A year after: alerts still face flaws

ALEXANDRA CAMEJO
Asst. News Director

With the one-year anniversary of Kendall Berry’s death approaching, changes that have been made to the University’s Panther Alert system since that time have drawn conflicting responses from students across campus.

Aiming to provide the University with instant emergency alerts—ranging from weather-related emergencies, to hazardous conditions on campus or even criminal activity—the text message system has been in place for over two years.

Since its implementation, the Office of Emergency Management has been developing the system’s effectiveness—a quality that was doubted after junior and football running back Kendall Berry was stabbed on campus.

According to a report from the Dean of the College of Law, R. Alexander Acosta, there were significant communication flaws with the system in place due to the fact that the first alert sent out to the University was over an hour after the incident had occurred on March 25, 2010.

“There were a lot of issues with that whole event. As a tribute to him, a huge effort has been made to manage the messages and get them out timelier,” said Ruben Almaguer, who served as the consultant for Emergency Management after its former director, Dorothy Jessell, stepped down.

Some students feel that it is not the timing of these messages that is an issue, but the subject matter.

“I think the texts create more panic than needed, because if you get a message, it rarely gives you the full story on the incident. And then 30 minutes later, you simply receive one that everything is OK,” said Brittany Lopez, sophomore and Emergency Management major.

While students such as Lopez feel that the vague wording of some text messages may give reason for unnecessary fear, the administration and OEM considers this to be a necessary safety precaution for situations on campus.

“We wanted to be able to get something out that is going to be somewhat accurate,” Lopez said. “But then it is going to be a little on the delayed side.”

The administration has begun to communicate changes that have been made to the alert system since the Berry incident, with the most recent of which were signified by the University’s decision to purchase a new phone for the alert system, which was made after the initial alert.

A significant change made after the Kendall Berry incident involves the chain of command responsible for the issuance of Panther Alerts.

“We do not want to create a bureaucratic process with all the people it needs to get through to get an alert out. We want the senior ranking officer at the police department who’s on duty that day to be able to make a decision without getting higher approval,” said Almaguer.

A massive demonstration against Yemen’s government turned into a killing field Friday as snipers methodically fired down on protesters from rooftops and police blocked key escape routes.

In collaboration with Health Services and Residence Hall Association, the Be HIV Education Project, a philanthropic student endeavor with the sole purpose of dispelling the stigma of people infected with HIV/AIDS, held a two-day event to raise awareness that Miami now has the highest rate of new cases in the country.

“We specifically planned the first part of the event on this day because we wanted to bring back B-HIVE with this theme,” said Sierra Montgomery, a volunteer for B-HIVE.

B-HIVE initiated the event in the Housing Quad by providing students the opportunity to get tested by the AIDS Healthcare Foundation free of charge. While the event was officially scheduled to begin at 6 p.m., students began lining up as early as 11 a.m., and Montgomery said that there were at least 140 students waiting in line to get tested at the peak.

“We [FIU] are number one in the state for saving energy, so having recyclable gowns contributes to our honorable title. Not only that, but we are also protecting our environment,” said Pope.

“GreenWeaver had never been made into any other color but black. However, the manufacturers decided to produce blue regalia for FIU, as blue is the traditional graduating and spirit color for the University.

The bags in which the cap and gowns come in are also made from plastic pellets. The GreenWeaver had never been made into any other color but black.
Students excited to wear new gowns at commencement

The Beacon – Monday, March 21, 2011

Students excited to wear new gowns at commencement

**Around 70 students get tested**

**B-HIVE, page 1**

lining up an hour earlier.

Head of Committee Zach Oliva believes it’s very important to get tested, especially in the college atmosphere.

“You might think you don’t have it, but it’s always good to be sure. I’ve traveled to countries where there is no testing for HIV, so we should take advantage of opportunities like this,” Oliva.

Laura Touissant, human resource management major was one of the estimated seventy students who got tested that afternoon.

“It is beneficial to have testing at the Housing Quad because it is right here and it gives students no excuse why not to get tested,” she said.

