Large turnout for Student Government elections

GABRIEL ARRARÁS
BECCA GRIESEMERS
Beacon Staff

The 2011 Student Government Association elections had students come out in record numbers to vote.

Assistant Director for Campus Life and Adviser for SGA, Jose Toscano, hailed the 6,301 students that voted for helping SGA accomplish a "true milestone" in its history.

"I have never seen this much excitement from the Student Body," Toscano told a large crowd at the Graham Center Pit on April 7. "I have never seen numbers like I have seen this year.

Toscano then introduced Rosa Jones, vice president of Student Affairs, who announced all the SGC-MMC winners, ushering in what she called "a new beginning."

Winning the first contested presidential and vice presidential race since 2008, Patrick O'Keefe and Sanjeev Udhnani defeated Alina Gonzalez and Kevin Gonzalez by a margin of 852 votes to become SGC-MMC president and vice president, respectively.

"It was a very tough campaign. Both sides fought very hard," O'Keefe told Student Media. "Now it's all about having everyone work together because we are one FIU!"

When asked what gave him the edge over his opponents, O'Keefe credited his grassroots campaign aimed at groups he felt underrepresented in the University.

"We worked hard for the arts, engineering, international and housing students," said O'Keefe. "We fought for them and gave them a voice."

He also credited the Student Body for becoming more informed and the use of technology to get students out to vote. SGC-MMC Elections Commissioner Andrea Alhadari agrees.

"I think the biggest factor was the use of technology," Alhadari said. "Having campaigners around campus with iPads and laptops encouraging students to vote is what helped us surpass our goal."

Also announced were the 26 new senators elected to the SGC-MMC senate.

Rostislav, Carlos Rodriguez and Samir Patel were elected to become SGC-MMC senator-at-large. Larry Brown and Dean Williams were elected SGC-MMC housing senator.

Five candidates were elected for the College of Arts and Science senate seats. Leading the race was Cristina Bosmerini, followed by Sebastian Lamazabal, Giovanni Correa, Donovan Dunvon and Juanita Louis.

Electors to the College of Business Administration were Cesar Chaquiquina, Gabriel Freitas and Adam Redolfi.

The Graduate senate race had four candidates running for four seats. Leading in votes was current Graduate Senator Rachel Ennas, followed by Adeel Jamal, Sai Penagamuri and Dharam Perasad.

Elected to the College of Engineering and Computing Seat were Andrea Fajardo and Fernando Pineda. The Lower Division race had four candidates elected: Liane Sippin, Mirza Ponce, Kevin Hernandez, Nicole Buchely.

Also elected to the SGC-MMC senate were Jose Garcia, Daniel Diaz and Janis Venery for the Honors College, College of Arts and Architecture and College of Public Health seats, respectively.

The races for College of Medicine, Nursing and Health Sciences, College of Law and College of Education remained uncontested at SGC-MMC.

University celebrates Earth Week with several events

ANALIA FIESTAS
Staff Writer

Events—ranging from yoga to a bike-in movie—were sponsored by various University organizations to celebrate Earth Week.

More than 15 years ago, FIU celebrated its first environmental celebration with a single-day event known as PRU Earth Fest, but this year students kicked off a six-day festival from April 4 to April 9.

FIU’s Students for Environmental Actions, Student Government Association, L.D.E.A.S. and Go Green sponsored events throughout the University and South Florida.

Starting off the week on April 4, FIU participated in the clean up of the Women’s Park next to the Engineering Center for the Great American Cleanup where volunteers received free t-shirts and lunch. The Environmentally Endangered Lands Program, a sustainability driven program, scheduled a volunteer workday to remove non-native plant species, plant native species, and clean up trash in protected ecosystems.

Student organizations throughout FIU joined forces with the community to host diverse programs.

Major challenges cadets to train harder

ARTHUR GOMEZ
Contributing Writer

Early each morning at the Modesto Maidique campus of Florida International University, Army cadets are commonly seen exercising and running as part of their Reserve Officer Training Corps routine.

Usually, they run as a compact group directed by a drill sergeant or an officer. Sometimes, a senior cadet leads formations.

But when Major Wally Gallant directs them, everything changes. Usually, they all end up more physically and mentally.

"He is one of the fastest senior officers with endless physical resistance I have ever seen before," said Santiago Real, a cadet, an Iraq War veteran, member of the Florida National Guard and accounting student.

Gallant is such an important figure at the University that many students think of him as a mentor. That’s because he is in charge of the ROTC program at FIU, which has many forms of assistance ranging from full scholarships, stipends and book aid. Gallant has helped hundreds graduate and become Army officers.

Gallant was born in 1956 in Bayamon, Puerto Rico, but was reared in New York City until the FLO RIDING

Flo Rida performed for a crowd of 4500 students at the Soccer Stadium for SGC’s annual UP Roar concert. The show also featured Far East Movement. For more about UP Roar, turn to pg. 7 of Life!

ELECTIONS, page 11
**NEWS FLASH**

**Iran launches probe into nuke delay**

A lawmaker says Iran’s parliament has launched an investigation into repeated delays in the startup of the Bushehr nuclear power plant.

