**IVORY COAST**

**Uganda**

**LIBYA**

**Forces capture Ivory Coast strongman**

Ivory Coast’s elected president used his troops and French tanks and air power to rout strongman Laurent Gbagbo, ending their four-month standoff by pulling him from his burning residence.

**Uganda arrests opposition member**

Police have arrested Uganda’s leading opposition figure and several members of parliament during a march to protest high fuel and food prices. Tear gas was fired on their supporters.

**African leaders meet with Gadafi**

In a statement from Tripoli, the African Union says Muammar Gadafi has assured the presidents of five African countries that he supports their efforts to bring about a cease-fire.

**University to host Worlds Ahead strategic plan town hall**

Melissa Caceres

Staff Writer

The Global Learning Blast, hosted by eight members of the University faculty and part of the Global Learning Initiative, closed a weeklong celebration for Diversity Week.

As the University’s first Global Learning Conference, each faculty member demonstrated an innovative and interactive strategy that could be implemented as a model in the global learning curriculum.

The conference was opened to the FIU community and an estimated 30 professors within Global Learning attended to listen to the variety of strategies used in Global learning classes.

Dan Bentley-Baker, a full time instructor in the English department and supporter of the Global Learning Initiative, was the first to offer his technique through an exercise that demanded the audience to rate famous figures within a scale ranging from negative three to positive three in response to: How much do students know of the figure, what they believe about them and how much they identify with them?

With this exercise, Baker tried to emphasize the difference between the three aforementioned questions because whether one individual likes another will be determined by what they know about them and the type of engagement will result from that.

“I think that this scale can work for many classrooms and it’s interesting to me because I feel that these are close to what our [Global Learning] outcomes are,” said Baker.

Shifting into the realms of information technology, Sarah Mahler, instructor of the Gaining Global Perspectives course, has used team-based learning for the large classes she has instructed.

Besides being applicable in areas such as medical and nursing school where it is a less expensive solution for large classes, team-based learning develops ‘esprit de corps’ according to Mahler.

“For me it’s been effective and fortunately my other colleagues in my department who have picked up team based learning find that in terms of engaging undergraduates it’s just incredibly effective,” Mahler said.

But two of the issues she encountered were how to teach a large course where students were accustomed to attending class only to be lectured and how to team based learning without undermining team work.

As a solution, Mahler assigned projects that went beyond one class period and started using Wikis; a web based collaborative multimedia form that allows for synchronized engagement on one single project.

She explained that this tool was best for continuous editing and at the end the instructors will be able to attribute each edit to a student through the history tab.

Although her strategy is not specific to Global Learning, Mahler believes that the use of Wikis is applicable in any class.

**Faculty members show off interactive teaching strategies**

Nicole Castro

Asst. News Director

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**Africa’s highest paid athletic director given extended role**

The president, who is set to have a meeting at both the Modesto Maidique Campus, on Thursday April 14 at 9 a.m. and at the Biscayne Bay Campus at 2:30 p.m.

“Would like to thank so many of you who have worked hard on our 5-year Worlds Ahead Strategic Plan,” said Rosenberg in an email to the University. “For those of you who have been less involved in its development, this Town Hall meeting is an opportunity to start thinking about how each and every one of us can contribute to the success of this plan and bring forward your comments in the questions.”

Every ten years, FIU’s administration engages in “strategic planning,” a process that involves identifying the desired future for the institution as well as deciding what actions should be made to reach that goal. These initiatives, which are updated every five years, aim to fortify the University for the coming decade, focus on key areas of University interests.

The Worlds Ahead Strategic Plan has been in the works since fall of 2009, and has since gone through numerous draft revisions, committee discussions and other town hall meetings with the public.

Focusing on the first five years of the plan, the finalized plan calls for the University to work to “achieve enhanced student learning and academic excellence, enhance the quality, quantity and impact of research and creative initiatives, engage with the community in collaborative problem solving and revitalize and expand the University’s infrastructure and financial base.”

The University’s last strategic plan has been in the works since fall of 2009, and has since gone through numerous draft revisions, committee discussions and other town hall meetings with the public.

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The University’s last strategic plan has been in the works since fall of 2009, and has since gone through numerous draft revisions, committee discussions and other town hall meetings with the public.

“Teaching across cultures is one of the most important things I do,” said Mahler.

“Learning how to engage in an environment where there are so many differences and having to be creative in how you do that is what I feel is so valuable.”