Although free testing is available at the Health Services Complex, Montgomery notes that a lot of students are not aware that it is available to them and bringing it to the Housing Quad further underscores the accessibility of such services and the urgency of getting tested.

Testing was comple-
mented with free food, give-a-ways and tabling, in which students were presented with interactive activities to learn more about sexually transmitted diseases.

Some of the games included were pin the condom on the man, guess that STD, STD hopscotch and drunken tie.

“We are trying to teach others about STDs and also raise awareness of under what conditions people have sex which is equally important,” said Amanda Jimenez.

Jimenez volunteered at the drunken sex table where students were confronted with the challenging task of finding and appropriately using a condom wearing beer goggles.

A special speaker from the YES Institute was scheduled to arrive at Everg
dales Lounge for day two of the event but was not able to attend.

However, the Health Communications Club presented The Stigma Stops With Me, a four-part web series produced by 11 School of Jour
nalism and Mass Commu
nication students in the fall of 2008 as an independ
ent study project under the instruction of professor Allan Richards and Kate MacMillin.

The series, which features Damaris Cruz, an HIV positive Latina, was posted on The Miami Herald’s website back in February 2009 and attracted the attention of many South Floridians.

**NEWS, page 1**

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Rodriguez claims that the idea of these innovative gowns came about during the annual national commence-
ment conference.

One of the commence-
ment officers went to the conference and presented the idea to the office.

From the fact that no resources are being depleted, which equates environment conservation, Rodriguez believes there are a number of advantages that come along with the gowns.

The gowns also show commitment to sustainability.

From a safety stand-
point, these gowns have high ratings with inflammability.

Students received their caps and gowns during Grad Send Off from March 7 to 9 at the Barnes & Noble FIU Bookstore on Modesto A. Maidique Campus.

Commencement cere
monies will take place May 2 and 3 at the US Century Bank Arena.

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 proudly takes the lead on the Pierce Student Life! with Leah MacMillin.

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Gniadek emerges as a team leader

MALCOM SHIELDS Staff Writer

As the Golden Panthers took the field against Ohio State in the season opener, it was the changing of the guards in the pitching circle as junior Jenn Gniadek took the ball against the Buckeyes.

Last season, the Golden Panthers pitching staff was anchored by senior Kasey Barrett, whose career statistics ranked her in the top five of numerous pitching categories in Golden Panthers history.

Gniadek replaced Barrett as the top pitcher on the Golden Panthers staff after being the number two pitcher last season. The process has had its ups and downs early on this season.

"Now that I’m in [Barrett’s] role, it’s really different," Gniadek said. "It’s taken some time to get used to."

Through the first 24 games, Gniadek is 4-6 with a 3.29 ERA recording 61 strikeouts in 14 appearances on the season.

She is ranked first on the team in innings pitched with 66. Although Gniadek may have not gotten off to the ideal start that she would have wanted, Coach Beth Torina praised Gniadek’s athleticism and her work ethic.

"She is the total package. She relaxes, and makes adjustments of the ball [around her]. If she feels that she may be placing too much pressure on herself, "She is going to go out and work hard and try to set the example with her actions," Torina said.

With the personality that Gniadek has of internalizing her focus and energy, Coach Torina feels that she may be playing too much pressure on herself.

"I think she feels the weight of the world on her shoulders and it really is not," Torina expressed. "We have a good team on all sides of the ball [around her]. If she relaxes, and makes adjustments she will be fine."

Barrett, who is currently a student assistant coach on the team, spoke about the intensity that Gniadek brings to the circle as well as how she supports her teammates.

"She is very focused, especially in games when she is pitching. Barrett said. "When she is not pitching she cheers and she is more relaxed."

When Gniadek needed advice on anything last season, she leaned on Barrett for guidance.

"The relationship between Gniadek and Barrett continues to be very close."

"She was a great example for me," Gniadek said of Barrett. "When I came in as a freshman, I had Kasey [pitching] in front of me. I use to love pitching with her. If I had a problem she would be the first person I would go to. With Kasey still here, it’s good that she can still help me."

Barrett echoed the same sentiments about their relationship as well as how the how her being a pitcher allows her to relate better to Gniadek. "We have a really good rela..."

