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Professor Wayne E. Robinson, Jr.
semester, Twelfth Night, directed by Associate
Department’s final production of the spring
takes center stage in the University Theater

Model United
Nations team
places fourth
in conference

NICOLAS SARAVIA
Staff Writer
Representing the Republic of India, 24
FIU students joined over 3,000 partici-
pants from across the country in this year’s
The University placed fourth nationally and
seventh internationally at the HNMUN
conference in March. Held at the historic
Boston Park Plaza Hotel, 11 FIU MUN
delegates received individual recognitions.
FIU MUN delegates participated in
rigorous parliamentary debate, fierce diplo-
matic negotiations and preparation of draft
resolutions, reports and directives.
The 57th annual conference, hosted

ENGINEERING students to participate in competition

ANALIA FIESTAS
Staff Writer
For the first time in the University’s history, mechanical engineering
students will be representing FIU at the international Shell Eco-mar-
athon competition.

On April 14, Bryam Quincono, Ryan Sampath, Stephanie George
and Pablo Salamea will travel to Houston, Texas to showcase a single-
person vehicle, which the team has been working on as part of its senior
design project.

Founded in 1993, the competition seeks to acknowledge a team
that has designed, built and tested the most fuel-efficient vehicle possible.
The idea to join the competition sparked from an email that Asso-
ciate Professor of Mechanical Engineering Sahit Tosunoglu sent out to
recruit interest in the competition.

Students agreed to take on the challenge.

“We needed a senior design project, but most importantly, we
wanted to have the opportunity to have a chance to represent FIU at an
international level. Also, the compe-
tition is about fuel-efficiency and that is really important to our mechanical
careers,” said Salamea.

According to the team, the main

Theater ends semester productions with Twelfth Night

ALFREDO APARICIO
Staff Writer
The fine line between love, loss and laughter
takes center stage in the University Theater
Department’s final production of the spring
semester, Twelfth Night, directed by Associate
Professor Wayne E. Robinson, Jr.

Besides entertaining the masses, the play will also serve as one last hurrah for the graduating
class. “This is my last play,” said Sarai Heria,
22, a senior, BFA Theater major. “Most of the
senior class is in it so it’s been pretty special.”

Heria, who will play Viola, says the journey
toward becoming Viola has been an emotional one. “I was thrilled to be cast as Viola because I normally
wouldn’t get a role like this, but having lost my
own brother back in December to a car accident
I’ve been able to get a deeper understanding of
what the character is going through.”

Heria hopes the audience will see Viola as a
person and not a literary character.

“I hope people get a feel of the world and
understand the humanity of the play,” said
Heria. “It has a lot of human truth to it.”

The production of Twelfth Night starts Thursday April 7 until Saturday April 10. It will also
run again on April 14 until April 17.

For Michael Mena, 22, a senior, BFA Theater
Performance major, the process of becoming his
character, Sir Toby Belch, was amusing.

“I used a lot of Charlie Chaplin and the Three
Stooges to get into my role,” said Mena. “He
loves to pull pranks and I wanted to find that
kind of humor to make sure there was a laugh
once in a while.”

For Mena, the casting process was the most
fun he’s had in a callback.

“I didn’t know I had the part until the call-
back but I was excited,” said Mena. “One, it was
Shakespeare and two, it’s a great part.”

The casting process, which began with
presenting a part of a Shakespeare play in initial
auditions and later used short scenes of the
actual play in callbacks, serves double duty as a
training process for the director.

“When I cast within the department, the
process changes because I know the students,”
said Robinson. “I use it as part of the learning
process to show students what the process is like.”

Being cast in the play can also be a nerve
wrecking but worthwhile experience for those
involved. “The process is so daunting because
there are so many people but Wayne [Robinson]
gives a lot of directions for what he wants,”
said Mariette Gallor, 20, a junior BFA Theater
major.

Cast as Curio, Gallor looked to magical
tings to get into character.

“Wayne [Robinson] wanted the characters to be kind of magical and set the plot going so
I thought about what was magical to me and
thought of music,” said Gallor. “I listened to a
lot of Coco Rosie and the Flaming Lips.”

THE BEACON
Financial budget issues arise for project, traveling costs

The team believes their greatest difficulty was to compare the simulation model to their vehicle. It was also difficult to build the fiberglass shell and the designing process was also a challenge. “It was a trick to decide how to start, what approach to take, what to have in mind, and how to actually make it look like,” said Sampath. Although the team faced difficulties, they remained optimistic.

