Haspel - Honors College
• Odimayo Owulautomana - Senator-at-Large
• Xin Zheng - Hospitality Management
• Yan Soong - Hospitality Management
• Daniel Ursino - Arts & Sciences
• Farid Yamini - Arts & Sciences