JENN GNIADEK

11 Regular Season Stats

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As of 3/17/11

Gniadek has made a team-high 16 appearances so far this season, as she assumes the top pitcher role for FIU.

FIU able to sweep MTSU in home set

MALCOM SHIELDS Staff Writer

The Golden Panthers (15-12, 3-0 SBC) took to the field on March 15 and 16 against Middle Tennessee (5-16,0-3 SBC) in their Sun Belt Conference opener at home and swept the Blue Raiders in the series.

FIU 3, MTSU 2 (8)

In game one, both teams did not score until the fourth inning. With two outs, Brie Rojas doubled to centerfield to extend the inning for FIU.

Kayla Burri drove in Rojas from second on a single that just went over the glove of shortstop Britney Banana to give FIU a 1-0 lead.

"I hit it off the handle. It wasn’t a solid hit but it worked," Burri said. "If that’s gonna get us a run, I’ll take it."

The Blue Raiders countered in the fifth inning by loaded the bases on three walks and tied the game when Natalie Ysais was hit by a pitch to force in a run from third base.

The game went into extra innings. In the top of the eighth inning, with two outs, Kaycere Poppah crushed a homer to right-center field to give MTSU a 2-1 lead.

FIU 3, MTSU 0

Brandon Wise Staff Writer

The Golden Panthers, ranked No. 61 nationally as of last week, have been unbeatable the past two weeks and won again on March 15 over North Texas by a score of 6-1.

The team has now won seven consecutive matches and seems to be well prepared for the Sun Belt Conference Tournament.

Opening with a doubles victory, taking two out of three matches, the Panthers got off to a hot start. Christel Detemmering and Jillian Fritts opened the match with a quick 6-0, 6-1 victory.

The team of Liset Brito and Maria Spenceley then clinched the match with her quick straight set victory (6-2, 6-3).

Also picking up victories were Rafa Misasiak (7-6(3), 6-2) and Spenceley (6-3, 1-6, 6-4).

The win helped improve their record at home and the Golden Panthers are now 3-0 at home as this season they get as into the midst of conference play.

FIU 7, TROY 0

Earlier in the week, the Golden Panthers kept their unblemished home record intact on March 11 with a 7-0 sweep of the Troy Trojans.

The team has now won six straight matches and seems to have found their groove.

The team started out the afternoon by sweeping all three doubles matches as Lisa Johnson and Rita Maisak won handily 8-1.

Liset Brito and Maria Spenceley fought off early struggles to pull out a come from behind victory 9-7.

Christine Serendii and Giulietta Boha also rallied from behind to take an 8-5 win.

In singles, Johnson won in straight sets (6-0, 6-1) and Maisak defeated her opponent in straight sets (6-1, 6-3). Boha then earned the match clinching point for the Golden Panthers with her victory in straight sets (6-2, 6-3). Brito, Spenceley, and Serendii also picked up victories for the team.

FIU is now 7-5 on the season and have won seven consecutive matches at home dating back to last season.

The Panthers will host the FIU Panther Fundraiser Invitational on Saturday March 12 before North Texas comes to town on Tuesday March 15.
Golden Panthers drop two of three against Texas A&M

ANDRES LEON  Staff Writer

The Golden Panthers (12-5) would look to bounce back after a hard loss to Rice earlier in the week during their series against No. 14 Texas A&M (12-4). In a series of close games, the Golden Panthers lost two, but picked up a win in the middle game of the series. It was FIU’s first win over a Top-20 opponent since 2008.

TEXAS A&M 6, FIU 5 (10)

FIU (11-4) would lose to Texas A&M (11-3) in a nail biting game in the series opener at College Station on March 11.

After an early single from Garrett Wittels and a ground ball from Rudy Flores, Mike March 11.

In a series of close games, the Golden Panthers lost two, but picked up a win in the middle game of the series. It was FIU’s first win over a Top-20 opponent since 2008.

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After an early single from Garrett Wittels and a ground ball from Rudy Flores, Mike March 11.
The number of students since that first class has only grown, tripling in the last five years. “It’s not about looking at art from a historical point of view,” said Bailly, who teaches the class. “It’s about how this art exists in society and how we approach it.”