“At the beginning, I didn’t even know if we were going to make it. We went with our gut because the senior design project seemed surreal and impossible. A lot of work was required, and we had a limited amount of time. However, we were confident and determined. And now, we are near the finishes line, and it all fits into place,” said Quinceno. I am excited because I am going to be the driver.

In Model UN you lose your fear of public speaking and soon are able to speak in front of anywhere from 30 students to 300. You’ll be able to engage any audience. Your writing and research skill also improve,” said Sanchez, a member of the group since 2009. The Model UN program at the university is run by the Jack Gordon Institute of Public Policy, within the School of International and Public Affairs, and is offered as a course each spring semester. It is also supported by the College of Arts and Sciences and the Student Government Association.

“Experience in the Model UN program has undoubtedly expanded my grasp of international relations, politics and the overall process of diplomacy,” said Simms, a senior delegate. “My ability to do effective research and engage large bodies of people has improved drastically.”

“I have to say the skills you learn in Model UN are useful and can be applied to any major. I have gained skills that have helped me become a better presenter and writer,” said Sanchez, an international business major.

The team’s next challenge involves participating in the National Model UN Conference in New York City, to be held April 19 at the Marriott Marquis and the United Nations General Assembly Hall, for which they are preparing.

“The team has dedicated every Saturday anywhere from 9am to 4pm, and sometimes 7pm or later to participate in simulations or practice,” said Sanchez. “We are a family; we learn together, work together, spend time together and help each other inside and outside of Model UN.”
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Fitzpatrick earns victory over Bethune-Cookman

ANDRES LEON
Staff Writer

The Golden Panthers came home for a short two game series starting Tuesday April 5 against Bethune-Cookman. The Golden Panthers would rally back from three runs down to beat the Wildcats 7-3. FIU (18-12, 4-5 SBC) gave the start to Kyle Fitzpatrick.

PITCHING DUEL

Fitzpatrick would throw a pitching duel going seven innings only allowing three runs on five hits. BCU’s infield would halt any offense from FIU in the bottom of the third.

“I threw pretty well early on and Sean came over told me to find my spots and let the ball drop, after that I got my slider going,” Fitzpatrick added, “Its always good to get closer spots and let the ball drop, after that I evened out.”

Yoandy Barroso would hit a triple to put himself in scoring position in the third inning. After throwing to Bermudez out for the double play that would end the hope for the Golden Panthers in the third inning.

The Wildcats would break the score open in the fifth inning. After throwing three strikeouts Fitzpatrick would put himself in a hole by walking the BCU lead-off hitter, Paul Biucie. After one out, Peter O’Brien would fire a single deep into left field to bring Biucie home for the first run. After the hit by a pitch, Pablo Bermudez would drive a base hit deep down the right field line to bring Barroso home for FIU’s first score of the game.

Bermudez reached all the way to second as T.J. Shantz flew out to left center field, but Leon would eventually score to cut the deficit to one run. Jeremy Patton would swing a deep ball into gap in left field which led to Bermudez coming home to tie the game at three.

Gonzalez was taken off the mound for BCU after pitching four and two-thirds innings giving up three runs and six hits, but earning two errors. FITU took advantage when BCU summoned sophomore Jordan Dailey to finish the game for the Wildcats.

Dailey wasn’t able to find the strike zone at first, as Yoandy Barroso would reach base after being walked.

With Barroso at second, T.J. Shantz singled to right field only to get picked off by the BCU catcher at second. However, Barroso would score in time to break the tie and give the Golden Panthers the one-run advantage, FITU would stop any opportunity for BCU’s offense to rally back with an inning-ending double play.

Martinez singled through the right side, Jabari Henry would continue the FIU offensive by hitting a single into a right field gap to take Martinez all the way to third putting the insurance run in scoring position.

The Golden Panthers would summon Garrett Witterle off the bench to pinch-hit for David Valquez at the bottom of the eighth inning. In his only at-bat, Witterle blasted a three-run homerun past the right field wall. With Witterle’s homer, FITU would jump ahead 7-3 over the Wildcats.

“He’s been getting better all year not only on offense but on defense and we were looking for insurance runs, it was big play, no doubt about it.” Turtle Thomas said.

Kyle Fitzpatrick (above) struck out seven batters in seven innings on his way to his fourth win of the season.

