Spring break gives students time for rest and relaxation

ALFREDO APARICIO Staff Writer

Spring break is here again, marking the beginning of a much needed break from the hectic lifestyle of college students giving them a chance to sit back and breathe before diving in again for one last stretch.

For some, this week offers the chance to disappear, clear their heads and not think about anything.

“I’m like a hermit,” said Claudia Vega, 18, a freshman and sociology major. “I don’t see a lot of anything.”

Apart from all of the family time, Vega gets the added benefit of celebrating her birthday, which sometimes coincides with spring break.

Other students see spring break as an opportunity to get out of Miami and see what else is out there. Kenneth Dyches, a sophomore political science major, will take a trip with his family out there. Kenneth Dyches, a sophomore political science major, will take a trip with his family and others to Steamboat, Colorado to go skiing.

“Last year we went to Breckenridge, Colorado, and we went skiing lessons,” Dyches said.

“If my parents aren’t working, we go out to dinner and the movies; my sister works there so we get to go for free sometimes,” she said.

Apart from all of the family time, Vega gets the added benefit of celebrating her birthday, which sometimes coincides with spring break.

“The whole extended family gets together and we celebrate. It’s a chance to share family time with everyone,” said Vega.

Other students see spring break as an opportunity to get out of Miami and see what else is out there. Kenneth Dyches, a sophomore political science major, will take a trip with his family and others to Steamboat, Colorado to go skiing.

“Last year we went to Breckenridge, Colorado, and we went skiing lessons,” Dyches said.

“By the end of the trip I was going on black diamonds [the hardest terrain],” said Dyches.

This pseudo tradition came from one of the families which belonged to Miami Ice and invited Dyches and his family along with them. Together they went upstate to enjoy the community restaurants and ski resorts.

Dyches and his family have also enjoyed trips to Yellowstone and Canada on spring break. “We always make the best of our vacation time. It’s better than being home and sleeping,” Dyches said. Another student who won’t stay home and sleep is Eduardo Almaguer, a sophomore broadcast journalism major.

Almaguer will take an 8-day trip to Tennessee to experience snowboarding, skiing and snow tubing.

“Last year my friend [Christopher Gonzalez] invited me but I broke my left ankle running down the sidewalk and I wasn’t able to go,” Almaguer said. “This year when they invited me again I couldn’t turn down the opportunity."

The trip to Tennessee, aside from a 17-hour car ride, will feature a pit stop at the Biltmore Mansion in Asheville, North Carolina. “I’m pretty excited,” said Almaguer. “Last spring break I just chilled and took it easy but I’m going to be more adventurous this year.”

And while some relax in the snow, others will take the sunny weather in Florida.

MELISSA CACERES Staff Writer

In a unanimous vote at a March 8 meeting, the Faculty Senate approved the addition of a student representative to the Graduate Council.

The student member would be a non-voting representative appointed by elected graduate student senators from Student Government Association.

According to Faculty Senate Chair Thomas Brulin, the Senate Committee “felt that [it] was a good idea” and will be recommending the Undergraduate Council to do the same.

“The purpose of this is to make the governance system more inclusive, to share it and to bring in a perspective from graduate students. It is to follow a trend that has been very successful at other universities for about three decades,” said Fred explosives, chair of the Graduate Council, during the faculty senate meeting. “Almost all of the universities in the state of Florida have done this already and it seems to bring students in to give their perspective on policies and procedures into the council, as well as concerns that we might not otherwise have heard.”

As one of the 18 committees of the Faculty Senate, the Graduate Council is a committee that is “charged to recommend and evaluate policies and procedures concerning graduate education at the University, evaluate proposals for new graduate programs, tracks, or academic certificates, safeguard the Curriculum and governance system more inclusive, to share it and bring in a perspective from graduate students.”

During the meeting, the Senate also passed a Graduate Council amendment aimed at reducing the unemployment benefit, which now pays a maximum of $275 a week. The legislation that is favored as well by Rep. Geraldine Thompson, an Orlando Democrat who offered an amendment aimed at getting more share of the unemployment benefits and now finds itself paying millions in interest, adding that the state system is broken.

The Republican-dominated House voted down several amendments before the bill was slated for debate and a final vote Thursday, which will be the third of the 60-day legislative session.

“It is reprehensible that the Florida House of Representa-
tives’ first order of business was to cut unemployment benefits,” said Jeanette Wynn, local president of the union that represents state and municipal workers.
NEWS FLASH

Final landing day for space shuttle Discovery

Space shuttle Discovery aimed for an on-time touchdown Wednesday to wrap up a long flying career. The world’s most-traveled space ship was due to return to Earth — for the last time ever — three minutes before noon.

NASA’s oldest shuttle has flown 39 missions over nearly 27 years. Discovery is beached back from the International Space Station. Its crew delivered and installed a new storage compartment, complete with a high-definition television.