The students in the class, who are required to participate in the yearlong exhibit project, have taken initiative to bring only the best elements to the table. “They do everything, from funding to choosing the artists to promoting the event,” said Bailly. “For me as a faculty member what I have found most rewarding is that the students take ownership of the project and they’re very creative in how they engage themselves.”

Students choose from a list of established artists but are encouraged to seek out other artists who catch their attention. One of the artists who will be featured, José Bedia, was not part of the original list. “If a student finds someone not on the list, they make a proposal for the artist and present it to the museum. If accepted they have the go-ahead to contact the artists,” said Bailly.

This year’s exhibit will also feature well-established artists such as Daniel Arsham, Ivan Toth Depeña, Jacin Giordano, Karen Rifas, Cristina Lei Rodríguez, John Sanchez, Jen Stark, Antonia Wright and Fabian Peta, many of whom have created original works specifically for this exhibit.

Peta will contribute to the exhibit by painting a quote around the gallery walls with letters formed from insect bodies. “It’s supposed to make you think...”

ON THE PROWL

The thrill of being with a passionate, younger man can’t be understood until you just embrace it and go for it. Unlike older men, BP’s are usually more passionate about life and love and know how to balance it with fun. They’ll usually be more appreciative to have hit the jackpot with an older, open-minded woman.

Depending on the depth of your shallow-ness, younger men can serve as wonderful eye candy with their perfectly toned bodies and fresh, youthful faces. If you picked well, odds are he won’t have a beer gut and will still have all his hair.

The best perk to being with a BP is their willingness to please you. You can benefit from their loyalty and ambition to try new things. Not that they should have to prove anything to you, but they can’t help but feel they need to assure you of your decision to be with them in spite of the age difference.

These are obviously not true all across the board, but if you decide to embark on this new adventure make sure it will be advantageous for both of you and take it as a learning experience.

My BP and I are taking it slow for now since he’s starting a stage of his life I’m almost done with: college. I try to help him through his new experiences and he reminds me that I need to take time for myself.

In the end, we will both benefit from meeting at the halfway point between our lives.

On the Prowl is a biweekly column on dating. Look for it every other Monday.
AOnce the Yu-Gi-Oh! table, there are several oversized binders filled with “monsters,” laminated card decks closely guarded and monitored by each owner, and a marked area reserved for battle space. For both Philippe and Sinclaire, the card game has become more than just a hobby—it’s a source of income.

The value of the most exclusive playing cards can run up to $10,000 a piece, and these two students have financially benefitted from such sales.

“Nerds make money. No one says nerds don’t make money. You can call us professional nerds then,” said Philippe.

While Sinclaire understands that this world of monsters on cards can seem a bit out of reach for many students, he doesn’t feel that people can assume what these players are like.

“I think people assume that we’re the losers, we aren’t well dressed,” Sinclaire said while looking down at his Pedi t-shirt, “but there is so much money to be made from this game, and I don’t think that’s nerdy at all.”

To point out at a table of students playing Risk, Abram Foster, a junior and English major, confidently declared, “Now, those guys are defi nitely nerds.”

Foster pointed out his dislike for the strategic board game when he said, “Not only is Risk a convoluted and back-stabbing game, but you can’t make any money off of it.”

Almost emulating the battle styles from their Yu-Gi-Oh! cards, a debate quickly ensued about what accurately classifi es someone as a “nerd.”

“I think the term nerd has evolved from what it used to be. Before it was ‘Star Wars’ nerd, now it’s something like ‘Pokémon nerd,’” said Sinclaire.

“Star Wars is not really nerdy, but ‘Star Trek’—that’s nerdy,” said Foster.

Directing his argument toward Jessie Negron, a freshman and international business major, who was fully engaged in a card battle, Sinclaire declared that any player of the popular video game, “Super Smash Bros. Brawl,” “qualifi ed as a nerd.”

Focusing on the Yu-Gi-Oh! battle, Negron jumped into a duel with Sinclaire.