President Mahmoud Mirjafari said the plant was expected to produce electricity in February but the Russian engineers building the plant ordered the removal of fuel from the reactor because of concerns that metal particles might be contaminating fuel assemblies.

Foreign intelligence reports have said the control systems at Bushehr were penetrated by the mysterious computer worm known as Stuxnet.

Iranian lawmakers say the sludging has delayed the startup of the plant by a year. Bushehr was scheduled to start working in 1999 but there have been repeated delays.

**Storms damaged 300 central Florida homes**

The American Red Cross says more than 300 central Florida homes were damaged by storms that spawned nine tornadoes last week.

The disaster agency said Thursday that 19 homes were destroyed and 81 sustained major damage as a result of the line of storms that cut a swath through 12 counties on March 31. There were no serious injuries.

The Red Cross assisted 163 people with services after the storms and its volunteers are continuing to help with long-term recovery plans. Volunteers served more than 2,000 meals this week.

**Libyan rebels mourn victims of NATO attack error**

Angry crowds in the main rebel stronghold fired on the front lines, meanwhile, rebel fighters sent his other passion, aircraft. This guided his dream of wanting to be part of the US armed forces was inspired by his father, a Korean War veteran.

Infantry Battalion, where it was very typical of a high-ranking diplomat than a military career man with multiple deployments. Perhaps this is the quality, coupled with his good sense of humor, that leads him to be one of the most esteemed officers by his subordinates.

"He makes me laugh every time we have a break from drills," said cadet Rivera, also a student at FIU and member of the Florida National Guard.

**NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARINGS**

The University Fee Committee will be holding public hearings on Tuesday, April 12, 2011 BBC

WUC 157 at 11:30am

Wednesday, April 13, 2011 MMC

East Ballroom at 12pm

The objective of these meetings will be to give interested individuals an opportunity to hear arguments pertaining to the proposed increase to the Athletic Fee. The amended fee will be effective in the Fall 2011 term. Students and other interested individuals are invited to attend these meetings.
Budget bill could slash $4 billion

BILL KACZOR
AP Staff

Virtually no sector of state government, from public schools to programs for the sick and disabled, is spared from the budget axe in spending bills passed Thursday by the Florida House and Senate, though they differ in many key details.

GOP lawmakers who control both chambers are holding firm to their no-new-taxes commitment, with austere appropriations bills of nearly $70 billion that would slash almost $4 billion in spending.

Democrats argued that House and Senate bills alike are balanced on the backs of public employees, in effect imposing an income tax on them.

Both chambers would dock the paychecks of police and firemen and many local employees, and many local employees, teachers, state workers and public employees, in effect imposing an income tax on them.

Democrats argued that House and Senate bills alike are balanced on the backs of public employees, in effect imposing an income tax on them.

Both chambers would dock the paychecks of teachers, state workers and many local employees, including police and firefighters to reduce state, city and county government contributions to their retirement plan by up to $1.1 billion. The spending cuts also are expected to result in widespread layoffs.

Senate Budget Committee Chairman JD Alexander, R-Lake Wales, acknowledged that state employees are being asked to sacrifice again after going without pay raises for five years, but he said things are even worse in Florida’s recession-battered private sector.

“In my district virtually every business that I know of has done layoffs, reductions. Many businesses have closed,” Alexander said. “In my world folks can’t afford a lot of additional tax burden.”

The pension plan contributions and spending cuts are in response to a $3.75 billion gap between anticipated state revenues and the growing cost of high-priority to critical spending needs. The biggest part of that gap comes from nearly $3 billion in stimulus money included in the current budget that won’t be available in the next fiscal year, which begins July 1, as the federal program expires.

As lawmakers debated the budget bills, hundreds of public employees and union members, including doctors and nurses, went to Gov. Rick Scott’s office three floors below the legislative chambers to protect the cuts. They delivered “pink slips” for Scott to the governor’s office. Scott, who had proposed even deeper spending cuts and even bigger employee pension contributions, was not there.

The Republican governor was in South Florida visiting a state employment office and doing media interviews.

The House passed its appropriations bill (HB 5001) on a 78-39 party line roll call. The Senate earlier voted 33-6 for its appropriations bill (SB 2000) with all Republicans in favor and Democrats almost evenly split. Some senators from both parties who voted for the bill, though, said they objected to its harsh treatment of public employees and hoped that it will be eased during coming negotiations to resolve differences between the House and Senate.

Those talks are expected to begin next week as Senate Democratic Leader Nan Rich of Weston said she couldn’t vote for her chamber’s budget because her colleagues decided “to cause unnecessary pain to a lot of vulnerable people in our state.”

Rich said Republicans have ignored other options for balancing the budget such as a bill she’s filed that would close a corporate tax loophole that benefits out-of-state companies.

College and university tuition would go up by 5 percent in the House bill and 8 percent in the Senate plan. Hospitals and nursing homes would be paid less for Medicaid patients as part of a $1 billion cut in the state-federal program for low-income and disabled people.

The Senate budget also would reduce spending for transplant recipients and other “medically needy” patients with catastrophic illness but who lack sufficient insurance coverage. As of next April it would stop covering prescription drugs, transportation, hearing aids and glasses, but it would continue paying doctor bills.

About $1 billion would come out of public schools in each budget, but school districts would get some of that money back due to savings they’ll have due to their employees’ retirement contributions.