The mission added 13 days to Discovery’s lifetime total of 365 days in space. Its total mileage is 148 million miles. Once back at Kennedy Space Center, Discovery will be decommissioned and sent to the Smithsonian Institution for display.

LOCATION A FACTOR FOR SOME EMPLOYERS

Students tend to hope that a particular type of classes they take, the internships they attain and their final GPA to lead a high paying salary, but surprisingly many students have a factor that most don’t think about — location.

According to Business Week, cities like Austin, San Antonio, Salt Lake City and Seattle rank at the top of the list for best places to go to start a career.

Location is one facet that is highly influential to career success and is typically overlooked, as the article suggests, by the average incoming college freshman.

Career Services at FIU stresses the importance location has in reference to a potential employee’s familiarity with it.

“From an employer’s perspective, I can say that companies like to hire individuals that are familiar with the demands of a particular location,” said Assistant Director for Employee Relations and Event Planning, Lauren Hubacheck-Butler.

Hubacheck-Butler refers to recruitment techniques with locally companies such as Caterpillar Corporate. The construction product and service company, according to Hubacheck-Butler, recruits students from FIU because its employers are on the search of applicants who are familiar with the Hispanic culture and the University often stands out for its Hispanic population.

The benefits of each location, as suggested by Business Week, involve the amount of money saved in the long run and an increase in the chance of becoming hired. Being familiar with the area, not needing relocation and having contacts within the area are some of the things that companies look for when selecting new employees.

Graduate students have reported positive financial and psychological impacts from choosing a location that encouraged their career development.

According to Campus-Grooto.com, in an article referring to the importance of location for career success, students should take into consideration two important factors: states with the best career growth and states with the lowest cost of living.

Hubacheck-Butler believes job opportunities would significantly increase if students were more aware of the growth rates, average salaries and living costs in different states.

At the end of each semester, seniors fill out a survey about their plans after graduation. The University hopes to find out how many students are moving out of state after ending their college career.

While the responses from this semester’s survey have not yet been processed, previous surveys have revealed that students often leave South Florida for graduate schools.

New member to bring student voice

SENATE, page 1

motion which “urges the dean of the University Graduate School and unit deans to evaluate the level of funding for graduate students in differing units and, where appropriate, improve support.”

Within the motion there was an emphasis on the need for doctoral students in the social sciences who have exhausted fellowship aid and are working as adjunct without tuition waivers.

“From a student perspective it will give us a sense of knowing what’s going on. I think that too many of us don’t know. To have another voice in the Faculty Senate and the Graduate Council (gives us) more of a sense of a grad life and makes sure that our needs are being met,” said SGA Graduate Senator Enka Edwards, who proposed both motions to the Graduate Council.

In an interview with Student Media, Blevens stated that he looks forward to more student-driven projects, like Edwards’, “to be brought up at the Graduate Council meetings now that they will have a voice within their board.”

“At least I would hope that we get a lot of input from the graduate student body now. It’s something that was overdue and I’m glad that it had that support from the Senate body now to have them recommend it to the Undergraduate Council,” said Blevens.

While the Senate heard no opposition to the student representative motion from any of the senators, the College of Education Senator Leonard Bliss inquired about reasons behind the non-voting factor.

“If we’re after the aspect of ‘inclusiveness,’ then the student should really be a voting member, not a member without a vote,” said Bliss, who is a professor of educational research methodology.

“It seems to me that the most logical thing to do.”

In response, Blevens mentioned that the voting issue was the most contentious issue brought up by the Graduate Council during their meeting.

Yet in their research involving other universities, the Council members found that it was common practice that the student was a non-voting member.

Also considered was the possibility that a student representative could be sitting on the Graduate Council before the end of the spring semester.

Melissa Acero writes as a Beat Writer, covering the FIU Foundation, Board of Trustees and Faculty Senate.

IN THE WILD

The Marine Biology club met at Bill Baggs State Park at Key Biscayne on March 6 to explore the local marine life. Members snorkeled around the local sea grass beds and used a seine net to observe squid, octopuses, crabs andurchins.

The Beacon — Friday, March 11, 2011 www.fiu.edu

NEWS
The Golden Panthers prep for trip

MALCOLM SHIELDS
Staff Writer

The Golden Panthers (10-10) will travel west this weekend to participate in the Reno Classic.

The team will face off against New Mexico and Boston College on March 9. The Golden Panthers will then play New Mexico for a second time on March 10, followed by an early evening tilt against tournament host Nevada.

FIU comes into the tournament on a two game losing streak. When the Golden Panthers get off to a fast start, they are in good shape to win the game.

FIU currently has a 9-1 record when they score first in a game, but the team has struggled to pull out wins when trailing. The Golden Panthers have a 2-8 record when trailing after four innings of play.