That’s not true. I play professionally, I get paid, and therefore it’s not appropriate to call me nerdy,” said Negron.

As a professional gamer, Negron received sponsorships from stores to compete against other gamers in “Super Smash Bros. Brawl” tournaments.

After winning several competitions and cash prizes, Negron is gearing up for a Texas tournament next month.

Even Philippe has considered getting paid to judge the Yu-Gi-Oh! competitions held throughout the country.

So, while these students may have suffered the loss their gaming cave, their new spot has become an open playground where others are invited to play.

“A lot of people just think we’re the nerds, but that’s a stereotype. And that’s not true. You’ll fi nd a huge range of people around here, and we surprise people all the time with how we really are,” said Philippe.
Social support of gays ahead of politics

PAULO RAMOS Staff Writer

While conditions for the lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender community continue to positively develop in America, the rate at which they are proceeding is still relatively slow. At certain points, it has been stagnant.

It is frustratingly ironic that a culture that has brought into prominence gay icons like Lady Gaga has failed to mimic the same movement into the political sphere. Only recently has “Don’t Ask, Don’t Tell” been repealed, while President Barack Obama’s attitude towards gay marriage remains partial at best, and the opposition holds more support than it gives. The Obama administration is giving the gay community support, but more so in the guise of mutual interest. It has a swelling number of people that give themselves to the idea of gay marriage, but they are feeling the same uncertainty as the community.

The political actions regarding same-sex marriage are even slower than those towards the military. As of now, eight states have realized full same-sex marriage. The issue of gay marriage itself has been discussed across the states rather than being dealt with on the federal level. This has and will only continue to slow the progress if no further federal initiative is taken.

Though President Obama has condemned the Defense of Marriage Act to be unconstitutional, recent polls reveal the country to still be evenly divided on the issue. With the presidency being highly democratic in nature, and though Obama may very well be leaning towards legalizing gay marriage, the desires of the country, that Barack has not been politically active, will continue to stall the progress of true equality within America.

Gay rights are being put through unnecessary motions in order to be realized. While the values of all Americans should be considered, progress for the sake of progress must be made. Full recognition of gay rights is something that can only benefit the American population in the long run by giving American citizens more of an incentive to treat each other with more respect and to devote more time and energy to more detrimental issues.

Plain and simple, the drama surrounding gay rights is entirely needless, and the only results that are derived from its complexities will only serve to hinder progress.

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Haitian led by foreign leaders

SHEDWIN ELIASSEN Contributing Writer

On Jan. 12, 2010, Haiti faced a catastrophic earthquake that will be remembered in the history of the world, changing the decimation of their way of life. The earthquake not only shook the ground but also shook the foundations that kept the nation afloat. The country now faces problems that it must deal with socially, economically and politically.

This mass devastation has brought the problem of foreign aid and migration under full view. The sovereignty of Haiti’s republic has it also done its part in producing crops which have been bought by 60 percent of the nation depended on for food and wages, and it has destroyed the capital as the “White House” of Haiti lies in a heap of rubble, it has become a symbol of a fallen nation.

The United States has helped the nation recover and recover by sponsoring numerous programs and supplied the nations with temporary jobs. The response from the international community was astounding by working with USAID, The United Nations, and World Food Programme in orchestrating the largest urban food distribution in history. According to the Bureau of International Information Program, the immediate aid helped feed 3.5 million people. With many people in need of their homes, leaving about 1.3 million people displaced, the government has included focusing on infrastructure. Homes have been assessed and the U.S. government has put in $19 million into the local economy and short term jobs have been provided to keep families afloat.

Despite all of these things there is still more work to be done. Aside from the structural damage caused by the earthquake there are also strong internal problems such as the challenged integrity of the Haitian people and its politics almost completely dissolved. The problem that the aid has caused, in terms of long-term effects, is the keeping of Haiti as a country from shaping its own future.

The main powers, the holders of the “pure,” have become large, looming puppets hovering over the nation pulling invisible strings and bypassing the government. Alex Dupuy, a Haitian political analyst and professor at Wesleyan University has called Haiti “A republic of the NGO’s”. Due to the mass amounts of money and effort that have been put into the country by the U.S. and various financial institutions, they are in the position to lead the reconstruction of Haiti.

