Theatre students attend festival

ALFREDO APARICIO
Staff Writer alfredo.aparicio@fiusm.com

For their work on “The House of the Spirits” last Fall as well as other productions, the Department of Theatre was invited once again to participate in the Kennedy Center American College Theater Festival Region 4 competition this past weekend, starting Feb. 3, in the Davidson Theater in News-Journal Center at Daytona State College.

Michael Yawney, an associate professor at the Department of Theatre, who also directed “The House of the Spirits,” is attending KCACTF for the third time.

“The House of the Spirits” is the first time a production I directed has ever been part of the festival, although in various categories for their work included professors Jesse Dreikossen and Tony Galaska and students Caroline Spitzer and Javier Figueiredo.

Professor gets down to business

MARIELLA ROQUE
Staff Writer mariella.roque@fiusm.com

What started out as a hobby has now become the “leading technology on innovation.”

Kaihan Krippendorff’s new book “Outthink the Competition: How a New Generation of Strategists Sees Options Others Ignore” seeks to provide the new generation of business entrepreneurs with the tools necessary to think outside of the box.

Last Friday, Krippendorff, online professor of entrepreneurship, gave a lecture sponsored by the Eugenio Pinos & Family Global Entrepreneurship Center at the University.

“The purpose of the event [was] to expose the FIU community to a set of tools that will help students who want to start businesses, build more innovative, disruptive ones and help professors teaching business enable their students to think more expansively and creatively about business building,” said Krippendorff.

His PowerPoint presentation included excerpts from his book, allowing members of the audience to use his ideas in the context of their own business plans and be motivated to “row harder than [their] competition.”

“(Kaihan) is a cutting-edge thinker,” said Boris Hirmas, FIU’s entrepreneur-in-residence.

“[Kaihan] divides thinker and ‘outthinker,’” said Krippendorff.

Student government

MELISSA CACERES
News Director melissa.caceres@fiusm.com

The first of eight meetings regarding budget hearings and deliberations will proceed as scheduled today, though a new body will have approval power.

The Senates from both the Modesto Maidique Campus and Biscayne Bay Campus Student Government Councils now have the responsibility of approving the allocation of $13 million of Activity & Service fees that will affect around 60 student organizations and facilities.

“Because the SGA Constitution defines the legislative branch as the MMC/BBC, the Senate finds that the University-wide Council is not the final legislative body that should be approving the University-wide budget,” according to the SGC-MMC Supreme Court ruling.

“[Having] the power to do something, doesn’t mean that you must do something,” said Al-Darsani adding that at the time of the hearing “there was no other supreme court.”

There was no one at the other supreme court to have an ad hoc hearing with and given the time constraints, it made everything rather time sensitive,” said Williams. “We felt that we could go on, given that we have jurisdictional grounds over any constitutional provisions.

A proposal to amend the SGA Constitution to create an ad hoc court was made by Al-Darsani at the meeting in case of any future conflict between the two separate courts.

“If there was one additional level, that would be able to solve the problem,” said Al-Darsani.
University Board of Trustees seeking to fill vacancy

LAUREN ROVIRA
Asst. News Director
lauren.rovira@fiusm.com

The Trustee Nominating Committee of the Florida Board of Governors has released a statement saying that they are on the lookout for an appointment to the Board of Trustees for the University. The Board of Governors is the body in charge of defining the missions of the individual institutions as well as ensuring the coordination and operation of the system. The BOG does this in part by appointing members to individual Board of Trustees to run the universities, as does the Governor of Florida. The Florida university system serves more than 320,000 students which makes it the fourth largest public university system in the nation. The BOG of the universities in the system are responsible for creating processes for the University to adhere to state policy, budgeting and education standards. Each of the 11 state universities has a BOT made up of 13 members who are responsible for cost-effective policy and maintaining high quality education programs within the system. The term of services for the individual who takes up the position will last through Jan. 6, 2015.

“The Board of Governors is looking for individuals to serve as university trustees who are interested in higher education and interested in taking our universities to a level of excellence that helps both the institution and the goals of the State University System,” said Morteza “Mori” Hosseini of Daytona Beach, chair of the Trustee Nominating Committee of the Florida Board of Governors in a news brief.

The application for the position is available online, and must be completed by all those interested in filling the vacancy. Applicants can find the paperwork on http://www.fibog.edu/aboutus/abt.php, and should be mailed upon completion to Tallahassee for processing.

The deadline for the applications to be completed is March 1. Any questions related to the appointment may be addressed to the BOG.