“The education budget, given all circumstances and the factors, is level funding in dismaying times,” said Sen. David Simmons, R-Maitland.

Environmental spending including land purchases and Everglades restoration also would be slashed. Both plans would cut prison spending by privatizing correctional facilities — in an 18-county area of South Florida in the Senate bill but just in Broward and Miami-Dade counties in the House version.

The Senate’s $69.8 billion appropriations bill is $3.3 billion higher than the House measure, but most of that gap is due to accounting differences.

Two key differences are that the Senate brings the state’s five water management districts into the state budget for the first time and continues to include county court clerks. The House plan includes neither.

The House also spends less on roads and other transportation projects than the Senate.

While both chambers have turned thumbs down on tax increases, they’ve also rejected Scott’s proposal for tax cuts that would mainly benefit businesses and property owners. The one exception comes in the Senate’s plan that includes relatively small property tax cuts for the water management districts.

In his “jobs budget,” Scott had proposed $1.7 billion in tax cuts, arguing they’d help attract new businesses and jobs to the state.

Legislative leaders, though, say Florida can’t afford that level of tax relief.

ASSOCIATED PRESS

JAZZY LUNCH

Nicole Henry and her band performed on the Graham Center lawn on April 7 for the Jazzy Lunch event. Students lounged on the grass while enjoying the jazz singer’s smooth voice.

ELECTION RESULTS

SGC-MMC President

O’Keefe & Udhani (3443)
Gonzalez & Gonzalez (2591)

Engineering and Computing Senator

Andrea Tapiero (284)
Fernando Piñeiro (234)
Estelle Ekwere (99)

Senator-at-large

Robillard (2031)
Rodriguez (1460)
Patel (969)
Evora (770)

Lower Division Senator

Sippin (603)
Buchesy (323)
Ponce (404)
Leal-McCormack (229)
Hernandez (355)
Chueco (182)
New hockey club hopes to grow and establish itself on campus

DIONISIO GARCIA Contributing Writer

From opening a law school, medical school and building a new football stadium, FIU has been rapidly expanding and creating new organizations over the past decade, including the creation of a brand new ice hockey team. But this team is different from the normal teams on campus, they’re not sponsored by the governing body nor the athletic department.

Mike Amado, captain of the upstart hockey team, has been playing hockey since he was in middle school. He came to FIU for academic reasons with the hopes of there being a hockey team in the near future.

“There are 40,000 kids at FIU, I’m sure there are 20 that skate decently,” Amado said. “Ever since then it’s been a hard amount of people.”

It started at orientation when Amado gave his name and his interests of playing hockey. While at that orientation, one of the other students, Matt Parrish, announced he played hockey as well. Amado also invited into Daniel Lopez, the current goalie/keeper, to join the team.

Amado and Lopez were rivals in high school. Amado got the better of Lopez, defeating him twice in different championship games. However, that did not stop Amado from joining the club at FIU.

“We came to FIU and he asked me if I wanted to join,” Amado said. “As much as we were rivals now, we are going to be on the same team.”

The team currently has 19 players and is three short from a complete roster. The club is adding players whenever they can with one new addition coming as recently as last week.

The club is facing financial issues as they are trying to become a CSO club to receive funding and creating new organizations as they are trying to become a CSO club to receive funding.

Despite the heartaches, hope may be on the horizon. FIU recently played the University of Miami in front of 400 fans at Kendall Ice Arena on March 5, losing to the Hurricanes 11-3. It was the first collegiate hockey game ever played in Miami-Dade County. Despite the loss, the opportunity to play gave the team hope considering they only advertised the game through word of mouth.

The team’s goal is to eventually be part of the American Collegiate Hockey Association. The ACHA is similar to the NCAA, but a tier below.

With proper funding and enough players they will join schools such as Florida Gulf Coast University, University of Central Florida and others in the ACHA.

At the moment, the team is attempting to use FIU as their main recruiting tool. FIU is currently trying to increase the number of students it admits into the university each year for the next few years. Amado and Lopez hope that of those additional students, at least a few will play hockey.

The odds of the new students coming in are, at minimum, one or two would be hockey players,” Amado said.

The team is also hoping to truly use the “International” in the school’s name.

“FIU recruits all over the world and maybe they get kids from Russia, Sweden, or other countries in Europe where hockey is prominent,” Amado said. “Maybe they aren’t looking to play hockey when they come to FIU. But if they see that FIU has a hockey team they would want to join.”

The team wants to replicate the university it plays for. Since Amado and Lopez’s freshman year, they have both noticed all of the progress made at the university.

“FIU doesn’t seem like it is slowing down anytime soon and we are FIU,” says Amado. “We have the same ambition to become big.”

The FIU hockey team is currently planning its next match against the University of Central Florida.

The Beacon – 4 www.fi usmicom Monday, April 11, 2011
FIU unable to sweep Bethune-Cookman at home

The Golden Panthers were looking for a two-game sweep after beating MEAC champions Bethune-Cookman in a 7-3 victory the night before. With a three-game series against conference leader Troy looming in the weekend, FIU was hoping to head into their conference series with momentum.

But FIU would come up short of another rally as they fell to the Wildcats by a score 5-4 on April 6.