This reconstruction strategies however consist partially of disillusioned strategies that do not work but are implemented further their own ends. Two of these strategies include a plan that the U.S. has been working with the Haitians of Haiti to move the cheapest supplier of labor the garment industry and the second to get rid of tariffs against food imports and other imports into Haiti. These strategies have resulted in the devastation of Haitian agriculture taking away the ability of the country to produce its own food at home. Haiti went from being one of the biggest consumers of its own food in the 1980’s to 40 percent currently. Former President Bill Clinton, who co-chairs the Interim Haiti Commission, has been quoted stating to the Senate Foreign Affairs Committee that the strategies that he had been pushing in Haiti are not working. These strategies, however, have only served to benefit American farmers.

Haiti is going to require billions of dollars to repair the infrastructure, to cater to the needs of the people and to fix the republic. However this does not justify the lack of respect that the foreign powers have for the Haitians’ elite.

To see Haiti return to what it was prior to the earthquake as the poorest Caribbean country would not be an improve- ment. The foreign community has a direct role to play, with combined effort from Haiti’s elected officials, to improve the condition of the country.

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Campus alert system effectiveness needs work

The University’s emergency text alert system, Panther Alerts, is plagued by inefficiencies which have led to misinform students and, in some cases, cause panic.

The primary concern regarding the alert system is its reach. Although the system is implemented University-wide through a manda- tory sign-up through myFIU, it seems that not all students are receiving the texts.

“It’s really impossible to hit every single person, but goal is to get 80 to 90 percent to get the message,” said Rob Almen, consul- tant for the University’s Office of Emergency Management. However, this is not the case. Of the total number of messages sent, 68 percent reach the mobile device’s network but only 28 percent are confirmed to be delivered to devices, according to the OEM.

A survey of our editorial board showed that a majority of its members had not received the most recent alert. The few who did receive the alert got it as late as two hours after the incident. Messages on this system should serve to clearly inform students to a emergency campus without inciting panic. This has not been the case. Evidence was evidenced by an alert sent on Feb. 11 to alert students about a fire on the Engineering Campus, a significant distance away from Modern Maidique campus.

“FIU ALERT! A hazardous condition exists at the Modesto Maidique campus! Remain cautious. Evacuate area immediately if instructed to do so,” the message read.

The message sent to students was not only light on details, but suggested that the entirety of MMC was “hazardous” rather than convey the true nature of the incident: a fire at a satellite campus a few blocks away. Messages sent out like this cause confusion and panic to recipients on- and off campus, particularly MMC housing students, who live on campus and depend on this information for safety.

The current system in place allows for the first responder from Public Safety to issue the Panther Alert. We agree that this is a good thing as it removes the bureaucracy of having to gain authority to issue the alert. However, those who are responsible for being able to broadcast alerts on this system should use sound judgement and communicate to students an accurate account of what is going on and what they should do. Ultimately, it comes down to a proper balance of accuracy and timing.

University Chief Financial Officer Kenneth Jester does not want the text message service to be the end all but rather a part of a system with various redundancies, such as email alerts.

While The Beacon agrees that redundancy is required in alerting the University community, we must stress another platform for information which the University community uses everyday: social media. The University should actively mark its Twitter and Facebook portals as methods for students to be informed about important campus information, such as emergency alerts. Working with External Relations, the University could utilize text information correctly and instantly to a wide net of students.

With the success of the efficiency and the wording used, the Panther Alert system can be an effec- tive way of reaching students in times of crisis. But by no means should it be the only way.
Becca Griessemer
Staff Writer

Pablo Haspel has joined a handful of committees, gained the speaker pro tempore position, and is running for honors college senator in all of his first two months in the Student Government Association.

Haspel is a sophomore and is currently the student senator for the City of Miami. Haspel has met with the Coordinator for Student Programs about student issues and is clearly a young leader.

As the group of volunteers made their way to the Downtown Miami area to hand out t-shirts to the homeless,Haspel did say that the council is limited by its lack of members, especially in the senate.