BASEBALL

BASEBALL

BY BRANDON WISE
Staff Writer

The Golden Panthers women’s tennis team is coming off a tough home loss, their first of the season, to a highly ranked opponent in the Southern Methodist Mustangs, ranked No. 36 in the nation according to the latest polls.

After the disappointing home loss, the Golden Panthers experienced a dip in the national rankings, dropping seven spots down to No. 69 in the nation.

LOOKING FORWARD

Despite the tough loss, the Golden Panthers are looking to rebound and build some confidence as they head into the Sun Belt Conference tournament. Bennett, that can happen though, the Golden Panthers will have to get through the University of Central Florida on April 16.

Coach Melissa Applebaum-Dall’au is looking for her seniors to have a major contribution.

“From here on out, the older uppersclassmen can teach the younger ones,” Applebaum-Dall’au said.

Seniors Liset Brito and Maria Spenceley will have to play key roles in that match for the team to be successful against UCF. Brito, who ranks as the No. 57 player in the nation, had won nine matches in a row before Sunday’s loss to Marta Lesniak, the No. 9 player in the nation.

Spenceley had also won nine matches in a row before suffering a loss to Aleks Malyarchikova. Coach Applebaum-Dall’au is still happy with how her seniors have played all season, regardless of how the last match turned out.

“I would consider Liset and Maria to be fantastic seniors,” Applebaum-Dall’au said. “They are embracing being a senior and they are really enjoying it. That is really important.”

MORE CONTRIBUTIONS

It has not just been seniors who are playing key roles for the FIU Golden Panthers. Players such as Lisa Johnson and Christine Seredni have also picked up points for the team that have clinched many of the matches. Of the nine matches the Golden Panthers won in a row, the two have accounted for more than half of the match clinching points for the team.

Freshman Guilieta Boha has come into the team and gone under the radar. After a rocky start to her career, Boha has settled in and won eight of her last 10 matches of the season. She was also the only person to pick up a point for the team in their loss to the SMU mustangs last Sunday.

SENIOR DAY

The next match will be the final time that Seniors Liset Brito and Maria Spenceley will step on the court for a home match at FIU. The duo will try to end their college careers on a high note when they face off against the UCF Golden Knights next Saturday. The match could be a catalyst for the team’s success heading into the tournament, which begins April 20.

TENNIS

After difficult home loss, team hopes to rebound

BY BRANDON WISE
Staff Writer

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Night, page 1

The language has also proven to be one of the most difficult challenges for those in the cast of Twelfth Night.

“I took a lot of time with the language and getting the rhythm of everything,” said Roxanne Almaguer, 22, a Junior, BFA Acting Major. “Being cast was very last minute and I play the character of Antoimette, a tough girl, and I auditioned when I got back from the gym so I wasn’t girly at all, but rehearsals have been incredible, you learn something new every day but I’m always open to it.”

Twelfth Night will not feature original music composed by Nathalie Nodarse, 22, a Senior, BFA Theater major, who will bring life to Feste the Fool, as well as many other students.

“[Feste] says the greatest and wittiest things but he also serves as a commentary about the characters and life and humanity in general,” said Nodarse. “Twelfth Night though has a lot of song lyrics but the melody hasn’t survived and we had the freedom to bring our own influence to the songs and mix popular melodies with the lyrics.”

“It’s the closest Shakespeare has come to writing a musical,” said Robinson. “And while the actors led the audience in song on stage, backstage Tatiana Pandini, 21, a Junior, BFA Theater major, works hard to make sure everything runs smoothly.”

“He’s rewarding and pays off but it’s a lot of work,” said Pandini. “I combine all the elements and make sure they all come together to form the best show possible.”

Pandini’s responsibilities also include going through rehearsal with the entire cast and making sure their cues are on time, as well as coordinating the ideas of the crew, actors, and designers, among others to help fulfill the vision of the director.

“I want to make Shakespeare accessible to the audience and make them feel it has something to do with them,” said Robinson. “We’re going to use contemporary clothes and melodies to make sure the audience enjoys themselves and sees that Shakespeare can be fun and isn’t as dull as everyone thinks.”

Robinson, who has directed over 20 plays such as The Lie of the Mind and Pericles said, “This kind of play shows what Shakespeare wrote about is something that is still relevant and the humor and feelings found in cross dressing and gender confusion are still funny but terrifying to people.”

