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 FIU 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, I.D.E.A.S. and Government, student organizations throughout FIU participated in the clean-up of the University and South Florida. Starting off the week on April 4, FIU participated in the clean-up of the University and South Florida. Starting off the week on April 4, FIU participated in the clean-up of the University and South Florida. Starting off the week on April 4, FIU participated in the clean-up of the University and South Florida. Starting off the week on April 4, FIU participated in the clean-up of the University and South Florida. Starting off the week on April 4, FIU participated in the clean-up of the University and South Florida. Starting off the week on April 4, FIU participated in the clean-up of the University and South Florida. Starting off the week on April 4, FIU participated in the clean-up of the University and South Florida. Starting off the week on April 4, FIU participated in the clean-up of the University and South Florida. Starting off the week on April 4, FIU participated in the clean-up of the University and South Florida. Starting off the week on April 4, FIU participated in the clean-up of the University and South Florida. Starting off the week on April 4, FIU participated in the clean-up of the University and South Florida. Starting off the week on April 4, FIU participated in the clean-up of the University and South Florida. Starting off the week on April 4, FIU participated in the clean-up of the University and South Florida. Starting off the week on April 4, FIU participated in the clean-up of the University and South Florida.

FIU’s Student Government elections

**GABRIEL ARRARÁS**
Contributing Writer

The Student Government Association elections had candidates 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 Alharadí agrees. "I think the biggest factor was the use of technology," Alharadí said. "Having campaigner 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. Kristen Robillard, 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 Bosmexner, followed by Sebastian Lamzahzai, Giovanni Corraze, Donovan Dunwoody and Juanita Louis. Elected to the College of Business Administration

ELECTIONS, page 11

**KEVIN GALLART**

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 Gallart 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 that I have ever seen before," said Santiago Real, a cadet, an Iraq War veteran, member of the Florida National Guard and accounting student.

Gallart 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. Gallart has helped hundreds graduate and become Army officers.

Gallart was born in 1956 in Bayamon, Puerto Rico, but was reared in New York City until the age of five. "It was a hard life growing up in New York City," Gallart said. "I was fortunate to get into ROTC, which allowed me to get out of New York."

Serving as a cadet instructor up to the rank of captain, Gallart said he was asked by his superiors to take over the ROTC program at FIU in 2000. Gallart said he was asked to take over the program because of his experience in the Army and his understanding of the cadet’s perspective.

"I have been a cadet myself," Gallart said. "I know what it is like being a cadet and I want to help them become the best cadets possible."
Student orgs. work together for events

**EARTH, page 1**

Garden Club, Bryan Tome. Tome believes that by selling organic food, people are minimizing the use of fossil fuel, fertilizers and pesticides. “On the other hand, the potluck is to demonstrate to people the different types of foods provided by gardens, which are a great part of the environment,” said Tome.

During the week’s events the Farmer’s Market, which occurs every Wednesday at 12 p.m. behind the Green Library, attracted students that had not noticed it before Earth Week. “I was going to class and I was walking by, and the farmer’s market called my attention so I decided to stop by. I am having carrot cake and it’s good and very fresh,” said Junior Patricia Duran.

Duran feels that the farmer’s market definitely draws attention from the students towards the environment by selling fresh food. “It is also helping our school community get closer to organic food,” added Duran.

Although the week was full of social events, Earth Week was able to incorporate administrative events into Earth Week, as well. On April 7 the US Department of Energy Senior Policy and Communication Specialist Scott Minos presented a discussion on green jobs and focused on the latest environmental developments in Washington, D.C.

According to Student Assistant for FIU Go Green and President of E.D.E.A.S. Viktor Nathan Eliaeh, Minos came “to inform students on the best practices they can engage into in order to position themselves for a great job in our newly emerging green economy.” Students participate in the Shake-A-Leg Eco 5K Event in the soccer stadium.

“The Shake-A-Leg was basically just a fun and fun event designed to encourage students to get out and exercise. It was less of a competitive event, and more of a care-free event for students to gather around breakfast, food and refreshments for all participants,” said Eliaeh.

Putting together the week’s events required a vast amount of effort from the student organizations that worked to put it together. “The teamwork was definitely a big component for Earth Week’s success. We had to work hard to organize Earth Week. For example, I was in charge of trying to find volunteers to help out the different programs, while many other students were in charge of other things,” said SGA Sustainability Coordinator, Sasha Blue Waters.

Waters believes that the initial meetings were all about opinions and ideas for the organization of Earth Week. However, as time went by, many job tasks were added to the to-do list.