GARCIA, page 3
Plan to emphasize expanded enrollment for University

Dean seeks to engage students in academics, research

DEANS, page 8

of the College of Arts and Sciences, is trying to engage one of the University's largest colleges. The difference between Harris and Hampton is that Harris' students are not graduating with a specific job, but a liberal arts degree that can lead them to many other places.

Harris wants his students to engage in their academics. He wants them to know the importance of the University as a research institution and how getting involved with one of their tenure professors who are research active could lead them to great opportunities.

"Students have the ability to study with this research active faculty and even to work with them," Harris said. "Our students have so many demands on their time that, while there are plenty of opportunities and resources for them, they don’t always take advantage of them."

Harris is trying to do more outreach to grab students' attention. He is eager for a new degree audit system that will highlight their degree status when they log on to their FIU account through Pambino. They are also working on developing new software that would highlight certain “critical markers” that alert students to problems and urge them to see an advisor. One thing he hopes the new system will allow them to do is check which students they need to reach out to.

Harris wants to see his students from their freshmen year to their last year. Although he admits being assistant dean requires administrative work that can take up a lot of his time, he wants students to engage with him, the faculty and advisors.

“I usually try to underscore there are many opportunities,” Harris said. “Just coming to class and doing well and leaving might get you graduated, but you can have a richer experience if you make use of other opportunities.”

Bertha Aliu, a senior journalism major graduate, produced this story in the JOU 3303 Advanced News Writing course taught by Dr. Fred Blevens.
In a game where both starting pitchers were at their best, the fifth inning proved to be the deciding factor as the Golden Panthers lost the final game of a three-game series 1-0 on April 10 to Louisiana-Monroe.

Jenn Giadek pitched six innings of four-hit ball for the loss for the Golden Panthers.

Through the first two innings, both teams struggled to generate any consistent offense at the plate against Giadek and ULM starting pitcher Stephanie Routzon, who made quick work of both lineups.

In the bottom of the third inning, the Warhawks had an opportunity to score the game’s first run. Samanatha Rojas reached on a sacrifice by and Miyuki Navarrete followed with a walk. Jessica Olguin then came up with a two-out single that loaded the bases for Roxane Cassel, who grounded out to third base to end the inning.

The Golden Panthers best opportunity to score came in the top of the fourth inning. Beth Peller began the inning with a single, but on her attempt to steal second base was thrown out. After an Ashley McClain single, Brie Rojas reached base on a fielder’s choice which retired McClain at second.

A two-out walk put runners at first and second for Rachael Slowik, but she was unable to drive in a run in a run as Routzon forced her to pop out to center to end the inning.

In the bottom of the fifth inning, the Warhawks (22-17, 9-6 SBC) broke up the scoreless tie. Navarrete reached base on a one out walk and put herself in scoring position on a steal of second base.
**BASEBALL**

**Offense propels FIU in series finale at Troy**

ANDRES LEON
Staff Writer

The Golden Panthers traveled to Alabama to face conference leaders Troy, in a three game series over the weekend. The Golden Panthers would look to grab some wins as they head into the midpoint of the regular season.

**TROY DEFEATS FIU 4-0**

FIU (19-14, SBC 4-6) would go scoreless in a 4-0 shutout loss to the Trojans at Riddle-Pace Field on Friday, April 8. The Troy pitching staff would only allow five hits against FIU.

For the FIU pitching staff, Phil Haig earned the loss, pitching 5.1 innings of work.

Haig allowed two runs off six hits while striking out four Trojans on the night.

After getting two insurance runs in eighth inning, the Trojans would go on to win 4-0 in hopes of winning their eighth straight weekend series.

**FIU FALLS AGAIN TO TROY, 9-5**

The Golden Panthers would change things up to get some runs against this Trojan defense. Unfortunately, the Golden Panthers would be put down again the following night, this time in a 9-5 contest on Saturday, April 9.

Yandy Barreto [right] went 1-for-3 with an RBI in a 12-4 win over Troy on April 10.

The Golden Panthers would take an early 1-0 lead off a sacrifice fly from Garrett Wielos that brought home T.J. Shantz.

The Trojans would go up by two runs later on, after an error by R.J. Fondon to allow the Trojan’s Adam Bryant to reach first base of a bunt, giving the Trojans a 3-1 cushion.

Fondon would leave the game for the Golden Panthers after giving up the three runs. Left-handed pitcher Mason McVay would earn the loss for FIU, allowing four earned runs in only one inning after relieving Fondon.