Robinson also desires that everyone involved in the play will see the kind of work involved but will embrace the theater and discover a newfound love and understanding for it.

“It’s an enormous amount of work, but it serves its purpose: the community gets a show and the students gain from the experience.”

“I give the audience permission not to feel stupid because the actors also had trouble reading the language when they first began, but if the play is bad, that’s on us. We want to see Shakespeare in a different light sure but mostly, we want to laugh,” Robinson said.

Twelfth Night will run from Apr. 7 to 17, Thursday through Saturday at 8 p.m. and Sunday at 2 p.m. Tickets are $10 for students.

Talon serum displays campy stories but awesome effects

I faced a particular predicament before reviewing Tron: Legacy. Mainly, that I hadn’t seen the first film since I was ten years old when it aired on the Disney Channel. It only seemed fair that in order to review the second film in the franchise, I’d have to brave the original once.

TRON (1982)

Any reviewer would be doing you a disservice by not addressing the obvious: this Reagan-era piece of sci-fi is not, and should not, be remembered for its plot (we’ll get to that later). It is remembered as a turning point in the visual effects revolution of the 1980s that is still impacting cinema today.

Ever “ahhh-ed” while watching a giant tidal wave headed for New York? Thank Tron. (Then blame Roland Emmerich and Michael Bay for abusing these effects).

This is the kind of film where a group of twenty-somethings agrees to break into a major corporation’s Master Command Program after a two minute conversation and without any thought toward the consequences. Pre-Lebowski Jeff Bridges plays the lead, Flynn, an arrogant, handsome video game programmer, who spends his nights coding and managing an arcade. He’s kind of guy who’ll take off his t-shirt in front of his ex-girlfriend and his boyfriend only to put on an identical one in a different color. I guess to prove a point?

Flynn, robbed of several games he developed by former boss, Ed Dillinger (David Warner), tries to break into the computers at ENCOM, his former workplace, to get proof.

Meanwhile, the Master Command Program is slowly becoming a sentient being, assimilating millions of programs into its memory while developing a will to rebel against humans (read: Skynet syndrome). Flynn enranges the system and somehow beamed into the computer program.

This sequence, in which a laser breaks down Flynn on the molecular level and introduces him into the computer world, is itself the greatest visual effect since Douglas Trumbull’s work on 2001: A Space Odyssey.

Eventually, the film becomes an allegory of Roman barbarism as the MCP demands Flynn, along with dozens of other programs, be forced to fight in gladiator-esque games against each other and commanded to renounce their “users,” who the programs believe created them.

Did you ever see Spartacus? This is Spartacus, but with less loin clothes and less character development. But more lightcycle races. And ultimate Fritbee. Except if you lose, you disintegrate. Those scenes are part of our collective cultural conscience. Stay for that.

TRON: LEGACY (2010)

So what’s this about the first film? Now paste that here.

Flynn gets trapped in the system. Again. Except this time his stay isn’t over night. Try 20 years. That’s one hell of a video game.

Flynn’s son Sam, (Garrett Hedlund), orphaned and left with his grandparents, grows up but is soon summoned into the system for mysterious purposes that are really not that mysterious if you’ve seen the first film. Sam has spent the past two decades either brooding or thrill seeking. Hedlund has the acting skills of a cabbage, but that’s stating the obvious. Olivia Wilde performs “that” role in the film: shut up, put on the tight suit and look pretty. She does this very well.

However, it is the look of this film that’ll keep you from suffering an aneurism. Tron: Legacy demonstrates the same level of visual ambition that its predecessor demonstrated almost 30 years ago.

The grid of old has been transformed into the ultimate post-PC vision, full of the deep blacks and blues and oranges that have defined the visual palate of action films for the past decade.

An equal achievement, besides creating the grid, was the work done to recreate the face of Bridges circa 1989 and seamlessly add it into the new film. Bridges reprises his role as Flynn and also performs as Chu, a program created by Flynn to manage the grid but is eventually corrupted, seeking too much power. Chu retains the likeness of a younger Bridges. Expect more allegations about oppression and totalitarian states. And more lightcycle chases. Those are awesome!

What this film doesn’t do is make the first film fun to watch, however, that’s sense of optimism for a new technological age. It makes the original film campy but forgivable.

The first film, despite its groundbreaking effects, is a relic of its time. I find that could be the case some thirty years from now when we look back on Tron: Legacy.