Offensively, FIU will be led by Ashley McClain who is hitting .379 and slugging .603 on the season. Jessy Alfonso is not far behind with a .327 average.

In the circle, look for the platoon of Jenn Gniadek, Mariah Dawson and McClain to likely make starts during the weekend. FIU’s team ERA is a solid 2.43 and opponents are only hitting .245 against the Golden Panther pitching staff so far this season.

The New Mexico Lobos (6-6) are led offensively by junior Jessica Garcia, who is hitting .447. Garcia also leads the team with a .421 slugging percentage. The top of the Lobos lineup is loaded with numerous .300 plus hitters that includes Kerry Hodgins (.379), Kaity Ingram (.333), and Danielle Castro (.324). Castro also leads the team with a .921 slugging percentage.

The Lobos pitching staff is led by sophomore Kaela DeBroeck, who currently is 3-3 with a 3.74 ERA in seven starts for New Mexico. The pitching staff is also supported by Kati Gutierrez and Madeline Greene, who have combined to pitch in 39.2 innings this season. The Lobos have faced a future opponent of FIU in the Baylor Bears, but lost all three games against Baylor.

The Boston College Eagles (5-11) have struggled early on this season.

The Eagles have played against tough non-conference teams in Michigan State, Virginia Tech and No. 10 Tennessee.

The Eagles also lost to DePaul, who defeated FIU earlier in the season. The Eagles are led by pitcher Nicole D’Argento. She is 3-1 with a 3.75 ERA with twenty-seven strikeouts.

Brittany Wilkins leads the Eagle offense coming into the series with a .379 average and three homers. Maria Pandolfo leads the Eagles with eight RBIs on the season.

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Golden Panthers win fifth straight match

BRANDON WISE
Contributing Writer

Following a weekend road trip to Fresno, CA, the Golden Panthers came out with a strong 6-1 victory over the College of Charleston Cougars. The team started out a little shaky, barely pulling out the doubles point when Lisa Johnson and Christine Serendi won a 9-8 tie-breaker over Katie Lee and Kinsey Casey. Coach Melissa Applebaum-Dall’au was happy with how the team competed.

“The first match after a big win is always a difficult one,” Applebaum-Dall’au said. “But they came out and competed. They started out slow, but they turned it on and in my book winning 6-1 is okay.”

The team came out after having a rough doubles portion and a strong finish in singles. Liset Brito, a senior, defeated Christin Newman in straight sets (6-0, 6-0). This was her fifth consecutive singles victory and felt pleased with her effort today.

“It was a long weekend but overall, it was a good day,” Brito said. “I didn’t have a good rhythm at the beginning, but came out strong in the end. It was a little uncomfortable with the wind, but it is always going to be there.”

“The wind might have played a role for both teams, but neither team would let it be an excuse,” Maria Spenceley also came out strong and defeated Kinsey Casey in straight sets (6-1, 6-2) and then Lisa Johnson clinched the match for the Golden Panthers with her victory over Caroline Newman in straight sets (6-1, 6-1). She is confident in where the team is heading.

“Tied 1-1 when the team is heading. “We bonded a lot in Fresno as a team,” Johnson said. “Let everyone become a part of a team. I feel like we will always come through because I know that everyone will fight to the end.”

Also picking up wins today were Rita Maisak (6-2, 6-1, 6-1) and Giulietta Boha (2-6, 7-6, 10-4), 10-5.

The Golden Panthers seem to have hit their stride, now winning their fifth consecutive match.

They are heading into a tough stretch against Sun Belt foes such as Troy, North Texas, and South Alabama. Coach Applebaum-Dall’au is looking forward to the challenge.

“We are not playing our best tennis yet, but that’s what we want to see at conference,” Applebaum-Dall’au said. “We have three big matches coming up, all conference matches, it will be a good test to see where we are.”

BRITO WINS SUN BELT AWARD

Liset Brito was named the Sun Belt Conference Women’s Tennis Athlete of the Week on March 8 after going unbeaten in the past week with singles victories over Miriam Westerink, 6-2, 6-1 (Eastern Michigan), and No. 77 Lucita Batta, 6-1, 6-3 (UNLV). She now has a record of 7-3 on the season. This is the seventh time in her career that she has won this award and she is also ranked No. 98 nationally.

FIU Stadium can become a key host site for soccer in the region

TIMELY SPARK

This Gold Cup could act as a catalyst for FIU to renew its efforts to establish itself as the go-to location for the largest events beautiful game. No more passiveness. No more idly sitting by waiting for the next Gold Cup to make its way around.

It’s time to team up with the soccer community to bring attractive events to FIU that will make the school synonymous with big-time soccer.

Not to mention the thriving youth soccer community that has been growing rapidly over the last decade and has turned local clubs and high school teams into some of the best in the nation.