“Another aspect of the organization was posting advertising posters all over the residential areas on campus. We were active on many of the events for Earth Week in regard to hands on, advertise, information, and the communication to the student community,” said Waters.

With a successful Earth Week, students at FIU cannot wait for next year’s activities. “I wonder what the different organization on campus will come up with for next year. I think it will be hard for them to think of something better to do because this year’s activities were extremely entertaining and productive,” said Freshman Mario Lugo.

**ARMY MAJOR HIGLY ADmired by Cadets**

**ROTC, page 1**

age of 12, when he went back to the island. His dream of wanting to be part of the US armed forces was inspired by his father, a Korean War veteran.

“They were members of the 65th Infantry Battalion, where it was very difficult to enter because they were very selective. My dad and my uncles were so proud to belong to the Army,” he said.

So it was not unusual that Gallart ended up joining the US Marine Corps. In 1978, four years after his high school graduation. Once he got in, he followed his other passion, aircraft. This guided him to join a search and rescue unit.

Six years later, in 1981, as a sergeant and with a new baby boy, his first son, he was deployed to the Philippines. In 1982, he was mobilized again to South Korea, where he conducted military operations with the Korean Army during the Cold War.

“I grew up in the Hippie’s times when the Beatles, The Bee Gees and Led Zeppelin were superstars, so I used to listen to that music in my spare time over there,” he said. “Now, I like the music of Triss and Vallenatos (Autocha- thonous Colombian music), I have been to Colombia a couple of times.”

At the end of 1983, Gallart returned to the United States with the dream of becoming an officer. He enrolled in the Marine’s Officer Candidate School.

The Officer Candidate School. Gallart speaks with a calm and patience more 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.

For the full story, please visit www.FIUSM.com
nclude police and fire—and many local employees dock the paychecks of them. Imposing an income tax on are balanced on the backs of House and Senate bills alike that would slash almost $4 billion. The spending cuts of have done layoffs, reductions in each budget, but school districts would get some in coming years. The pension plan contributions and spending cuts are in response to a state $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 Senate 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 treat- ment of public employees and hoped that it will be eased during coming nego- tiations to resolve differences between the House and Senate. Those talks are expected to begin next week. 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. “This education budget, given all circumstances and the factors, is level funding in disastrous times,” said Sen. David Simmons, R-Orlando. Environmental spending including land purchases and Everglades restaura- tion 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 manage- ment 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 trans- portation 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 prop- erty 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.
New hockey club hopes to grow and establish itself on campus

DIOSNIS 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 being a hockey player at a higher level at a university. He noticed all of the progress that went into this decision. 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. The challenge is to get the school to a minimum, one or two of them will be hockey players,” Amado said. The team is also hoping to truly use the “International” in the school’s name.

“The title is ours. We are the Central Florida Golden Knights. The last chance to send a message to the conference.”

Karen Caamas/THE BEACON

NEW HOCKEY

With only one match remaining in the season, the FIU women’s tennis has only one objective to concentrate on: Focus. At times, teams can become complacent and lose a certain part of the season. When these teams finish first in the conference, as FIU will this season, experts may often assume that the team is a lock for a championship. Other times, which is unfortunate to see, there are plenty of examples throughout all of sports that show us when teams lose focus on the primary goal.

2009: Cleveland Cabiera: After getting 66-16, and cruising through the first two rounds of the NBA playoffs experts assumed that the Cavaliers were the team to beat. It seemed as though the focus was lost. The Cavaliers were knocked out of the Eastern Conference Finals by the Orlando Magic.

2007: New England Patriots: After finishing the regular season with a perfect record, the Patriots seemed poised, not only to make a run at the championship, but also finish with the first 19-0 season in NFL history. The Patriots were set to run through the conference tournament and earn an automatic bid to the NCAA tournament. FIU would fall short in the Sun Belt title game to Middle Tennessee, losing going into a higher seed, and a possibility to make a run in the tournament.

The team needs to sharpen focus as season winds down

HOCKEY

The Golden Panthers were unable to win two games in a row against Louisiana-Lafayette on the road as FIU lost the final game in their three-game series to the Ragin’ Cajuns on April 7 by a score of 2-1. Junior Ashley McClain recorded her seventh home run on the season in the series.

The Golden Panthers had an opportunity to counter in the top of the second inning when Brie Rojas led off with the inning’s first triple of the season down the right field line. Ragin’ Cajun starting pitcher Ashley Briganc was able to lock in and recorded three consecutive outs by FIU’s five, six, and seven hitters to leave Rojas stranded at third base.