FIU (19-12, 4-5 SBC) gave the Golden Panthers a chance to try and make a comeback.

The bases were loaded and FIU continued to struggle through three innings.

With the bases loaded, the Wildcats capitalized off a throwing error by second baseman TJ. Shantz, allowing Alejandro Sanchez and Paul Biocic to take home and give BCU a 3-0 lead in the third.

Wildcats, Dodds was called off by relieved by Christian Maltbrough.

“It’s important in a mid-week game, especially after playing the night before with many pitchers out there as possible before a big weekend series,” said coach Turtle.

Maltbrough started off shaky by walking Emmanuel Castro and would advance to second on a ground out. But after pitching a little over one inning of play and allowing zero runs off of two hits and striking out two batters, Dodds was off the hook.

The Golden Panthers closer, making the Wildcats a 5-1 lead in the sixth. An RBI single by Behar in the seventh to the left side brought the Golden Panthers closer, making the score 5-2.

The bottom of the eighth saw FIU continue to dig for hits as Pablo Bermudez got on first after an error by the BCU shortstop. Shantz complemented Bermudez by hitting a single to right field moving Bermudez to second and both would advance on a passed ball.

Jeremy Patton came through with a single through the right side to bring Bermudez and Shantz home and bring FIU one run shy of tying the game.

But BCU reliever Jordan Dailey came in and was able to shut the door on the Golden Panthers to end the game.

“It’s important to try and win every game you can down the stretch. When you leave sixteen guys on base, you’re not going to win a baseball game,” Thomas said. “We’ll play it one game at a time.”

Orange Bowl CEO Poms receives bump in salary

The committee that runs the Orange Bowl bumped up the CEO’s pay by nearly $150,000 in 2009, boosting his compensation to more than $500,000, according to a newly filed tax return.

The committee said in an email that the bump was a result of a supplemental compensation given to CEO Eric Poms for “the added work and effort involved in hosting two Bowl Championship Series games in 2009, including the national championship, in south Florida.

The Orange Bowl is one of four premier college football bowl games that make up the BCS title game once every four seasons, along with the Sugar, Rose and Fiesta Bowls.

The Fiesta Bowl CEO John Junker last week was extravagant and improper spending uncovered by an AP investigation was sent to the audit committee for review.

Larry Wahl of the Associated Press said. “Efforts are led by a compensation committee appointed by the Orange Bowl’s board of directors.”

Wahl also said that the Orange Bowl made a $3.15 million contribution in 2009 to rebuild an inner-city youth/ high school stadium and facilities at Moore Park in Miami.

Besides Poms’ hike, several other Orange Bowl officials also got bumps because of hosting two games in 2009.

McClain’s hit home run in loss to Louisiana on the road

McClain hits home run in loss to Louisiana on the road

The Golden Panthers were unable to deliver key hits in loss to Louisiana on April 7.

Kayla Burriz left and the Golden Panther offense were unable to deliver key hits in loss to Louisiana on the road.

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Softball, page 4

Gled most of the game at the plate trying to string together consecutive hits against Louisiana-Lafayette. Between the third through fifth innings, the Golden Panthers were only able to secure two base runners.

In the fourth inning, FIU went down in order as McClain, Rojas and Kayla Burri swung at the first pitch delivered to them to register a three pitch inning for Brignac.

McClain matched Brignac pitch-for-pitch through the middle innings as well. McClain faced four batters in the second and third innings and retired the Ragin’ Cajuns in order in the fourth on two pitches.

The Ragin’ Cajuns (29-6, 7-2 SBC) were able to scratch out a run in the bottom of the fifth inning by a combination of hits and Golden Panther miscues.

A hit single by Katie Smith began the inning and was followed by a fielding error by Burri and a single by Myers loaded the bases for the Golden Panthers at a jam while only surrendering one run.

In the sixth inning, the Golden Panthers recorded two quick outs by Jessy Alfonso and Beth Peller. On the first pitch, McClain, who went 1-for-3, hit a home run over the right center field wall to cut the Golden Panther deficit to 2-1.

In the top of the seventh, Dawson retired the Ragin’ Cajuns in order.

In the bottom of the seventh, the Golden Panthers were unable to start a rally as Brignac retired FIU in order to end the game. Brignac recorded her sixteenth win on the season for the Ragin’ Cajuns. McClain’s record dropped to 5-4 for the season on the Golden Panthers.
FIU: THIS WEEK DOCKERS® COLLEGE TOUR!

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UP Roar’s main event takes over soccer stadium

ADRIANA RODRIGUEZ
Life! Editor

Students came out in droves for the 2011 Up Roar concert featuring Flo Rida and Far East Movement.

The FIU Soccer Stadium grounds were home to the concert which took place on Apr. 6.

The concert is Up Roar week’s main event and was a huge success in the eyes of Cristina Rodriguez, SPC president.

“I could not be more proud of SPC-MMC,” Rodriguez said. “The event was a total collaborative effort from the beginning of the planning process. We exposed yet another generation to a great tradition.”

The crowd—an estimated 4500 students—was showered with giveaways from SPC, Fiji Water, One Coconut Water, Game Stop and Aero The Fly Kid including glow sticks and t-shirts.