Krippendorff promotes thinking ‘out of the box’

LECTURE, PAGE 1

ey essay called the “36 Strategies,” a series of ways to overcome political or military adversaries, into the modern business model. He presented what he called “The Fourth Option,” an idea “outside of the prevailing paradigm.”

Krippendorff explained that what made a company different from its competitors is what made it “easier to compete.”

“He really believes in what he says,” said senior business student Natalia Alvarez. “He’s not the typical businessman.”

Krippendorff conceived the idea in 1996 when he read the “36 Strategies.” He looked for articles and researched different companies on the weekends, linking their methods to the strategies. As he compiled his research, it was suggested to him to consider turning the work into a book.

“I wish they taught this in school,” said Beana Canizares, director of professional development at the International Business Honor Society at the University. Krippendorff has published four books, teaches, owns his own consultation firm called Outthinker. He gives workshops and speeches for companies such as Microsoft, Johnson & Johnson, Ryder, L’Oreal, GE and Wal-Mart. “There is a new generation that thinks differently than their bosses,” Krippendorff said. He hoped his book could “reconcile the conflict between them.”

As Krippendorff went through some of the key strategies, he asked students to consider using them in the workplace.

“It has nothing to do with intelligence,” Krippendorff said. It was a matter of overcoming “mental limitation.” Throughout the lecture, Krippendorff pushed for students to “write down one crazy idea” and not to worry about the “how.”

Students and professors alike found Krippendorff’s ideas to be ideal and unique. “I thought it was outstanding,” said Constance Bates, College of Business professor and faculty advisor for IBHS. “We’re very lucky [Kaihan’s lecture]...” Bates, who teaches the course Managing Innovation, is planning to use the book “Outthink the Competition” in her class. “[Outthink the Competition] is different from anything I’ve ever read on innovation,” Bates said.

“She has carefully analyzed the different steps taken by successful businesses... [and] has picked the most critical elements.” Following the event, Krippendorff had a one-on-one lunch session with the students and a book signing. Free copies of his book were distributed to students.

“[Kaihan’s lecture] taught us how to adapt to change,” Alvarez said.
RIVALRY RENEWED
Panthers clobber rival Florida Atlantic by 20 points

MALCOLM SHIELDS
Staff Writer
malcolm.shields@fiusm.com

The streak is over. Five consecutive losses to Florida Atlantic dating back to 2009 ended on Feb. 4 at FAU Arena as the Panthers relied on a 13-2 run mid-way in the second half to defeat the Owls 76-56.

Phil Taylor finished with a strong second half as he scored 22 points. Jeremy Allen followed with 20 points. Dominique Ferguson added 14 points inside the paint for FIU (7-15, 4-6 SBC). The Panthers finished shooting at 48.1 percent from the field.

“I thought the first half was a typical between these two teams. I thought our team played well in the second half,” Head Coach Isiah Thomas said. “We did some good things on the defensive end. We rebounded the basketball better and the competition [with FAU] has made us better.”

After trailing 29-28 at the break, the Panthers began the second half on a 9-1 run to take a 37-30 lead. After the Owls countered with a run to trim the lead to 44-42 with 10 minutes remaining in the game, FIU pushed the lead back up to 13, via a 11-0 run, which was capped off by a slam dunk by Allen off a steal to give the Panthers a 55-42 lead.

When the Owls attempted to make a run with less than five minutes remaining, the Panthers continued to attack the basket. “We just felt like everything was going for us,” Allen said. “We played the way we wanted to play. It was good for us.”

With the game in hand for FIU, the sold-out, rowdy crowd at FAU arena began to empty the arena. “It felt good,” DeJuan Wright said. “After how the last game went, it felt good to be up that much and seeing their crowd leaving.”

Defensively the Panthers did not allow Florida Atlantic (9-14, 5-5 SBC) to get into any rhythm offensively. The Owls finished the game shooting 34.4 percent from the field. Although Greg Gantt finished the game with 21 points, defensively the Panthers were able to contain the other Owls from scoring. “We knew he was going to get his but we were trying to maintain and contest his shots,” Allen said.

Although Wright did not have his typical game scoring from field, he was able to contribute in other areas while Allen, Ferguson and Taylor were scoring. “I wasn’t trying to get in the way of their flow,” Wright said. “I knew we needed a lot of help on the glass. I took it upon myself to get rebounds.” Wright finished with nine points and 11 rebounds.

At the end of the game, the Panthers were able to convert on its foul shots to ice the game. Taylor was the catalyst for the Panthers in running the offense for FIU in the second half.

“I just kept being aggressive. I just found another way to get myself involved in the game,” Taylor said. “We came out and were patient. [We] work the ball, set screens and cut [to the basket].” For the Panthers, the win was notice to Florida Atlantic that the rivalry was not over.