This is not a weekly column on film. Look for it every Friday.
FISTFULS OF TECH!  

Student portal desperate for user-friendly revisions

Normally, when I criticize something technological at the University I do so with my harsh and unfor-giving wit in hand. But bees are better caught with honey so I will try to be nice. The school’s student portal, myFIU, is so unpleasant it’s like...no, no Jorge; control yourself. Today I had to log onto myFIU to check some of my final exam days among other things, and I have to say that the best way to describe the experience was unpleasant.

The pages and the menus are all buried or named in the least friendly way possible. The welcome screen is an assortment of different boxes, each with its own purpose.

First you have the “Enterprise Menu” box that houses the site’s main navigation. Here you can choose to go to “Campus Solutions Self Service.” The average user would only see this link, however the little arrow next to it opens up to reveal most of the system’s navigation. Look, where normally I would go on and on, ranting about how tricky the site is and how it took me 15 minutes to figure out how to vote for Student Government elections, I think it’s best to focus on what myFIU should be.

Wait, Jorge doesn’t want to rant? Shocking, I know. Power through the surprise and sadness and follow me on this journey won’t you?

With the tools available to even the most modest of developers, a website that is not user-friendly is simply unacceptable.

I think when a student, be they a seasoned senior or a brand new freshman, logs onto to their student portal it should be simple, clutter-free, and easy to navigate. Right now, that’s not the case. Just because the University basically chose to make myFIU the primary way for students to interact with the services they need doesn’t mean that the bare minimum should be applied.

Students should want to use this system. They should want to make it their homebase.

It should have a really prominent search function that would allow a student to search the web and maybe internal FIU stuff like the course catalog and faculty directory.

Also, the user interface should be more refined; make the titles easier, streamline the amount of options and label them something that students can easily understand.

The site should not only be simple to navigate but it should be browser and device neutral. Currently, the myFIU system works best on Internet Explorer and Firefox, leaving Chrome and Safari users out. Personally, I have found the website to work best on Firefox 4 over IE but I shouldn’t have to download another browser to use it. The myFIU portal should work regardless of whether I am on Chrome or Firefox, iPhone or Android, Mac or PC.

The future of myFIU should be to utilize solid development tools like HTML 5 to build an online system that functions more like an application than a website. Moreover, the University should look to build reliable and feature-rich native applications for popular mobile device operating systems like iOS and Android.

Like I mentioned earlier, just because students have to use this system doesn’t mean that the University should get by with the bare minimum.

They should build this platform as if they have to sell it to students; treating it like any other mainstream consumer web project.

I should want to use this site, but for now I use it because I have to.

Fistfuls of Tech! is a weekly column on all things technology.

COMIC RELIEF

Blanca Morales/THE BEACON

Senior Sabrina Tisfagneh (left) and Nicila Mejia (right) laugh at comedian Ron G’s parody of President Barack Obama on April 4 in GC Ballrooms.

END
School of computer science uses inadequate methods

GIOVANNI GONZALEZ  
Staff Writer

Computer science is a broad and financially promising career field, yet many students majoring in Computer Science and Information Technology may find that what they learn does not adequately prepare them for a career. It is not for many people to be passionate about computers and technology, which makes choosing a major in that field a relatively easy choice. However, the University’s School of Computing is not providing the education that many students were undoubtedly looking for.

It is a difficult situation for a student who believes they know enough to attend higher level computing courses, just to become lost when new material arises. It is uncommon for many computing classes to lose one third to one half of students by the drop date.

Many classes in the School of Computer Science and Information Technology rely on information from prerequisite courses. As an information technology major, many of my own class periods have been spent explaining to the professor that some students may know some concepts and others may not due to differences in the quality of the prerequisite course. Although the course content should be the same, there are inconsistencies in what is taught from professor to professor in the same course.

Different teaching styles between professors only exaggerate the differences in learning between students. The course schedule can be delayed for the professor who must now review for some students, if they are lucky enough to have a professor who would do such a thing.

Numerous professors use PowerPoint presentations to supplement their teachings in class. Although this is a common method, it cannot be the only strategy a professor uses. PowerPoint presentations are a good method for teaching concept-based lessons and are also good for allowing students to take notes in class, but they lack effectiveness when used to teach things that must be practiced, such as programming languages like Java and Visual Basic.