The Golden Panthers (22-18, 8-4 SBC) struggled...
Baseball

FiU unable to sweep Bethune-Cookman at home

Staff Writer

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 of 5-4 on April 6.

FiU (19-12, 4-5 SBC) gave the started to get their freshmen Mike Ellis, making his sixth appearance of the season. He would have a shaky first few innings to start the game.

In the top of the second Ellis got himself into a jam as Emmanuel Castro started to get FiU down to 3-0, allowing four runs on three hits and striking out one Wildcat.

Logan Dodds made his tenth appearance for FiU in relief of Ellis, having pitched 21 innings and striking out 18 batters this season.

Dodds cooled off the Wildcats giving the Golden Panthers a chance to try and make a comeback.

After pitching a little over one inning of play and allowing zero runs off of two hits and striking out two Wildkats, Dodds was called off the mound by Head Coach Dennis M人民银行. "It's important in a mid-week game, especially after playing the night before with so many pitchers on the field, you can't have a breakdown out there as possible before a big weekend series," said coach Turtle.

Malbrough started off shaky by walking Emmanuel Castro and would advance to second on a ground out. After pitching a little over one inning of play and allowing zero runs off of two hits and striking out two Wildkats, Dodds was called off the mound by Head Coach Dennis M人民银行. "It's important in a mid-week game, especially after playing the night before with so many pitchers on the field, you can't have a breakdown out there as possible before a big weekend series," said coach Turtle.

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FIU: THIS WEEK
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LIFE!

UP ROAR

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.”

“Like a G6”

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.

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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.
College life provides an array of ‘firsts’

Students go through firsts on almost a daily basis. First time experiences are a mixture of excitement and utter 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 throughout a student’s academic career.

First times 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.

“Piggush’s first experience teaching a class here at the University.”

“I was really afraid that something might go wrong, students might not realize it, but it was obvious we 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.

“Diaz enjoyed her career at the University.”

“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 overdressed. Most of my friends were in jeans and tees and their accessory was a beer bottle.

The college setting provides people unique first time experiences with people 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 idol, being at the University provides students with friends that are embedded in minds forever.

Oh, and apparently there was a no shoe policy. I came to play the game here and there and soon mini tournaments developed among the students.

“Students swarmed the Gamestop when the game was playable there and mini tournaments developed among the students.”

“I came to play the game here and there and soon mini tournaments developed among the students.”

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.

“Diaz enjoyed her career at the University.”

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.

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Whatever, people.

TOONED DOWN OUTFIT IDEAS:

Going to a bar: Jeans, a tee or casual blouse and sandals. It’s comfortable and accommodates the beer

Going to a get together: Denim cutoffs, a striped tee and flats. Have fun with accessories on this one. A beaded necklace with bright colored gems add a pop of sparkle and lets you maintain some personal style and flair.

Going to a weekend barbecue: A sundress and sandals work perfectly. Stay away from white unless your favorite accessory is a barbecue-sauce stain.

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

Online courses purport to make our lives easier by offering us versatility and ease of access, but in reality they make our lives unnecessarily complicated. The Internet, for all of its convenience and the good things it has done for our lives, is still an unreliable medium.

Regardless of how great your broadband connection is, one can still lose service, which is a problem compounded by the unreliability of the United States’s system. I cannot count how many times I or some of my friends have been unable to log in to Moodle, Blackboard or any of the other web-based applications we rely on for our online classes. 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.

Case in point: I had just finished my second test for my online History of Rock and Roll class. It was supposed to be a simple summer class, but instead it turned out to be one of the biggest headaches of my college career. I had saved in between each answer, saved the entire test and double-checked my answers. I knew I was looking at a 90 percent test score at the least, maybe even a perfect score. Imagine my surprise when I got my results: 0/100, an F.

I was looking at a 90 percent test score at the least, maybe even a perfect score. Imagine my surprise when I got my results: 0/100, an F. After a long conversation with UTS, they insisted there was nothing they could do for me. They could prove I had turned in the exam and that I had contained all answers, but they could do nothing else. My professor, a very nice man, said it was not a problem and that he would just average the first and last test for my final grade. Everything seemed alright, until I took my final test and the same thing happened: 0/100. Another F.

I was lucky that my professor let my grade vary for my final grade. For the rest of the class, the odds are that my experience is the exception rather than the rule. Losing work through no fault of your own should not be an acceptable risk of taking an online class. These classes should carry the same amount of risk as in-a-desktop physical classes, not more just for the sake of convenience.