“The rivalry is still on,” Allen said. “It felt good to get this one.”

BRANDON WISE
Asst. Sports Director
brandon.wise@fiusm.com

The definition of insanity is repeating the same thing and expecting different results. Many people find themselves committing this kind of action in their everyday lives, but rarely do you see a sports team continue to figuratively bang their head against a wall trying to make something happen.

Over the past few weeks, head coach Cindy Russo has emphasized the Panthers’ need to improve their rebounding on both ends of the floor. However, there has not been a great difference seen on the boards. The only team that the Panthers were able to out-rebound in the past five matchups was a team that has managed just one win this season, Troy.

This week, the Panthers will face off with a North Texas team that currently leads the Sun Belt in rebounding offense, averaging 41.7 rebounds per game. The Panthers are

FIU to face second most-improved team in the nation

Fanni Hutlassa (center) scored a team-high 17 points, but fouled out with a minute to go in the Panthers 51-49 loss to FAU.

The Beacon – 3
www.fiusm.com
Wednesday, February 8, 2012

SENiors

The Beacon – 4
Coley looks to end offensive woes

Currently seventh, with just 35.9 rebounds per game.

COLEY ROLLING DOWN HILL

After having one of her best shooting performances of the season, going 11-16, all-American hopeful Jerica Coley had perhaps her worst of the year. At FAU, Coley did not score a single point in the first half, shooting 0-10 from the field. She still managed to score 12 points in the game, keeping her streak of reaching double figures in every game this season alive.

Her scoring average took a hit, going down to 24.3 points per game. However, she still ranks second in the nation just behind Elena Delle Donne of Delaware. Even though she struggled in her last game against FAU, Coley doesn’t believe that the pressure is getting to her.

“No, it’s the same way it has been all year,” Coley said.

WHAT TO WATCH FOR

This will be the only time all year that the Mean Green and the Panthers square off. The Panthers will have to contain Jasmine Godbolt, who just reached the 1,000-point mark for her career in North Texas’ loss to Middle Tennessee last week.

The junior forward is eighth in the Sun Belt in scoring (13.7 points per game) and fourth in rebounding (7.7 rebounds per game).

Britney Hudson and Tamara Torru are also in the top 10 in the Sun Belt in steals, three point percentage and free throw percentage.

Those two senior guards will provide the bulk of the offense for the Mean Green in their matchup against the Panthers on Feb. 9. With the loss to the Owls this past weekend, the Panthers are now fourth in the Eastern Division (5-5), back two games from South Alabama (7-4) and two and a half to FAU (7-3).

They have six games left to make up ground against those opponents before all the teams head to Hot Springs, Arkansas for the Sun Belt Tournament. After North Texas, the team will face Denver at U.S. Century Bank Arena on Feb. 11 for their only meeting of the season.

SINKING FAST

The Panthers lost to FAU overall in the meet 138-103, only winning three of the 26 events held in Boca Raton on Feb. 4. The Panthers have now lost their last two meets before the Sun Belt Tournament on Feb. 22 in Denton, TX.

The Beacon – Wednesday, February 8, 2012

www.fiusm.com
Challenged faith
Professor done with organized religion

**SPOTLIGHT ON...**

**TAKING HOME THE CROWN**

---

**LIFE!**

**RADIATE REVIEWS**

**Born to die or bored to death?**

The music industry rarely offers a second chance, which makes Lizzy Grant’s return, this time under the moniker of Lana Del Rey, a rare occurrence. “Born to Die,” the highly anticipated album from the singer, presents her efforts to justify the great buzz she has received online over the past months.

**COLUMNIST**

**CARLOS SUCE-PARRA**

Miss FFLU 2011 Ana Perez [right] crowned the new Miss FFLU Celine Pelofi [left], a dietetics and nutrition major. Pelofi will go on to compete in the Miss Florida pageant, which will determine who is eligible to represent Florida in the Miss America pageant.

---

**BAUMAN, PAGE 6**

---

---

---
Global effects on religion

GIOVANNI GONZALEZ
Staff Writer
giovanni.gonzalez@fiusm.com

For the third year running, the University will be competing with over 400 other universities and colleges in Recyclemania to help the school go green.

Recyclemania is a series of events hosted by the Office of University Sustainability, which will occur between Feb. 5 and March 31. The events are intended to promote awareness and action that will help the University improve its recycling habits and reduce its waste stream.

Throughout the competition, the University will not only be judged on how much recyclable material can be collected, but also on how much waste can be reduced in general.