In the bottom of the seventh, FIU pitcher Mason McVay threw a low curveball to which Logan Pierce hit a grand slam to put Troy up 7-5. The Trojans would score two more runs off to go on to beat FIU 9-5.

**FIU TAKES FINAL GAME OF SERIES FROM TROY, 12-4**

The Golden Panthers would get a consolation win when they blasted Troy 12-4 on Sunday, April 10. FIU (20-15, SBC 5-7) would improve their record against Troy (25-6, SBC 12-2) all time to 3-8.

Desimone would continue his strong pitching after winning Sun Belt pitcher of the week honors, picking up his fourth win of the season, pitching seven innings and allowing four runs off eight hits and striking out five Trojans.

Rudy Flores and Pablo Bermudez would lead the Golden Panthers, combining for 6-11 from the plate with six RBI and three runs. Bermudez would continue to improve for FIU as a leadoff hitter.

Visit our web site for more on this story and other web-exclusive content on FIU baseball.

**Golden Panthers drop road set at ULM**

**SOFTBALL, page 3**

9. FIU won the first game against the Warhawks, but in game two, the Golden Panthers blew a four-run lead entering the seventh inning to pick up the loss.

Jessy Alignon led the way for FIU as she went 5-for-7 in both games combined.

Alignon led off the game with a single to left field. After an Alignon steal, Beth Peller reached base on a fielder’s choice. Ashley McClain singled to right field, scoring Alignon from third.

Brie Rojas followed, laying down a sac bunt towards second that scored Peller from third to give FIU a 2-0 lead.

The Warhawks added a run in the first inning due to untimely miscues by the Golden Panthers. Jessica Olguin collected a one out single and she was

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In 2008, Leonard Lauder, the chairman of Estee Lauder Companies, proposed a theory in the New York Times about lipstick being a gauge for the economy. “When it’s shaky, sales increase as women boost their mood with inexpensive lipstick purchases instead of $500 slingbacks,” said the makeup master.

Recently a new shift has been noticed among girls across the university campus: the nail polish trend. A new bottle of nail polish, with prices ranging from one to ten dollars (designer brands excluded), is an easy and inexpensive way to add the season’s trendiest colors to your wardrobe. Or just to brighten your mood.

When coupled with lighter colored, summertime-appropriate fabrics, brightly painted nails can touch up your look.

Earlier this year, Pantone (the self proclaimed “color authority” company that researches and develops color, whatever that means) declared that “Honeysuckle” is the color of the year. The “dynamic, reddish pink” is inescapable this season, from jewelry to jeans. Naturally, pink nails are all the rage.

“If I’m wearing a black dress to go out dancing, hot pink nails will usually stand out and give the outfit a zing,” says Nilufar Khan, a junior studying biology.

But it doesn’t stop there: an even newer trend noticed across campus is nail art. Students have been sporting multicolored French manicures, half-moon manicures and newly available nail decals.

With a little bit of patience and practice, most of these creative alternatives to a standard manicure can be done at home for very little cost compared to salon prices.

“I don’t usually have my nails done [at a salon] because it tends to be expensive. I definitely prefer to do it home because it’s cheaper,” says Khan.

Sally Hansen, the ubiquitous drugstore brand that I associate with kooky colors from my childhood, has made a line of nail decals with intricate prints that can be applied at home. An edgy lace pattern (pictured) can add the missing accessory to any outfit.

“This [season] I’ll probably wear bright solid colors like bright teal, pink and red. Anything spring-ish and flowery!” says Khan.

Whether or not this theory is sound within the laws of economics, buying new nail polish remains an affordable alternative to this season’s it-bag or a new pair of shoes, and still ties an outfit together.

**IN STITCHES**

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The TAG project proposes that students not only honor other cultures but actually create an impact for the greater good. TAG aims to help unfortunate children in Haiti.

The mind behind the project is Professor Jackol K. Kolansinski. He proposed the art department do something with a useful end to it. He told his Art Thesis class to re-think what art is.

“[Art] can work on a larger scale. Students are not only learning how to handle particular materials, but they’re becoming thinkers and opening up [to] different ideas,” said Kolansinski.

The class brainstormed and decided to create something with a greater value than anything they had created before.

“We wanted to be a part of diversity week,” said fourth-year art student Wen-Ju Chien. “Instead of doing posters, we wanted to do something that would actually help people. Our [art] professor brought up an idea of getting shoes, decorating them, then sending them to kids in Haiti.”

The class took the idea and ran with it. Art major, Eric Gonzalez led the group since he already had experience designing shoes.