When teaching operating systems, programming languages and more complicated aspects of computing, it becomes more beneficial for the professors to use a more hands-on approach. It is much easier for students to see the intricacies of more technical programs and processes when an experienced user shows live demonstrations. Most students, such as the majority of Professor Juan Martínez’s Intermediate Java Programming course, believe that Power Point presentations are simply a sub-par teaching method, especially when used to teach difficult technical concepts.

During several IT courses, I have felt that I would be better off trying to learn the material on my own because of a professor’s difficult teaching style or methods.

Many aspects of the Computer Science and Information Technology curriculum are too complex to simply gloss over with Power Points and handouts, and it can become very stressful when a student feels that they must learn something completely by themselves and then apply it to an assignment.

Although most professors surely mean well and answer questions during class and office hours, they are not always available. But, when it comes down to it, nothing can replace a student’s drive to open a book and learn the material. Professors should put forth the extra effort to provide the best teaching methods relative to the content.

It is difficult to feel prepared for a career in a field that one may be passionate about, but may not be getting the best education in at the University.

American news cycle needs an upgrade

GISSEL RODRIGUEZ  
Staff Writer

Our national media outlets have lost their collective minds. One only has to look at the travesty that is CNN’s 24 hour news coverage to see what I mean.

Last week, I tuned in to the illustrious news moguls and watched, shocked, as the reporter directed the viewer’s attention to one of the computer screens in the news room, whereon the camera zoomed in to the computer screen so that all of us at home could watch a YouTube video.

The first day of the Libyan Revolution reveals that there is just not 24 hours’ worth of news. Cutting these short days down to a few hours a day would force companies like CNN to change the things that are important instead of filling air-time with drivel.

Unfortunately, when there is a global event occurring which deserves up-to-the-minute news coverage, it is not too much to ask that CNN was a constant stream of information coming down the pipelines. It is not too much to ask that there were three articles on the uprising. CNN picked up the slack in the following days, but I cannot forget that first day as I scanned the official sites looking for any news and came up empty.

I know that it might seem a little over the top to expect up-to-the-minute news coverage... but the fact remains that we have the technology. We can expect it because it is completely possible.

During several IT courses, I have felt I would be better off trying to learn the material on my own because of a professor’s difficult teaching style or methods.

As Charlie Sheen had his meltdown, there was a constant stream of information coming down the pipelines. It is not too much to ask that things which deserve national attention come at the instant pace I know these two articles on the ongoing uprising over the course of the day.

CNN picked up the slack in the following days, but I cannot forget that first day as I scanned the official sites looking for any news and coming up empty. I know that it might seem a little over the top to expect up to the minute news coverage half a world away, but the fact remains that we have the technology. We can expect it because it is completely possible.

When the revolution began occurring in Libya, CNN, arguably one of the biggest responsible outlets, was a constant stream of information coming down the pipelines. It is not too much to ask that there were three articles on the uprising. CNN’s “breaking news” Twitter feed was unhelpful, posting links to a whopping two articles on the ongoing uprising over the course of the day.

I can chat in real time with someone half a world away without racking up massive phone charges. This ease of access to the world has fundamentally changed the way we as humans communicate, but it has also changed our expectations of the media.

Because of these changes, we now expect up-to-the-minute updates on things that might have a global impact. With how invested we as a country are in the Middle East, economically or otherwise, it was inordinately upset that I had to turn to the British or American outlets looking for any news and coming up empty.

I know that it might seem a little over the top to expect up to the minute news coverage half a world away, but the fact remains that we have the technology. We can expect it because it is completely possible.

It is not uncommon for many computing students by the drop date.

It is a difficult situation for a student who believes they know enough to attend higher level computing courses, just to become lost when new material arises. It is uncommon for many computing classes to lose one third to one half of students by the drop date.

Many classes in the School of Computer Science and Information Technology rely on information from prerequisite courses. As an information technology major, many of my own class periods have been spent explaining to the professor that some students may know some concepts and others may not due to differences in the quality of the prerequisite course. Although the course content should be the same, there are inconsistencies in what is taught from professor to professor in the same course.

Different teaching styles between professors only exaggerate the differences in learning between students. The course schedule can be delayed for the professor who must now review for some students, if they are lucky enough to have a professor who would do such a thing.

Numerous professors use PowerPoint presentations to supplement their teachings in class. Although this is a common method, it cannot be the only strategy a professor uses. PowerPoint presentations are a good method for teaching concept-based lessons and are also good for allowing students to take notes in class, but they lack effectiveness when used to teach things that must be practiced, such as programming languages like Java and Visual Basic.