There are thousands of Miamians who hold allegiances to national teams from their home countries throughout the western hemisphere. Tapping into those communities and hosting international ‘friendlies’ regularly would have them flocking to Modesto Maidique, a venue that has been fragmented for decades without an identity.

These multiple groups provide a solid pool for FIU to tap into and market to.

This summer’s double-header Gold Cup match will be the first soccer match held at the stadium since it served as one of home venues for the local lower division soccer clubs. Coming soon will be the annual event of Golden Panthers Soccer vs. the Orlando Lions, a match that was spear-headed by a local billionaire and FC Barcelona, fueled away and shattered the hopes of thousands of soccer fans awaiting the return of Division 1 soccer to South Florida.

Since then, FIU has played a role for both teams, providing a solid pool for FIU to tap into and market to.

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The same year the school hosted its first Gold Cup, FIU came heartbreakingly close to hiring a Major League Soccer bid for an expansion franchise that would have brought a substantial amount of investment and consistent national exposure to the campus.

After the bid, one that

was never even submitted, but for FIU and the local soccer community. It’s a great event for Miami and South Florida.

But for those who live in the region, FIU Stadium should be buzzing with just as much fervor as it was in 2009, when the school hosted the Gold Cup matches every couple of years. Many of the teams played against each other in Detroit, near as appealing as the United States’ second group match against Panama on Jun. 11 in East Rutherford, New Jersey.

The winner of Group B will play against El Salvador, Costa Rica and Cuba at PPL Park in Philadelphia on Jun. 18.

Honduras hopes to win Gold Cup for first time since 1981

Gold Cup, page 3

Guatemala will be making their eighth Gold Cup appearance, second to only Mexico in tournament appearances, having last won the tournament in 1967. Their last appearance was in 2007, where Guatemala fell short to Canada 3-0 in the quarterfinals.

They are heading into a head-to-head matchup against Guatemala, having defeated “La Azul y Blanco” eight times with three draws, respectively.

Honduras and Grenada, who will play in the second at FIU Stadium, have faced each other before. It will be a rematch of their 2009 Gold Cup game, where Honduras routed the “Spike Boys” 4-0 in Group B. It will be Grenada’s second appearance in the continental tournament.

The “Spike Boys” have lost all three matches, failing to score a goal and were outscored 0-10 during their 2009 campaign.

Honduras has not won the Gold Cup since 1981, but had one of their best tournaments in nearly a decade in 2009 where “Los Catrachos” placed third in that year.

The winner of Group B will play clinic a quarterfinal spot in June 19 in Washington, D.C. The runner-up of Group B will play in Jun. 18 in East Rutherford, New Jersey.

Mexico will look to defend their 2009 title in Group A as they’ll pair up against El Salvador, Costa Rica and Cuba. The U.S. Men’s National team, winners of three out the last five Gold Cups, will play in Group C against Canada, Panama and Guatemala.

U.S.” second group match against Panama on Jun. 11, will be held 280 miles north of FIU Stadium, at Raymond James Stadium in Tampa.

A limited weeklong pre-sale is underway until Mar. 16. Fans can call the FIU Stadium box office for further information. Tickets will go on sale to the general public on Mar. 16 on CONCACAF’s website, www.goldcup.org.

We bonded a lot in Fresno… I feel like we will always come through because I know that everyone will fight to the end.

Lisa Johnson
FIU Tennis

Honduras hopes to win Gold Cup for first time since 1981

Gold Cup, page 3

place finish in the 1993 Gold Cup.

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Columns

A NOVEL NIGHT

Departments pay tribute to author

ESRA ERDOGAN
Photo Editor

It is a truth universally acknowl-
edged that Jane Austen, the 19th
century English novelist, could be one of the most pervasive female writers of all
time.

Austen’s works still inspire today, as countless novels and films based on or
influenced by her writing flood popular culture.

The University’s theatre program paid tribute to the author by presenting
John Jory’s adaptation of Jane Austen’s
classic novel “Pride and Prejudice” last
week.

In a collaborative effort, the English and Theatre Departments presented
Austen-Mania, an interactive event that
explored the world, culture and litera-
ture of Jane Austen’s works.

Austen-Mania took place on March
7 in the GC Ballrooms at 7 p.m.

The event featured work of students in the theatre department as actors and
costume designers.

Asking students from the show
“Pride and Prejudice” paraded around
the room in costume and interacted
with students in character.

“As a fan of Austen’s works, it was so
enjoyable to see people dressed up and
acting like they belonged to that time
period. All the characters I imagined in
‘Pride and Prejudice’ were brought to
life and that was magical,” said Brooke
Wertman, a junior sociology major.

The first annual Austen-Mania
included activities galore.

Scrivener’s Sentimental Station
allowed students to write a letter with
pens and ink on stationery.

The Bonnet Making station invited
students to fashion their own bonnets
out of paper and trimmings.