The event ended around midnight but workers stayed until the early hours of the morning showing their dedication.

“An insane amount of our volunteers stayed till 4:30 a.m., and our General Members took on leadership roles so well that we can rest assured that every UP-Roar from here on will only get better,” she said.

This is Rodriguez’s last year as president and
The Theater Department premiered Twelfth Night, the last play of the semester, on April 7. Sarai Heria is Viola (left) and Malvolio is played by Juan Carlos Madriz (right).

KARINA TELLEZ/THE BEACON

Students happy with concert

the event has assured her SPC will be in good hands in the upcoming years. “It was surreal being on stage with Vice Presidents that I have worked alongside for years. I have seen them grow and develop through many changes,” Rodriguez said. “I am extremely proud of them and the work they put into the concert.”

Artists are selected based on surveys taken by students throughout the year. Students vote on what genre of music appeals to them the most and then SPC considers their budget and chooses the performers from there.

Previous performers include Ludacris, One Republic and Pitbull. This year’s event was headlined by Far East Movement and Flo Rida.

Made up of a group of high school friends from Los Angeles, Far East Movement kicked off the show by performing their songs “Rocketeer” and “Like a G6.”

Having just arrived from a 25-hour flight, the group felt welcomed by the University crowd and shared the effects of their success. “We’re just grateful. We came from just normal kids from LA who loved to make music to being able to do this, what we love, in different cities and in places we’ve never been to before,” said Kev Nish, a member of Far East Movement. “It’s a shock to us that people actually know our lyrics. We’ll go to different cities and people will be singing along to Rocketeer and Like a G6.”

Flo Rida, originally from South Florida, was looking forward to performing for the Miami crowd. “It’s definitely a blessing to be from here and to come back and perform for y’all and at the same time come out and do something for my fans that are from my hometown,” Flo Rida said before going on stage. “I’m definitely excited.”

Fresh from launching his new record label, International Music Group, Flo Rida has signed two artists from the South Florida area, Brianna and Git Fresh. His album Only One Flo (Part 2) hits stores later this year.

Sara Conklin, senior international relations major, was impressed with the caliber of the event. “Everyone was dancing, cheering and singing. I don’t think I saw one person without a smile on their face,” Conklin said.

“You could visibly tell students were proud to attend FIU and thankful that SPC would put on such a great event. I am graduating soon, and will definitely miss these kinds of opportunities. SPC made FIU very proud on Wednesday!”

Other crowd members disagreed with the choice of the event’s date. “I thought it was pretty good music. It was pretty loud and rowdy. Good people were here,” said sophomore Josh Sinclair. “It could have been better if it was on a Friday, but it’s all good.”

“I’ve always liked Flo Rida but I’ve never seen Far East Movement and it was really cool to see them,” said Brett Weaver, a criminal justice major.

Student Media is looking to fill the following positions:
- Recruitment Director
- News Director
- Sports Director
- BBC Managing Editor
- Production Manager
- Life! Editor
- Opinion Editor
- Graphic Designer
- Web Designer

As always, Student Media is looking for ambitious, self driven, and talented writers, photographers and graphic artists to join our staff.

Submit your application in GC 210 or WUC 124.

ROLE PLAY

The Theater Department premiered Twelfth Night, the last play of the semester, on April 7. Sarai Heria is Viola (left) and Malvolio is played by Juan Carlos Madriz (right).
College life provides an array of ‘firsts’

**COLUMNIST**

**ADRIANA RODRIGUEZ**

Students go through firsts on almost a daily basis. First time experiences are a mixture of excitement andutter nerve-wracking anxiety. Whether it is your first class with a certain teacher or the first time you meet a friend you will have for life, a college setting provides unique first time experiences through a student’s academic career.

First time do not always go as smoothly as one would like.

Such was English professor Yvette Piggush’s first experience teaching a class here at the University.

“It was my first time handling such a big class. At first I had no idea what I was doing. Things went wrong really fast. It got chaotic. Thankfully the students were patient with me but it was obvious they were not impressed with me,” said Piggush.

Piggush, however, eventually found her footing and is enjoying her career at the University.

Piggush looks back at the experience as a necessary step in her evolution as a professor.

“It was a process but in the end it helped improve my teaching.”

Junior Jennylee Diaz, double majoring in English and Asian studies, had a first time experience that she said she will truly remember.

About a month ago students might have noticed the Gamestop located in the Graham Center was a bit more crowded than usual. This was due to the arrival of ‘Marvel vs. Capcom: 3: Fate of Two Worlds’.

The game could be considered one of the most anticipated video games in recent memory.

Students swarmed the Gamestop when word got out that the game was playable there and soon mini tournaments developed among the students.

“I came to play the game here and not to look at a few things about the game. The controls were simplified and there were new characters in the game. A lot of good ones too like Dormammu, X-23 and Deadpool,” said Chris Trill, Junior. The game developed its own community on campus.

“I remember seeing the crowd for the first time and wondering what it was about. I walked and saw the game being played and decided to stay. I learned new things about the game playing against other students. The game has bought people together and I have made new friends in the process,” said Trill.

The college setting provides people with experiences they will carry with them for the rest of their lives. When they first happen, students might not realize it, but there is no doubt how much of an impact they make.