When teaching operating systems, programming languages and more complicated aspects of computing, it becomes more beneficial for the professors to use a more hands-on approach. It is much easier for students to see the intricacies of more technical programs and processes when an experienced user shows live demonstrations. Most students, such as the majority of Professor Juan Martínez’s Intermediate Java Programming course, believe that Power Point presentations are simply a sub-par teaching method, especially when used to teach difficult technical concepts.

During several IT courses, I have felt that I would be better off trying to learn the material on my own because of a professor’s difficult teaching style or methods.

Many aspects of the Computer Science and Information Technology curriculum are too complex to simply gloss over with Power Points and handouts, and it can become very stressful when a student feels that they must learn something completely by themselves and then apply it to an assignment.

Although most professors surely mean well and answer questions during class and office hours, they are not always available. But, when it comes down to it, nothing can replace a student’s drive to open a book and learn the material. Professors should put forth the extra effort to provide the best teaching methods relative to the content.

It is difficult to feel prepared for a career in a field that one may be passionate about, but may not be getting the best education in at the University.

Our national media outlets have lost their collective minds. One only has to look at the travesty that is CNN’s 24 hour news coverage to see what I mean.

Last week, I tuned in to the illustrious news moguls and watched, shocked, as the reporter directed the viewer’s attention to one of the computer screens in the news room, whereon the camera zoomed in to the computer screen so that all of us at home could watch a YouTube video.

The first day of the Libyan Revolution reveals that there is just not 24 hours’ worth of news. Cutting these short days down to a few hours a day would force companies like CNN to change the things that are important instead of filling air-time with drivel.

Unfortunately, when there is a global event occurring which deserves up-to-the-minute news coverage, it is not too much to ask that CNN was a constant stream of information coming down the pipelines. It is not too much to ask that there were three articles on the uprising.

As Charlie Sheen had his meltdown, there was a constant stream of information coming down the pipelines. It is not too much to ask that things which deserve national attention come at the instant pace I know these two articles on the ongoing uprising over the course of the day.

CNN picked up the slack in the following days, but I cannot forget that first day as I scanned the official sites looking for any news and coming up empty.

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**Demand, numbers theme of townhall meeting**

**Becca Griesemer**  
Staff Writer

University President Mark Rosenberg has grand expectations for the Biscayne Bay Campus within the next 10 years. However, a town hall meeting which took place on April 6, Rosenberg said he expects BBC will grow by 5,000 students, faculty will be hired, and the schools of Hospitality and Tourism Management and Journalism and Mass Communication will double in size.

Yet Rosenberg also made clear in order for the campus to receive improvements on issues such as housing and how to improve upon a lot of the aspects of the vision is to work with philanthropy, not having improvements until the campaign being in progress were few and far between.

Biscayne Bay Campus, on the other hand, has grand expectations for the campus to receive improvements on issues such as housing and how to improve upon a lot of the aspects of the vision is to work with philanthropy, not having improvements until the campaign being in progress were few and far between.

Chana Kaplan, comptroller for the BBC’s Student Government Council, posed one of the first questions: “With the talk of the student body growing here, what are you doing to make sure that growth does happen here? Because there’s talk of not having improvements until the student bodies are here, but what is happening to ensure that growth is happening?” Kaplan asked.

Rosenberg responded that his vision is to work with philanthropy due to the dwindling budget, but said he will speak of the specifics at a meeting which will take place at BBC on April 14.

Denise Halpin, SGC-BBC vice president, tried to get a more clear answer. “I’m going to put you a little bit on the spot here,” Halpin began. “A lot of us want to know what’s going to be done now in terms of planning and where the vision is, where it’s going and what is being currently done to improve upon a lot of the aspects of our campus.”

When Halpin asked what the plan was for improving housing, Rosenberg called to the microphone Rosana Jones, vice president of student affairs.

“When the question is asked, what comes first, the students or the investments? For housing, it has to be a parallel kind of process,” Jones said.

Jones explained it must be ensured that “the mortgage will be paid.”

“Now, we have 270 beds at Bay Vista Housing. We have 80 percent occupancy at this point, the highest we’ve had in years,” Jones said. Jones then said last week 620 beds were approved at the Modesto Maidique Campus, because they were able to demonstrate demand. BBC housing is at 100 percent and there is a waiting list for students.