Sketches of clothing and accessories
students were trained to help with the
process of fashioning the bonnets.

Students who did make a bonnet
were encouraged to enter the bonnet
judging at the end of the event.

The judges were Marilyn R. Skow,
theater chair, and Marina Pareja,
department costume and designer for
the play.

For their efforts, three winners won a
pair of tickets to “Pride and Prejudice”
and a Jane Austen action figure.

The last two stations charged a small
fee of five dollars each, with all funds
going to a scholarship to a student within
the theatre department.

During the event, actors from the
department would intermittently do
readings from Austen’s works.

The cast members were also invited
to read letters aloud they had written
to other characters in the show. Professor
Phillip Church, the director of the show
“Pride and Prejudice,” explained that
this kind of work really allowed the
actors to get into the minds of the char-
acters they embody.

In addition, the event featured guest
speaker Arnie Perlstein. Perlstein, an
independent scholar, discussed his
thesis on the “Shadow Character” in
Austen’s writings.

“I thought [his presentation] was
interesting because I had never thought
of Austen’s characters that way,”
said Tiffany Torres, a senior studying
English and linguistics.

Nineteenth century music was
performed by faculty members Kath-
leen Wilson, Jose Lopez and Marica
Littley.

Before the bonnet judging, which
was the last event, a dance exhibition
showcased actors from “Pride and
Prejudice” performing a number from
the play followed by an instructional
session where students were invited
to dance with cast members.

“Dancing was my favorite part of
the night because I got to dance with
Mr. Darcy,” said Torres.

The evening was an enchanting
tribute to a writer who encapsulated
social commentary, comedy and
romance into each and every one of her
memorable works that are still
beloved by readers everywhere.

“This is the first time we’ve hosted
Austen-Mania, but we hope to carry
this event into the next year,” said
Church.

Columns

A NOVEL NIGHT

Departments pay tribute to author

ESRA ERDOGAN
Photo Editor

“Bambi” is easily the most ambitious
work to come from the Walt Disney Studio,
save perhaps for “Fantasia.” Both eschew
dialogue for story-telling purposes, and
concern themselves with blending images
and music into an experience.

“Fantasia,” for all of its advances in using
abstract images, is still a series of short films.

I bring this up comparison because certain
details in the earlier film, particularly the
panning shots of the forest of autumn leaves
falling to earth are mirrored in both works.

You can also see the advances made by
the roster of artists with Disney in the short
time between the release of “Snow White and
the Seven Dwarfs” in 1937, and “Bambi” in
1942. Look at the deer drawn for the earlier
film. They are caricatures of deer with no focus
on their structure or anatomy. Bambi is not
so much a cartoon as he is a deer with human
features and attributes: factors that are vital
to making the film work.

Bambi has the locomotion of a real deer but
the face of a child. It is the drive to achieve the perfect balance
between the natural and the cartoonish.

Animator Marc Davis, responsible for
designing the character of Bambi, famously
resorted to studying babies to base the
newborn fawn’s look of curiosity at the
woods that he inhabits on their expressions.

Thumper, an impetuous young rabbit,
tries to teach Bambi how to jump over a
log. The door tries but stumbles. The look
of embarrassment on his face is palpable.

It speaks to the sense of disappointment all
kinds of children have when they have a
minor failure. He tries again and belly flops onto
the log. He keeps trying, learning how to control
his legs. A lesson is learned: if at first you
don’t succeed, try, try again.

The film unfolds as a series of parables
and discoveries as the fawn watches the
seasons progress, meets new friends and
grows up.

Many would be lulled by the quiet wilder-
ness shots or the peaceful Frank Churchill/
Edward Plumb score; reliant on chords
and strings. It only makes the occasional
violence that occurs, such as loud gunshots,
strike the audience further. The beautiful land-
scape of the clearing where Bambi’s mother
takes her child to graze turns to a few shades
of brown and yellow, accentuating his fear
of the human hunters who’ve come onto the
land.

The shooting of Bambi’s mother is still
one of the most shocking and traumatic
moments in cinema. Committed off-screen,
neither Bambi nor the audience ever glimpses
her corpse. When told that she won’t be
coming back to him, Bambi sheds a single
tear and follows his new guardian away.

“Bambi” was released from the Disney
Vault on Blu-Ray and DVD on March 1.
Dance event to raise money for Haiti

WHERE: MMC
WHAT: MADNESS STEP SHOW
WHEN: 9 a.m. - 5 p.m.
HOW MUCH: Free and open

One of the key innovations on the Internet today is the trend of people moving toward the cloud, a metaphor for storing information on the Internet rather than locally on a hard drive. But the cloud can turn dark at a moment's notice.

On Feb. 27, over $500,000 GMaal users logged in to their accounts to find that they had been completely reset, showing users inboxes filled with “Welcome to GMaal” emails rather than possibly years of correspondence and attachments.