"There isn't really the fault of SGA, it's just the fact that not a lot of people are committed to be part of it or understand what it really involves, so they just see SGA and they're like 'Oh, I don't feel like doing it, or it'll be too much work, or whatever,' so the lack of people results in everyone having to do more," Haspel said.

"So that might lead for you to have enough to do to focus on, so your GPA drops and you're removed!"

Students join local campaign with love in their hearts

Jonathan Szydlo
Staff Writer

From spending a night on the streets to feeding politicians, members of Humility Now are no strangers to the struggles and degradation that the homeless endure on a daily basis.

On March 1, Humility Now and Time-Peace, along with a handful of volunteers, gathered in the Downtown Miami area to hand out t-shirts to the homeless as part of the "Love Your Neighbor" collaboration.

In an ongoing mission to develop face-to-face relationships, spreading awareness of the struggles experienced by the homeless and recognizing the humanity of the homeless, Humility Now has partnered with Time-Peace as part of the "Love Your Neighbor" campaign.

"Humility Now is a company we met at a market we were working and we got to know the guys and what they do with their organization, [which is] pretty much the shirt for shirt donations, for every one sold, one gets donated to the homeless," said Ron Muram, a third-year University law student and co-founder of Time-Peace.

"We were in line with what we like to do as a charitable contribution. Every core philosophy we have, every ideal, everything we speak of is about giving back. It just naturally and logically came together that we'd work with them.

From the beginning of the year, the two organizations set the initial goal of selling 100 "Love Your Neighbor" shirts in order to distribute 100 shirts to individuals who find themselves sleeping under the stars and on the streets of Downtown Miami.

Rodrick Camacho, a sophomore journalism major, found out about the campaign through a Facebook post announcing the two organizations would be meeting at 6:30 p.m. in front of the American Airlines Arena to hand out "over 100 TpHumility Now shirts to our homeless friends," and decided to take part in the action.

Humility Now is "based on the idea that true humility counts others more significant than yourself. Through events, campaigns and advocacy, we hope to extend the opportunity to not only serve the homeless in our communities but also acknowledge their humanity through tangible, face-to-face relationships," according the Humility Now’s website.

"We did something good other than giving out shirts, we started talking to people. I think what they really wanted to hear was us talking to them, figuring out why they got there, and hopefully we can help to keep them from getting back there," said Muram.

As the group of volunteers made their way through the streets of Downtown Miami, which has 1,347 homeless people on an average night, according to the Camillass House website, the impact of the project could be seen in the faces of the unfortunate.

"Right now, I'm looking at a man who's wearing a shirt we gave him. The people are very happy and grateful, even if it's just for a shirt," Camacho said. "They seem pretty happy about it since they probably don't get too much like this very often, and they see that there are members of the community who care."

David Merida, 21, and Julius Antu, both students at Miami-Dade College, started Humility Now in November 2009 through their involvement with the Miami Christ Fellowship.

The duo, as a means of gaining a better understanding of the plight of the homeless, began by “dumpster diving” for non-spoiled food which they would hand out to the hungry, and even spent nights on the streets of Downtown Miami, becoming homeless by choice to better understand the homeless situation.

Humility Now’s activism has extended past donations. In early 2010, the City of Miami proposed legislation to ban the feeding of homeless without prior training.

To combat this legislation, Anta and Merida organized groups of homeless people in front of the City of Miami to hand out food to the politicians involved in the proposed legislation, as a means of protest.

The legislation never passed.

Humility Now and Time-Peace plan to continue their collaboration, and the Love Your Neighbor campaign, and are expecting another order of shirts in the coming weeks.

"It isn’t only about the shirts. It’s also about the awareness of the shirts, the message on the shirts," said Ian Koslow, 24, co-founder of Time-Peace. “Everything we do is about spreading awareness.”

As a non-profit homeless advocacy and relief organization, Humility Now is constantly seeking out local advocates throughout the United States to assist in the spread of humility.

For more information on home to become involved with Humility Now, visit their website at www.HumilityNow.com.