Model United Nations team places fourth in conference

NICOLAS SARAVIA
Staff Writer

Representing the Republic of India, 24 FIU students joined over 3,000 participants from across the country in this year’s Harvard National Model United Nations conference.

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 diplomatic negotiations and preparation of draft resolutions, reports and directives.

The 57th annual conference, hosted by the Department’s final production of the spring semester, Twelfth Night, is set to take center stage in the University Theater beginning Thursday April 7 until Saturday April 10. It will also be performed April 14 and 17, which are School Days when students are dismissed at noon.

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

![Photo Courtesy of The Theatre Department](image-url)

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 callback 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 teaching 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 wrenching 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 things 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.”

![Image](image-url)
The beacon – Friday, April 8, 2011

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by the Harvard International Relations Council, pushed the FIU MUN delegates to participate in parliamentary debate, diplomatic negotiations, and arrange draft resolutions, reports, and directives.

The HNMUN gives students an opportunity to practice for the National Model United Nations Conference held in New York City each spring.

This year’s team managed to set new records, such as having two first-year members receive the award for best delegate. Also for the first time, six members received recognition for Outstanding Delegates.

“HNMUN conference is very competitive. For first-year delegates it can be a bit overwhelming at first. We are constantly giving speeches, making motions and working to create innovative solutions to current existing international issues,” said Joanna Sanchez, who received an honorable mention in 2010 and Outstanding Delegate award this year.

At this year’s conference, the university’s team represented the Republic of India and discussed issues concerning the UN Human Rights Council, World Health Organisation and the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation, among others.

“I strongly believe that the resolutions passed at Model UN conferences would work if they were applied to the world today,” said Hayden Simms, who received an honorable mention at the conference.

Among the program’s goals are for students to practice public speaking, negotiating and policy writing.

The team believes their greatest difficulty was to compare the assimilation model to their vehicle. It was also difficult to build the fiberglass shell and the design process was also a challenge.

Eventually, it was tricky 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 graduate because the senior design project seemed so 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 are soon able to speak in front of anywhere from 30 students to 300. You’ll be able to engage any audiency. 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.

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“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.”

Financial budget issues arise for project, traveling costs

MARATHON, page 1

component of the vehicle is the chassis, which supports the entire weight of the car and the driver. It is a aerospace grade so that the car can be very strong but very light, as well.

When it comes to fuel-efficiency, weight is the biggest factor. We decided to build a shell for the car so that it provides more aerodynamics capabilities for the vehicle. The power system we are using is a breathless vehicle. The power system dynamics capabilities for the vehicle, and we, FIU have gotten money from the Student Government Association. We have also received money from the Shell. We have also ended up not being true,” said Quinceno.

Quinceno explained that Shinde had offered to provide the team with $7,000. When the team finalized its budget, including materials and traveling expenses, the total was less than expected. Another obstacle occurred when Shinde could not pay the $6,000, and was only able to contribute $1,500.

“Shinde, our grad-student, had offered to pay for everything, since we in mind, and how to actually make it look like,” said Sampath.

Although the team faced difficulties, they remained optimistic.

“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.”

Sampath feels that his last semester at FIU has been extremely worthwhile because of this project.

“Even though this is not my senior year, the group recruited me, and I cannot say any more about that. Helping them out during my junior year has been an amazing learning experience. I now feel ready to succeed during my senior project next semester,” said George.

The team has worked on the project for two consecutive semesters. Now, they feel ready for the big day.

“We want to win but we know it is FIU’s first time competing, whereas other schools have attended the competition numerous times. However, we are very hopeful that our efforts pay off, and we feel confident that we have done a great job,” said Salemea.

Once the team is done with the competition, it has two options available for the vehicle’s future. The team hopes the car can be donated to FIU, so that other undergraduate students can use it as part of their senior design projects. However, Shinde has said that he wants the car for himself.