As a loyal and obsessive Google Apps user, this scares the hell out of me. My inbox is filled with important emails and information, including, chal-legs, attachments and yearly worth of emails that can come in handy.

Every year, with every new online innovation, we as users take one step closer to relying on the Internet to be the primary repository for our information.

But I think users really don’t know how much they rely on the cloud. Our Facebook account does more than just like and comment. In reality it's a storehouse for our personal information and the most detailed list of contacts you can find.

This idea is supported by most mobile devices today, which Google Apps account to list eliminating the need for the “NEED NUMBERS PLZ” Facebook groups.

Cloud storage questions of reliability

By Jon Jory

Historically prevalent in African-American fraternities and sororities, the art form of stepping has in recent years seeped into the interests of other cultures; however, sticking to tradition, only members of the National Pan-Hellenic Council, a collaborative organization of nine historically African-American fraternities and sororities, will participate in the competition.

Collectively referred to as “The Divine Nine,” the only organization in NPHeC that will not be present is Kappa Alpha Psi, who will be away at a conference. It’s difficult to get all nine organizations to participate; it’s always a challenge. At FISS eight of nine [organizations] competed, always a challenge. At FISS eight organizations to participate; it is “It’s diffi cult to get all nine organizations to participate; it’s always a challenge. At FISS eight of nine [organizations] competed, always a challenge. At FISS eight organizations to participate; it is "It’s difficult to get all nine organizations to participate; it’s always a challenge. At FISS eight of nine [organizations] competed, always a challenge. At FISS eight organizations to participate; it is" It’s difficult to get all nine organizations to participate; it’s always a challenge. At FISS eight of nine [organizations] competed, always a challenge. At FISS eight organizations to participate; it is" It’s difficult to get all nine organizations to participate; it’s always a challenge. At FISS eight of nine [organizations] competed, always a challenge. At FISS eight organizations to participate; it is" It’s difficult to get all nine organizations to participate; it’s always a challenge. At FISS eight of nine [organizations] competed, always a challenge. At FISS eight organizations to participate; it is" It’s difficult to get all nine organizations to participate; it’s always a challenge. At FISS eight of nine [organizations] competed, always a challenge. At FISS eight organizations to participate; it is" It’s difficult to get all nine organizations to participate; it’s always a challenge. At FISS eight of nine [organizations] competed, always a challenge. At FISS eight organizations to participate; it is" It’s difficult to get all nine organizations to participate; it’s always a challenge. At FISS eight of nine [organizations] competed, always a challenge. At FISS eight organizations to participate; it is" It’s difficult to get all nine organizations to participate; it’s always a challenge. At FISS eight of nine [organizations] competed, always a challenge. At FISS eight organizations to participate; it is

This idea is supported by most mobile devices today, which Google Apps account to list eliminating the need for the “NEED NUMBERS PLZ” Facebook groups.

As inhabitants of the almighty cloud we sacrifice the power to dictate our own security. When I hear sob stories about someone losing their data after their hard drive crashed I don’t have pity for them, they have no excuse. In that instance the user has the power and the ability to back up their information.

Users who walk in to their local electronics store are bombarded by cheap, portable hard drives, which work seamlessly with the built-in back-up software that ships with Windows 7 and Apple OS X.

On top of that, the name of the game when it comes to back up is redundancy; how many different places your information is backed up. For example, all my information is primarily backed up on a hard drive that sits on my desk. Aside from this, I keep a mirrored pocket hard drive in my office desk that I plug in to and update every week as well as using some light cloud storage for important documents I keep with me all at times.

With a single cloud storage solution the average user can’t create that redundancy; they simply fork over their information and hope for the best.

But not cloud inhabitants, there are a few options for you. If you use Google Apps and social media often, and take pride in the banal statements you tweet throughout the day then services like Backaply are for you.

The folks at Backaply specialize in backing up your social graph and Google Apps accounts. Their free entry-level package backs up five different accounts and gives users 2 GB of storage. They also offer a 20 GB plan for $4.99 per month and an unlimited storage option for $19.99 per month.

For cloud storage to be taken seriously, providers like Google need to be more transparent when it comes to how they manage people’s information, what the levels of reliability they can offer.
Extracurricular activities enhance education

GIOVANNI GONZALEZ
Staff Writer

With the University being a commuter campus, most students travel to campus to take a few classes, and then return home. This common scenario does little to depict a fulfilling college experience.

When students come to campus just for class, it becomes very difficult to meet new people, participate in meaningful activities and get the most from a time that is supposed to be one of the best in their lives. The University hosts many extracurricular activities that can do a great deal to enhance the college experience for many students.

Spending a little extra time on campus does not have to mean studying for an exam or completing an assignment. There are many opportunities for students to complete their college experience by engaging in a variety of activities, including sports teams, professional development groups, leadership positions and even groups for specific sororities or getting an on-campus job.