Chris “C.C.” Battle, SGC-BBC president, stood to present the opposite of Jones’ argument. “The fact we’ve reached 80 percent of folks in the housing building with this current quality is amazing,” Battle said. “Talking to other students, if [BBC] had amazing housing, then do you know how many people would live here just because of the location?”

The campus must be provided with something sustainable to attract students, Battle said.

“I guarantee you, if you all would build housing with 600 beds, we would get them full, but we need classes,” Battle said.

Because of the many voiced concerns, Rosenberg was pleased after the meeting.

“My expectations were exceeded here because we got excellent questions from the students, stuck with it for the full two and a half hours, and they dug in. I like that,” Rosenberg said to Student Media after the meeting.

Rosenberg pointed out that he had to push students to clarify their exact issues in order to understand them.

“That’s why I asked the international student for your questions and that’s why I said what exactly are the numbers for the Rec center,” Rosenberg said. “I mean let’s be as specific as possible.” The only way we can generate results.”

Jones was not deterred either.

“The questions were right on as some of the issues that are most important to us on this campus,” Jones said. “Everybody here wants to make the campus better, address the issues, and I’m sure soon you’re going to see some progress.”

**Student detachment also to blame for lack of candidates**

**Jonathan Seydo**  
Staff Writer

Campaigning for elections was hard to miss for students at the University, at least at the Modesto A. Maidique Campus. At the Biscayne Bay Campus, on the other hand, both the literal and metaphorical signs of a campaign being in progress were few and far between.

Scattered throughout BBC on April 5, the official day of SGA elections, were signs announcing Chevrolet representatives were on campus allowing students to check out and test drive different Cherry makes, but more specifically the Volt. Only two banners could be found announcing SGA polls were open, along with a board set up in front of the bookstore identifying the candidates with the positions that they are running for.

The SGA info-banners were the only election-related publicity that were readily visible throughout the campus. At MMC it is nearly impossible to not run into posters, signs, or flyers advocating either Patrick O’Keefe and Sanjev Udhani or Alina Gonzalez and Kevin Gonzalez the presidential and vice presidential candidates, respectively.

Angela Adams, SGA elections commissioner for BBC, explains that in terms of publicizing the most recent election. In a July 23, 2009 Memorandum from the Office of the Vice Provost at BBC titled “Posting Guidelines for Promotional Flyers,” SGA was limited due to campus rules regulating the posting of flyers and signs to designated area.

To work around the limited posting areas, a student listserve of BBC students was used to send out election information. However, it could be argued that there was no need for such promotion at BBC.

For the multiple SGC-BBC positions up for election, all of them had candidates that were either running unopposed or the seats were slated to remain vacant due to no candidate emerging from their respective college or school.

“The Student Government Association is committed to making your issues our concerns in order to serve your needs,” reads the SGA website.

However there are students, like Santiago Luna, who simply don’t care to see their needs met.

Luna, a sophomore international relations major, had no reservations when critiquing BBC. But when asked what his main issue with the campus was, Luna said, “there is a complete disconnect between the students and campus life.”

To put the student detachment in perspective, Luna described an encounter he had, on a Friday earlier in the semester, with an Abercrombie and Fitch recruiters with an Abercrombie and Fitch recruiters.

“I’m not here often,” Chan said. “I’m usually only here for classes, so when I get [to BBC] I go from my car, straight to class and then back.”

SGA is faced with the challenge of catching the attention of students who primarily commute to a campus that holds only a handful of classes for the University’s colleagues.

“They need to get more visual. I don’t see them around campus at all,” answered Tashana Lewis, a junior public relations major, a week before elections commenced.

Despite the lack of visibility, there’s also an issue of students being able to participate in elections, both as candidates and as voters.

Not all students are able to actively get involved due to their responsibilities outside of the classroom. Whether it’s due to the size of the work load associated with class, either part-time or full-time job, or a combination of the two, not all students are able to get actively involved with campus life.

“Honestly, between classes and work I’m not really able to [get involved]. Before I transferred I was very much into being aware of what was going on campus, who was running and stuff. But since I started, I just haven’t been able to,” said Jessica Valdez, a junior advertisement major.

Yet there is still a good portion of students who feel the same as Christian Farah, a sophomore business student.

“I know there are SGA elections, but I’m not voting because I’m not engaged in school stuff,” Farah said.