Whether it is becoming part of a community or meeting one’s dalmation, here at the University provides students with firsts that are embedded in minds forever.

FASHION FINDS

Overdressing is a problem in the eyes of the beholder

I have a major issue with overdressing. Some of my friends have nicknamed me Diva because I somehow manage to always be “that girl” at the beer pong tournament wearing five-inch heels.

It’s mostly due to my Napoleon complex and how I really want to be tall. I’m not short, I just about hit 5’6”, but I’m still no Scandinavian super model.

If you’ve ever read my column, then you may know about my affinity for heels or as I affectionately call them, hooker heels.

The one part of graduating this semester that I’m looking forward to is being able to wear heels on a daily basis without looking like an idiot.

The use of heels and always dressing up is a matter of opinion. Everyone has a different say on whether or not they should be worn freely. I always feel insecure wearing heels to school; I think I look dumb when I do. Some people can pull it off, but they are few and between.

But regardless of my love for heels, my closet is full of dresses and pieces made from pretty feminine fabric that aren’t always appropriate for the bar.

I’ve learned this the hard way. For instance, a couple of weekends ago I went to a friend’s party. My thought process was a little something like this: “Hey! It’s a party! I’m going to have fun with my outfit tonight.”

I went into my closet, pulled out my leather shorts (they aren’t as provocative as they sound), a blouse, put on some pumps and headed out.

In my little bubblehead, I thought I would blend. Some people get dressed to stand out, I don’t. I just want to look nice.

So, when I got there, of course I was considered overdressed. Most of my friends were in jeans and tees and their accessory was a beer can. Oh, and apparently there was a no shoe policy at the party I was unaware of.

The feeling in the pit of my stomach where I feel like I’m in a frog for getting so decked out is one I know very well. The one perk about it is you’re pretty much guaranteed attention from boys. It can go one of two ways: one, he’s the kind of guy that appreciates a girl who puts effort into her appearance. Or he could think you’re shallow and spend too much time looking at yourself in the mirror.

Whatever the case may be, I find that sky-high heels always turn out to be a conversation starter.

Who would have thought fashion could serve as a dating aide?

I’m trying to change my overdressed ways, really I am. I have a task force, aka my friends, making sure I put down the heels and pick up my flats. It’s been a hard process and every outing is a battle. I always reach for the wedges or heels.

I have good argument, too! They elongate the legs and polish off your outfit! Please, let me wear the heels! But no, they argue that I look ridiculous in a bay side café wearing a dress and heels when everyone else is in a beach cover up and boat gear.

Whatever, people.

TONED DOWN OUTFIT IDEAS:

Going to a bar: Jeans, a t-shirt or casual blouse and sandals. It’s comfortable and accommodates the beer.

Going to a get together: Denim cutoffs, jeans and flip flops.

Fashion Finds is a weekly column on fashion. Look for it every Monday.
Online courses a problematic option

LEAVING SOMETHING AS IMPORTANT AS YOUR FINAL GRADE IN A CLASS UP TO THE WHIM OF A POSSIBLY ERRATIC INTERNET CONNECTION IS A HORRIBLE IDEA.

GISELLE RODRIGUEZ 
Staff Writer

According to the New York Times, a recent bulletin in Missouri put a stop to the federal government’s extension of unemployment benefits across the state. The movement by the Republican state legislators should be applauded as they tell the federal government what they will no longer stand for.

Those Americans who are out of work should not be punished for living in a time of economic recession, but shelling out more unemployment money than is already given out is not feasible in such a time.

In the attempt to stand up for what they believe in, the Republican legislators of Missouri are no way in the unemployed alone; they also will refuse to accept additional funds towards education. New York Times writer A.G. Sulzberger quotes Jim Lemke, senator of Missouri: “This is about sending a message to the federal government from the state of Missouri that enough is enough....the federal government is sending us money they don’t have.” Since money for such programs is already allocated to each state, it does not seem wise to increase such funds when the country does not have the increased revenue to do so.

On March 24, 2011, a Beacon article described the way in which a bill can be advantageous, however, this mentality only contributes to the time many will spend unemployed. The article points out that many stay unemployed because they receive more money from the government than they would at an obtainable job, proving it to be extremely frivolous to give more money than already is being handed out as it is obviously already a salary sufficient.

Of course those who are at one point held high-ranking jobs will not feel satisfied by a mediocre paying profession, but in times of need, sacrifice is required.

The article also states, “One can suggest giving multiple jobs [as a solution to unemployment], but there should be who would choose to do that given an option, especially when finding just one is hard enough.” I hardly believe such laziness is the case of most hard-working Americans, but since it is obvious that some are not willing to put in the extra effort to get a second or even third job, it is obvious the government should not extend unemployment benefits, as this will only encourage the continuation of this lack of ambition in many cases.

If some American people are giving up on looking for a second or third job because it is simply too “hard,” the government should not be extending unemployment benefits, as it is just as difficult, if not more so, for the country to recover from it’s own deficit.

Many hard-working Americans have lived their lives apart from help of high unemployment rates, and I believe they should receive every help of the government. However, I do not believe that extending the time one can collect unemployment benefits will in any way improve this situation. Rather than stimulate the wallets of the few, the government should be focusing on exactly how to get the people who are out of work back into it, not support their unemployment.