In addition to the problems inherent in testing our grades on an arguably fallible system, courses offered online may be an easier way of accessing grades, this medium falls short in any kind of class that needs discussion. Some of my classmates who are taking an online English literature class complained that the class includes a lot of small papers on their opinion on a text, but there is one to bounce that opinion off of except the professor. In other classes, arguably much of the learning comes from being able to discuss questions or alternative points of view. Learning in isolation behind a computer screen leaves a hole in the college experience.

With the University moving to more online classes, I can see the appeal, but I also worry about those taking them. While online classes allow students to work whenever and worry about those taking them. While online classes allow students to work whenever and wherever they like, the fact remains that by not having a physical classroom, students are consistently at the whim of their Internet connection and the UTS servers in addition to their schedules.

Our GIPAs are one of the most important things that we as students take away from our college experience. This is true of the graduate school application process as well as part of a résumé. Leaving the possibility of further schooling as well as graduation in the hands of a software programme with problems is unfair to the students and those teaching them.

Unemployment a handicap

KELLY MALAMBER
Staff Writer

According to the New York Times, a recent flierbust in Missouri put a stop to the federal government’s extension of unemployment benefits in 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 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 in no way target the unemployed alone; they also will refuse to accept additional funds towards education. New York Times writer A.G. Sulzberger quotes Jim Lembke, 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 situation wherein the government should not extend unemployment benefits, as this would 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, if this is just as difficult, if not more so, for the country to recover from it’s own deficit.

Many hard-working Americans have had their lives torn apart because 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.

Unemployment 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 it simply too “hard,” the government should not be extending unemployment benefits, as, if this is just as difficult, if not more so, for the country to recover from it’s own deficit.

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Halpin said: "For the student body to be a part of our council, we would love to have anyone that would like to work for FIU and an SGC and a council, and we would love to be overlooked and it does exist and we have known as the ‘magician for nonbelievers,’ to me it still does and I think to the campus it doesn’t seem like I don’t care and I don’t want the reason to make sure people vote. Because if not, then it’s pointless," Halpin said. “I don’t want to show there isn’t that perceived animosity between the separate campuses. Halpin said she and Collyer would start by going to MMC to rekindle the ship between the separate campuses. 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.”

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.”

### totals student votes at BBC

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Position</th>
<th>Votes</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>President and Vice President</td>
<td>Denise Halpin and Emilio Collyer - 267 votes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Senator at Large</td>
<td>Odimayo Olowotamilore - 270 votes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>College of Arts and Sciences</td>
<td>Farah Yamini - 60 votes, Daniel Usma - 33 votes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>School of Hospitality and Tourism Management</td>
<td>Yiran Song - 19 votes, Xin Zheng - 14 votes</td>
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<tr>
<td>Honors College</td>
<td>Pablo Haspel - 5 votes</td>
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**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.
Passionate surfer opens his own board shop

CHRISTOPHER TURPIN
Contributing Writer

While the beaches of South Florida may be more known for their views than their waves, one University student is working to change that perception, as well as South Florida beach culture.

Christopher Gonzalez is a junior business major. The 21-year-old Cuban-American from Miami, Fl. is simply looking to spread the love of surfing to all beach goers.

"I started surfing when I was 13 years old and I started shaping my own boards back in 2005 when I was 16 years old," stated Gonzalez. "I just wanted to make my surf better, so I looked at how I could do that and just taught myself how to shape boards that would work for me" explained Gonzalez.

It wasn’t until a year ago he decided to start selling his customized surfboards online under the business name of Rubio Surfboards.

"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’m 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 already is 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 Whine Surfline.

“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 just love seeing people riding my boards and enjoying themselves.”

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

NADRA MARBOUK
Staff Writer

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

On Monday, April 11 comedians Jim Tavare and Ronnie Jordan will perform in the Wolfe University Center at 8 p.m. The opening act and Jordan will be fourth place. Tavare will be the fourth place. Tavare will be the opening act and Jordan will be the ending the night.

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 the 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 approached to the audience to bring the best programming experience to our students of Biscayne Bay,” Dil said.

“But open arms, we welcome the student body to come end the year with our FIU Live week. That’s the best feeling in the world for us!”

Both comedians complement each other, as they are different from each other in their approaches to the audience during their acts, Dil said. Tavare

"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."

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

"My joy is just love seeing people riding my boards and enjoying themselves."