These options provide a great way to meet new people and participate in similar things, make a difference for your school or make some money on the side while being on campus. Getting more involved is a great way to gain our university in some way, with the added benefit of having fun and meeting new people.

The Student Government Association and the Student Programming Council always have a say in major events while environmental groups frequently visit the nature preserve and greenhouse on campus. Student media, meanwhile, is a great source of fun and information. Recreational public field hockey, anyone? No? Well, that’s understandable.

The fact that the majority of students drive to and from campus could be the reason why it may be difficult for some to feel at home and meet new people. From firsthand experience, finding others who are interested in similar things can do wonders to make going to college much more enjoyable.

There are many career-related groups that can give insight to the field they are related to. These groups are a great way for students to gain some real-world experience while still in college and even develop new opportunities and connections that may prove useful for their graduation. Furthermore, participation in these organizations also look great on a résumé.

Although some students at the University may have responsibilities at home or may have an off-campus job, extracurricular activities will mostly benefit students who want more things to do besides just going to class. If you’re starting to look for interesting groups to join, there is no better place to start looking than in the Graham Center, mostly during the opening weeks of a semester. It is a good idea to apply early, because often space can be limited and it may take a few weeks to get into a particular group.

In case, joining an organization can only enhance a college experience that many students may find lacking.

From the very beginning, our country has had the belief that “Governments are instituted among Men, deriving their just powers from the consent of the governed.” Our unwavering conviction that it is the people who should hold power over the government, and not the other way around, is one of the ideologies that makes our country so very unique. The earliest Americans believed in this ideal so strongly that they were willing to go to war with the most powerful empire in the world at the time to make it a reality.

The rest is history; 234 years of it to be exact. Thankfully, even after gaining our independence this belief of ours had not diminished and has helped to ensure that our government stays true to its most fundamental principles. Before our now hallowed Constitution could be adopted, Alexander Hamilton, James Madison, and John Jay wrote The Federalist Papers to assure the American people that a powerful system of checks and balances was embedded within the Constitution. We must collectively raise our voices and defend these areas of funding to ensure that we can retain our global competitiveness.

An important way that you can help is by contacting your Congressmen and Senators. Raise your voices and be heard. Let them know that the government does not consent to cutting areas of education funding. Help ensure that the American tradition of a government “of the people, by the people, for the people, shall not perish from the earth.”

-Natasha Caplan
Contributing Writer

With over 10,000 college-going commuters, the University of Miami has become a central Spring Break location. Although it may seem like there is a perfect gateway for a weary student, it may not be the best time to go.

In the last five years, over 200 Americans have been killed in Mexico, and despite tourism slowly rising, the country is still in disarray. Aside from the dangers in Mexico, it is cheaper to visit a number of closer beaches, make homemade margaritas and have an equally tropical adventure.

Even though warnings for vaccinations in Mexico are not new, United States officials and security experts are taking an increased urgent tone this Spring Break season in light of recent attacks on U.S. citizens in Mexico, including the shooting of two American immigration officers last month. Security conditions have deteriorated in Mexico and drug violence and prostitution is moving beyond traditional border city party areas into coastal resort towns like Cancun and Acapulco. Crimes targeting tourists like theft, rape and kidnapping are on the rise in port cities when growing cartels make it even more difficult for the rendered local law enforcement corrupt and ineffectual.

Furthermore, according to the U.S. Department of Defense, Mexico’s two most deadly drug cartels have joined together and have fielded more than 100,000 foot soldiers. An arm size this large would make Mexico’s armed forces and threats to turn the country into a narco-state of hysteria. U.S. officials say the consequences of such a pact would be grave for this weakening country. The worst areas to be affected by this violence are the border cities, such as Juarez and Tijuana.

Texas Department of Public Safety Director Steven McCraw recently cited violence near the border as a reason for Texas college students to avoid traveling to Mexico, saying in a written statement on March 1, “Drug violence has not diminished. We have seen innocent bystanders and people who may have been in the wrong place at the wrong time among the casualties. Our safety message is simple: avoid traveling to Mexico during spring break and stay alive.”

It is advised for students by many colleges to steer clear of areas of prostitution and drug-dealing, where Americans have been kidnapped and other innocents have been caught up in indiscriminate violence between Mexico’s clashing drug cartels.

With that said, we have incredible beaches in Florida. A student can drive for under an hour to a few hours to get to a similar scenic beach destination. Miami is an obvious, convenient and beautiful choice, but may not be distant enough to consider a vacation, even though someone could drive to the beach and back and not waste money on hotels.

Don’t just think Daytona Beach, or Ft. Lauderdale, either. There are many options for the sunshine-loving student. The west coast has some of the top beaches in the country, such as Siesta Key in Sarasota, which has the whitest and softest quartz crystal sand in the world. Not going to the ‘usual’ places can be the gateway the tired college student truly needs and with some of these hidden gems, a pleasant Spring Break story is just waiting to happen.