“I’ve been painting shoes for a while,” said Gonzalez. “When they told me they wanted to do the project, I gave them a pair of shoes to photograph, and then I did the initial pair of shoes to take around and show as an example.”

The TAG team’s first event was hosted during Diversity Week after the class had been working on the project for nearly three quarters of the semester.

The team set up tables in the Graham Center’s Art Gallery where everyone was encouraged to participate by designing a pair of shoes themselves and donating if possible. Any shoe can be used for this project, but the students found the perfect prize for Converse sneakers since they were the easiest to draw on.

Sororities and fraternities have shown immense interest in the TAG project as well.

“A bunch of my brothers and myself came to help out our community today,” said junior Pi kappa Alpha member, Nicholas Chionchio.

He went on to say the fraternity might even host an event for TAG at their house and plan to continue being involved as much as possible.

There have been many new and used sneakers donated by students and Converse recently jumped on board and donated 500 brand new sneakers for the cause.

In addition, Utrecht has donated art supplies as well as giving the organization major discounts to help out with the creation of the shoes.

Aside from the event held on the last day of diversity week, the TAG team plans to continue spreading the word with the hope that even more students will get involved and there will be a higher amount of decorated sneakers for the impoverished children in Haiti.

“We’re going to be working a lot with the Frost Art Museum, they have been fabulous in helping us,” said College of Architecture and the Arts Grant Specialist, Kelly Brady-Rumble.

With many events to come, the shoes will be displayed at the Frost for the Culture Fest before the final products are sent to Haiti.

“We’re going to be working a lot with the Frost Art Museum, they have been fabulous in helping us,” said College of Architecture and the Arts Grant Specialist, Kelly Brady-Rumble.

With many events to come, the shoes will be displayed at the Frost for the Culture Fest before the final products are sent to Haiti.

“The shoes are delivered to Haiti, the art project is completed,” said Kolansinski.
Lowering drinking age promotes mature habits

GIOVANNI GONZALEZ
Staff Writer

Although the argument in favor of lowering the legal drinking age in the United States has been around for years, it should not be overlooked. Lowering the drinking age is very important to the safety of college students across the country.

Reducing the drinking age from 21 to 18 exposes college students to alcohol earlier and removes the need to obtain it illegally and hide it. Getting students used to the idea of alcohol earlier prevents binge drinking and overindulgence, especially in the first few years of college, where many students are on their own for the first time.

The intention behind lowering the legal drinking age is to make college students more responsible in their alcohol use by truly making them adults in the eyes of the law. In this country, 18 seems to be the age when a person becomes an adult. Those who turn 18 have new possibilities such as enlisting in the military and being able to sign legal documents for themselves, but strangely, the law says they are not mature enough to have a drink.

The current drinking age promotes crimes such as using fake identification cards and underage drinking in college campuses, whereas the consequences can turn out to be worse than just a little partying. College students are going to drink no matter what, and drinking laws affect college students more than any other demographic, so it makes sense to give all college-age students the lawful responsibilities that come with drinking.

The current drinking age also splits student experiences into those who can legally drink and those who cannot. This can prove to be difficult for college campuses who set up events and sell alcohol on campus. Because 21 or not, undergraduate students will probably get their hands on a few drinks anyway.

As if we are not already paying fees for University services we do not feel benefit us completely, we now have to pay close to $4 per gallon to even make it here.

KELLY MALAMBRI
Staff Writer

With the advent of the application “Confession: A Roman Cath- olic App” for the iPhone has come many claims that the sacrament of reconciliation has lost its sacredness. Despite many uneducated percep- tions about it, the app does not inval- idate its sacredness, but respect- fully enhances modern day religious experiences.

Although it does not claim to absolve users of their sins or imitate the sacrament of reconciliation, it has inspired strong opinions. New York Times writer Maureen Dowd said, “Nothing is sacred anymore, even the sacred. And even that most secret ritual of the Roman Catholic faith, the veiled black confession box.” Misguided opinions such as these will only harm the positivity apps like the new Confession app can and will add to the Web.

The app takes users through the 10 Commandments and asks ques- tions based off of age that might apply in order to help prepare for confession by making a list of sins and helping the user think of ones they may not have before. It is meant to act as a guide, not the priest, and enables participants to get more out of the sacrament. Sorry, Ms. Dowd, but all is still holy in “the veiled black confession box.”

Doing nothing to take away from the sanctity of this practice, the app rather positively encourages Catholics who may claim to be too busy with things like work and other day-to- day activities to practice their reli- gion consistently as well as those who have simply lost interest in the very traditional religion’s less than modern day religious experiences.