“FIU and other companies have provided a lot of funds for the vehicle, and we, FIU students, have worked diligently on the construction of the car. We would rather give the car to FIU,” concludes Quinceno.
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**BASEBALL**

**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 and told me to keep my spots and let the ball drop, after that I got my slider going,” Fitzpatrick added. “It’s always good to get closer to having a good outing.”

After one out, Peter O’Brien would put himself in a hole by walking in the BCU leadoff hitter, Paul Biocic.

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

**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. Better than 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 upperclassmen 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 two 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.

**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.

**TELEVISION**

After difficult home loss, team hopes to rebound

**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, 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.

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Shakespeare play comes to the modern era

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 one first.

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-Lethal Emissions: Tron plays the lead. Flynn, an arrogant, handsome video game programmer, who spends his nights coding and managing an arcade. He’s the kind of guy who’ll take off his t-shirt in front of his ex-girlfriend and her boyfriend only to put on an identical one in a different color. I guess to prove a point?

Flynn, robbed of several names 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 is 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 Fritdee. Except if you lose, you disintegrate. Those scenes are part of our collective cultural conscience. Stay for that.

TRON: LEGACY (2010)

See everything I wrote 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 will keep you from suffering an aneurism. Tron: Legacy demonstrates the same level of visual ambition that its predecessor demonstrated almost thirty 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 likeliness of a younger Bridges.

Expect more allegories about oppression and totalitarian states. And more lightcycle chases. Those are awesome!

What this film doesn’t have that makes the first film fun to watch, however, is that 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. If I find that could be the case some thirty years from now when we look back on Tron: Legacy.

Reel to Reel is a weekly column on film. Look for it every Friday.
Student portal desperate for user-friendly revisions

Normally, when I criticize something technological at the University I do so with my harsh and un forgiving 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 exams 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, log on 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 own.

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 it use because I have to have it.

Fistfuls of Tech! is a weekly column on all things technology.
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 no secret that people are 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 no 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, these inconsistencies are 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 Martinez’s Intermediate Java Programming course, believe that PowerPoint 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

GISSELL 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 mag and watched, shocked, as the reporter directed the viewer’s attention to one of the computer screens in the news room, whereupon the camera zoomed in to the computer screen so those of us at home could watch a YouTube video.

I know that it might seem a little over the top to expect up-to-the-minute news coverage... but the facts remain that we have the technology. We can expect it because it is completely possible.
Cuba claims ex-Reuters boss helped CIA
State television accused former bureau chief for the Reuters international news agency of arranging a meeting on a between an undercover Cuban agent and a U.S. diplomat claimed to be a CIA operative.

Haiti’s pop-star president knows politics
Michel “Swan Micky” Martelly has turned out to be a serious, skilled and successful candidate. He captured nearly 68 percent of the vote, defeating opposition leader and former first lady Mirlande Manigat.

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. During 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 parking, hours of operations, BBC must prove there is enough demand for it.

The discussion of this predicament, along with other topics, led to an open dialogue which lasted half an hour past the meeting’s scheduled end.

Shana Kamp, 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?” Kamp said.

Rosenberg responded that his vision is to work with philanthropists 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 next 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 for improving housing is, Rosenberg called to the microphone Rosa 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 “CC” 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 you do 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 ques- tions, 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 he had to push students to clarify their exact issues in order to understand them.

“That’s why I asked the interna- tional students for examples, 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 to make it a possible 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 GOVERNMENT ELECTIONS

Campaigning for elections was hard to miss for four 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 first official day of SGA elections, were signs announcing Chevrolet representatives were on campus allowing students to check out and test out different Chevy makes, but more specifically the Volt. Only two banners could be found announcing SGA polls were open, along with a board set up in the lobby outside 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 apparent, with an Abercrombie and Fitch recruiters was used to send out election information.

As per 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 who came in search of prospective employees but were met with a deserted campus.

This detachment comes as no surprise to any student who has taken classes at BBC.

“When describing a typical day at BBC, Thalia Chan, a junior hospitality major, shares a similar routine to the majority of BBC students.”

“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 colleges.

“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 a class, either a 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.