Whether it is Mexico, Florida or some other destination of choice, it is important for everyone to make sure that they are informed about the dangers during Spring Break to know the area where they are going, if they can afford it and to venture safely with trusted friends.

Mexico is not the only tropical paradise. Miami is a hot vacation destination, literally and figuratively. It’s much safer and cheaper to pack a cooler, grab a guitar, put on an over-sized hat and head out to the beach right in our own backyard.

Popular spring break locale: an unsafe choice

NATASHA CAPLAN
Contributing Writer

Whether it is Mexico, Florida, or any other destination of choice, it is important for everyone to make sure that they are informed about the dangers during Spring Break to know the area where they are going, if they can afford it and to venture safely with trusted friends.

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-Zacory Ruiz
Intern, FIU Office of Federal Relations
FOODGASM

These recipes are worth trying over the long break

DEBORAH SOUVERAIN
Staff Writer

The chunts and screams of fraternities and sororities across the state of Florida will come together under one roof on March 11 in search of one goal: to crown the winner of Miami Greek Madness.

The Black Student Union and Student Government Association will host Miami Greek Madness, the first invitational step show held at the University.

The show will take place this Saturday, March 12 at the U.S. Century Bank Arena on the Modesto Maidique Campus. Doors open at 6:15 p.m. and the event begins at 7 p.m.

Tickets are free for University students and can be picked up at the Campus Life office at MMC or the information desk at BBC.

The event is modeled after larger productions such as the Florida Invitational Step Show at the University of Florida, the largest student run invitational step show on the east coast, and the Sprite Step Off, the most largest scale national step competition in history.

According to Dalourny Nemorin, senior inter- national relations major and step show director, since BSU became a council in March 2009, there has been a desire to host an invitational step show that could compete with FSS.

“[FSS] is not as big and we’re younger than UF; the goal is to create the tradition and one day become as big as the one at UF,” Nemorin said.

MGM, page 6

MIAMI GREEK MADNESS

• Time: 6:15 p.m.
• When: March 3
• Where: U.S. Century Bank arena at MMC

Greeks go mad with stepping this weekend

Full recipes at flavum.com.

Foodgasm is a bi-weekly column on cooking and enjoying food. Keenars is a hospitality major.

Spring break starts next week and the season starts, officially, next month. I, assos- ciate spring with fresh vegetables and both of the dishes I’ll share with you in this column happen to be vegetarian.

Not long ago, I got over a two-week long bout with emeritis, an inflammation of the small intestine, during which I could not eat any real food without experiencing intense pain.

Garlic mashed potatoes to go with the big meal I thought of that combination out of urge more than creativity, the next meal was thought up under different circumstances.

I was in the shower, contemplating food ing- dients I don’t normally use.

My mind was concentrated on subtle flavors, and leeks, a vegetable similar to onions and garlic, just popped into my head. Shallots soon followed suit, and I imagined how the two flavors could marry in a slightly creamy pasta sauce.

The flavors and aromas I foresaw were a mellowed saucurname, begging to vanish fresh pasta. The sauce I created from this idea exceeded my expectation.

The most important aspect of making it was delicately cooking the vegetables to allow their juices to slowly ooze out. In the past I made the mistake, when making similar items, of using high heat to speed up the process, I stress taking your time, and cooking the ingredients over low heat to let their flavors fully develop.

Full recipes at flavum.com.

Foodgasm is a bi-weekly column on cooking and enjoying food. Keenars is a hospitality major.

able for any golden panther; there- fore, the decision was concentrated on the student’s right to learn and the professor’s right to teach without disruption.

“Designated protest areas at busy campuses can make sense, in terms of safety of students, faculty and staff, as well as not interfering with the normal functioning of a busy univer- sity,” said Juliet Pinto, a professor in SIMC who teaches Mass Commu- nication Law and Ethics. “That said, there have been criticisms of such ‘free speech zones’ in the past and a lot will depend on how the designated protest area is handled during actual protests.”

From another perspective, Bleevens added, “I’m not sure the zones at FIU are necessary or even relev- ant. There is so much ‘open space’ on both campuses that disruptions of the education mission are highly unlikely.”

As the decision stands, the Univer- sity population maintains mixed emotions; some for and some against, but nonetheless, everyone spoken to for this story agree our first amend- ment right is being upheld.

“If protesting is going to be a limited and regulated thing, then I think it’s good that our school is promoting and enabling students to have an area where it is safe,” said Carmela Zambudo, a sophomore Journalism major.

In the past I made the mistake, when making similar items, of using high heat to speed up the process, I stress taking your time, and cooking the ingredients over low heat to let their flavors fully develop.

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