By appealing to Catholics through a medium used by many, the app is a positive modern approach to reli- gion, which in many cases may be needed in order to inspire others to take part in such religious practices and return to more traditional ones.

According to BBC News, the Pope has encouraged Catholics to embrace the electronic realm, and this was apparently the inspiration behind the creation of the app. The Pope also warned that electronic communication is by no means a substitute for face-to-face interac- tion, therefore not approving of the app as a device for reconciliation.

The Catholic Church does not intend to compromise the sanctity of its sacrament, but rather wishes to enhance the experience for its partic- ipants through electronic communi- cation like the app. Without intruding on sacred religious territory, the app draws Catholics in and through its subject matter it serves as a posi- tive addition to the many negative features of the electronic world.

Rather than put down the app, people of all faiths should embrace and acknowledge the good that can be done by promoting religion and positivity in general by way of respectful communication such as the iPhone app.
Haiti

US company blames Cuba for barge loss

A U.S. housing company is blaming Cuba for the loss of a barge loaded with supplies to build shelters for displaced earthquake survivors in Haiti.

Peru

Leftist ex-officer tops vote, heads to runoff

Voters will choose between an ex-army officer who vows to redistribute the nation’s wealth and the daughter of President Alberto Fujimori when they vote for a new president in a June runoff, unofficial results show.

Honduras

Army to support police in fighting drugs

Honduras’ defense minister said Friday that the country’s armed forces will join the police for the first time in the fight against drug trafficking.

Student Programming Council

Spring fling continues with glow party, popular DJs

Thursday, April 14, is "t-shirt time! The event takes place between 12 p.m. to 3 p.m. in Panther Square. T-shirts and supplies will be provided for students’ creative needs. Following the t-shirt decorating event is a showing of the science-fiction blockbuster “Tron.” The movie will be shown at 3 p.m. and again at 7 p.m.

Graduate officer Alberta Jones (left) stuffs a bear and enrollment service officer Sharon Jackson (right) puts hers in a box provided by the Student Programming Council on April 11. Taking place in Panther Square, FIU offered students snacks in the open candy bar and stuffed bears as part of the event taking place throughout the week.

University deans take steps to directly engage students

"We are anxious to have input," said Mike Hampton, dean of the School of Hospitality and Tourism Management. "The more input I have from students, staff, team members and from other outside parties the better I can be at decision making because now I have perspective."

The University is considered a commuter school; a lot of its students attend classes on campus and leave after they are done. They have jobs to go to, family activities, hobbies and homework.

The hospitality dean, the dean of the Honors College and the assistant dean of the College of Arts and Sciences are trying different approaches to inspire students to become more engaged in their academics and community. They are using new technologies like Facebook and Twitter to communicate with their students and finding partnerships with companies to offer internships and hands-on experience.

If you meet the criteria to get into the University’s Honors College, Interim Dean Lesley A. Northup will make a point of letting you know her school’s motto of “Explore, Engage, Excel.” Her students are required a minimum of 10 hours of community service per semester where they are given the opportunity to work with the Sweetwater partnership or the Overtown Youth Center.

There are students who drop out of the Honors College because they don’t want to be involved, and we are all about involvement,” Northup said.

Northup makes sure she sets aside time every week on both campuses for office hours. Whenever she is in her office, her door is open for discussion. Whether you want to do the Honors College study abroad program, join their annual A&V Art Exhibition or need to speak to her about school or personal issues, she wants to hear from her students.

“IF still didn’t get a chance to work with students, I would hate this job,” Northup said.

If you look for Hampton on Facebook you will find a majority of his friends are his current and past students. He has a Twitter page he posts on regularly.

He goes around classrooms in the beginning of the semester to pass out his card with his mobile number for texting. If you want to speak to him, he will make the time to set up an appointment or you could just walk to his office where his door is usually open.

"I try to reach out through as many channels as possible,” Hampton said. “The message of getting students involved and engaged is not just a matter of ‘go do something.’ It is that you are involved because there is a purpose behind it that it is going to have an impact on the way you position yourself career wise and personally.”

Hampton encourages students to get involved in clubs and organizations and to take a leadership role. He wants them to build not only a resume but a portfolio to show to a future employer what makes them so special.

“The objective is that by the time the student graduates they are not only looking for a job, but that they have already found one as a result of the network they have built during their last two years in college,” Hampton said.

Kenton Harris, assistant dean of DEANS, page 2