Dear Fellow Panthers,

We, the Student Body Presidents of Florida International University, are in full support of a civil, violence-free campus. A university should be a safe place for students that is free from discrimination, the obtaining of knowledge. We as students must set the tone for our University. To set this tone, we encourage all students to act with civility with everyone that you encounter. It is also imperative to always report dangerous and/or suspicious behavior. Knowing that it only could save a life.

The University is a very safe campus, but we must all partner together to make it safer and violence-free. By your participation in "Enough is Enough" Day which will occur on April 13 at 11 a.m. in the Betsy Chapman Plaza, we as students can take a stance and proclaim that we want our University to be violence free. We cannot let violence take place here! In Panther spirit,

-KELLY MALAMBER - Staff Writer

Unemployment a handicap

KEVIN CALDERON - Editorial Page Editor

Editorials are the unified voice of the editorial board, which is composed of the editor in chief, management, and the editors of each of the five sections. The Beacon welcomes any letters in response to its editorials, which need to be submitted

The Beacon reports that O’Keefe believes in the merits of a two-council system. Ergo, he and Udhnani should address the problem that has plagued many past administrations: a lack of communication. O’Keefe and Udhnani should make a concentrated effort to reach out to the BBC administration.

BISCAYNE BAY CAMPUS

Although Denise Halpin and Emilio Cellarer ran and won unopposed, the win is still upon them to make major improvements at BBC.

As we have said with O’Keefe and Udhnani, Halpin and Collyer must match their efforts to communicate. With their cooperation, both councils can work effectively and cohesively, ultimately healing the divide between the two. This means putting a stop to the “if I have more power than you, I am a child” mentality that past administrations have had and committing to the “united University” vision.

According to our reporting, Halpin and Collyer recognized that the absence of opposition in the BBC elections was a sign of a very serious problem, namely lack of student participation. This is an issue that Halpin and Collyer must address, or else continue the trend of the BBC losing the participation and the students.

The administrations on both campuses, while chosen under very different circumstances, have the same responsibility to their constituents. The Beacon hopes that both administrations follow through on their goals and get it done for the University.

MODOEST MAIDIQUE CAMPUS

In our voting guide, we mentioned that we were impressed with Patrick O’Keefe’s and Sanjeev Udhnani’s idea of creating a volunteer program so students from the University would visit high schools as tutors, which would in turn improve recruitment. We sincerely hope that this program comes to fruition, as it would encourage many students to enroll in the University.

With the Student Government Association elections put to rest, the time has come for both administrations to take care of the constituents that put them in office. The Beacon has several expectations and suggestions for them.

The opinions presented within this page do not represent the views of The Beacon Editorial Board. These views are separate from editorial and reflect individual perspectives of contributing writers and members of the Student Government Association.
Includes music in his acts and often plays bass. Jordan includes more life lessons and Dil feels he could be compared to Martin Lawrence.

"These events are funded by students and programmed for students, and they can only get bigger with student participation," Dil said.

Known as the "magician for nonbelievers,"

Boie is SPC-BBC's main attraction for the next day of FIU Live.

From 12 to 1 p.m. on April 12, Boie will be in the cafeteria doing one-on-one performances with any student, faculty, or staff members there.

SPC-BBC will give out "Free Peter Boie" shirts in the beginning of the show to the first guests.

Dil believes he is not the conventional magician. Boie does not do card tricks or other traditional magic tricks audiences are used to seeing.

Boie has done shows for other colleges and corporate and special event clients. He has also done one on one performances locker room sessions for the New England Patriots.

In an interview in February 2011 with Campus Activities Magazine, Boie explained his tag, "magician for nonbelievers."

"Some folks think I will make them truly believe in magic by the end of the show and if they want to, maybe they will," Boie said.

"Others believe it means I cater the show to those who normally don’t care for magic shows and I have had many people come up after a show and say they didn’t normally like the genre but they enjoyed my performance."

Dil thinks students will enjoy Boie’s show because of its believability. 

"[Boie] creates an atmosphere where you stop wondering whether it is real or not," Dil said, "That’s why we chose him."

**ELECTIONS, page 1**

Simultaneously with the announcements at the GC Pit, Cathy Akens, assistant vice president of student affairs, announced the uncontested SGC-BBC results in Panther Square on April 7.

The president and vice president for the 2011-2012 academic year will be Denise Halpin and Emilio Collyer, respectively.

Though unopposed, 267 students voted for the Halpin and Collyer ticket.

"I believe [running uncontested] was more a reason to make sure people vote. Because if not, then it’s pointless," Halpin said. "I don’t want it to seem like I don’t care and I don’t want the students to feel like their vote wouldn’t matter. To me it still does and I think to the campus it still matters."

Halpin said she and her running mate worked hard to get people to vote by campaigning in "strategic locations," including the Modesto Maidique Campus.

"I wanted to show face and show BBC is not to be overlooked and it does exist and we have an SGC and a council, and we would love to have anyone that would like to work for FIU and for the student body be a part of our council," Halpin said.

The elections results confirmed six new senators to the council.

Pablo Haspel, Yiran Song, Xin Zheng, Farah Yamin, and Daniel Usma filled the BBC Honors College, Hospitality and Tourism Management, and Arts and Sciences senate positions, respectively.

Odimayo Oluwatamilore was elected for senator-at-Large.

There were no candidates for the remaining SGC-BBC senate positions: Business Administration, Education, School of Journalism and Mass Communication, Nursing and Health Sciences, Housing, Broward Pines Center, Lower Division, and Graduate Senator.

Applications for the cabinet that will serve under the newly elected executive branch will be released in the beginning of the summer, after Halpin and Collyer meet with the outgoing president, Christin 'CiCi' Battle, to discuss the structure and upcoming roles.

All SGC winners will officially take office on May 9, the first day of the term in Summer A. Halpin said a main goal for the new executive board will be to ensure there is a good relationship between the separate campuses. Halpin said she and Collyer would start by going to MMC to congratulate the newly elected winners.

"I want to show there isn’t that perceived animosity between BBC and MMC, because since we did attend their debate, we heard a lot of questions to the candidates that there’s a huge animosity, and we spend more time bickering than resolving issues," Halpin said. "In my opinion, that isn’t as valid as it used to be because this year we really have been trying to get toward a unified FIU, and [Collyer] and I are going to be pushing to further that goal and expectation."

Recently elected student Government Council at Biscayne Bays Campus senators Farah Yamini (second from left) and Daniel Usma sit with Christin 'CiCi' Battle, current SGC-BBC president, and Emilio Collyer, vice president-elect, as they await the results of the elections.

O’Keefe shares similar sentiments.

"We’re hoping that MMC and BBC have better relations and get things going earlier. We’re meeting with [Halpin] and [Collyer] next week to talk about a new athletics campaign," O’Keefe said.

Melissa Caucers contributed to this report.

**JOIN OUR STAFF!**

The BEACON is always looking for talented and reliable individuals to join the staff. Don’t be shy; Stop by one of our offices located in GC 210 and WUC 124.
FIU Live has comedy for the first day, magic for second

NADRA MABROUK
Staff Writer

FIU Lives kicks off this week with two events aimed at getting students to laugh out loud and “ooh” and “ahh.”

On Monday, April 11 comedians Jim Tavare and Ronnie Jordan will perform in the Wolfe University Center at 8 p.m. The following day, Tuesday, April 12, magician Peter Boie will also perform in the theater at 8 p.m.

Tanha Dil, president of the National Association for Campus Activities (NACA), found the comedians and the magician through the NACA office in room 141 of WUC.

Both events are free to University students, faculty, and alumni with a ticket. Tickets may be picked up in the Campus Life office in room 141 of WUC.

Tavare is a British actor, stand-up comedian and musician. He played the part of Tom the bartender from the Leaky Cauldron in “Harry Potter and the Prisoner of Azkaban.” Often times during his comedic performances, he plays bass. He was a finalist in the NBC show “Last Comic Standing” and received fourth place. Tavare will be the opening act and Jordan will be ending the night.

Jordan has broken college touring records last spring after touring in 102 colleges in 112 days, according to RonnieJordan.net. He also broke booking records in three regions during his first year with Auburn Moon Agency. He was featured on BET’s “Comic View” and “P. Diddy presents Bad Boys of Comedy.”

“My wonderful council has always supported me in everything I do,” said Jordan. “It’s his nickname and he’s always supported me in everything I did.”

The name Rubio holds a special place in Gonzalez’s heart.

“I choose the name Rubio in honor of my dad,” Gonzalez said. “It’s his nickname and he’s always supported me in everything I do.”

Rubio Surfboards is built upon a philosophy of friendly customer service.

“It’s all about making the best possible board for the person surfing in South Florida. I am just trying to spread the love of my sport,” Gonzalez said.

This philosophy is also why the shop has a low price range for its boards.

“We give you everything you need included with the board plus a custom design, all at a lower than market price,” Gonzalez said.

Most surf shops might sell a board for $700 or more; Gonzalez sells his for around $500.

“Although prices vary based on what a person can afford; I always try to help the person out,” Gonzalez said.

Though the surf scene in South Florida isn’t as big as in other parts of the country or even further north, Gonzalez sees a potential in the South Florida surf scene.

“I think the surf scene in South Florida can be pretty big, it is already a close knit family,” he said.

This prompted the young surfer to establish a company team of his own. It consists of eight team riders at the moment, with a few riders competing in the Eastern Surf Association, the premier surf circuit for east coast surfers.

“It’s great to see these guys out there doing their thing at competitions and I’m proud of them,” Gonzalez said, while also adding the competitive aspect isn’t his cup of tea.

While going out to these tournaments really isn’t my thing, I support them nonetheless, plus I’m always on the lookout for new riders.

His boards were recently featured in surf magazines such as East Coast Surf, Global Surf News, and Wahine Surfline.

“It’s nice to be acknowledged by these great magazines. I know part of why they featured me is because the company is different and it’s a nice niche company in South Florida,” Gonzalez said.

Gonzalez has already started to apply what he’s learned in class.

“My classes have definitely helped me to better manage and organize my company.”

While at the moment there may not be much money out of this type of work, Gonzalez isn’t in it for the money.

“My joy is I just love seeing people riding my boards and enjoying themselves.”

FIU Live has comedy for the first day, magic for second