The University has been part of the movement for three years now and is actually a fierce competitor. “Last year, we came in second in the Sunbelt division,” said Alexander Dutton, the program assistant at the Office of University Sustainability. “We recycled 30 to 40 tons per weekend, and about 2,000 tons throughout the academic year.”

Currently, the University is working towards a mandated goal of recycling 75 percent of its waste stream by the year 2020 and is currently recycling at 30 percent, but the Office of University Sustainability has been working to help the school improve its recycling habits for some time.

“If we can get a lot of input from students,” said Dutton, “we felt recycling was important and wanted to help the school go green.”

Recyclemania will feature several Dream Machines throughout campus, which can only be described as reverse vending machines. Students can deposit recyclable material into the Dream Machines and collect points that can be redeemed for coupons, gift cards and other prizes. The movement is not just for the students, though. “Clean Out Your Fives Week” will take place during spring break, which encourages faculty and staff to recycle their paper waste.

The University is well on its way to achieving its goal by the year 2020, and the events promote student involvement in the process. “By hosting Recyclemania and other events, we hope to increase our recycling rate,” said Dutton.

Students show work at three day theater festival

KCACTF was also a great opportunity for students and faculty to see work done elsewhere and learn about the other schools.

Students show work at three day theater festival

KCACTF was also a great opportunity for students and faculty to see work done elsewhere and learn about the other schools.

Indie album possibly a marketing device for label

Indie album possibly a marketing device for label

Students show work at three day theater festival

KCACTF was also a great opportunity for students and faculty to see work done elsewhere and learn about the other schools.

Indie album possibly a marketing device for label

Indie album possibly a marketing device for label

Students show work at three day theater festival

KCACTF was also a great opportunity for students and faculty to see work done elsewhere and learn about the other schools.

Indie album possibly a marketing device for label

Indie album possibly a marketing device for label

Students show work at three day theater festival

KCACTF was also a great opportunity for students and faculty to see work done elsewhere and learn about the other schools.

Indie album possibly a marketing device for label
**Web-based sex education worthwhile**

A college student shouldn’t have to take a sex ed course in order to receive crucial information.

If the University were to develop such a website, campus- and city-specific information would most likely include a special focus on HIV/AIDS prevention, as Miami ranks number one in new HIV/AIDS cases in the nation. I would imagine a special focus in LGBT issues would be of interest as well. Even without a web-based presence, I applaud the University for not burying their heads under the sand in regards to sex education.

University Health Services and the Victim Advocacy Center offers presentations on sexual health, sexual assault and additional topics upon request. Furthermore, they host events with other campus offices such as Sex Carnival, World AIDS Day and Take Back The Night where students have access to well-researched information.

Additionally, several student-led clubs and organizations help raise awareness in regards to sexual health. Even so, I would imagine a sex ed website would be an easily attainable enhancement to these initiatives, especially with our in-house website-building department. As I have lamented in past columns, sex education in America is severely lacking in the department of forthrightness.

With a majority of students implementing abortion-only curricula in their elementary and secondary schools, students enter college ignorant of sexual health in regards to sexually-transmitted diseases and sexual disorders.

Oftentimes, the only access to a comprehensive sex education is through taking a course on the subject.

While these courses are necessary for their respective curricula, a college student shouldn’t have to visit the website of a sex ed website in order to receive crucial information. Instead, this information should be easily accessible to all students by way web-based sites of information provided by their respective colleges and universities, in addition to national sex ed resources.

Jasmyn Elliott

---

**Letter to the Editor**

Petition approval opens way for change

On Feb. 4, 2012 the Student Government Council - Modesto A. Maidique Campus Supreme Court released its decision on the Ex Parte Velez SC 001 case. In it, it sided with our argument that the Activity & Service Fee approval process was contrary to Florida’s Constitution, and therefore declared the unlawful provisions in question from the SGA Constitution.

To what this landmark decision implies is that for the first time, the Senates from each of our campuses are going to be able to exert their legislative power to allocate and approve the budget. This means that the process by which $12 million in Activity & Service Fee funds are allocated is going to be more open and accessible to students.

Now, we can have our directly elected student representatives make the decision as to where the money we pay is going to go. Instead of the same officials drafting a budget, and then approving it themselves, we can have a more respectable, logical and democratic procedure.

The funds in question determine how much money student organizations receive, how much the Homecoming Council can spend for the Homecoming Concert, and how many allocations can be given to graduate students for their research and conferences.

Because of this reason, it is essential for students to engage and pay attention. We can all do our part to make sure these funds are spent more efficiently, addressing the priorities that we as a student body have.

We may want more events at the Engineering Center, more study areas around campus, or better services at the Botanical Bay Campus; getting involved is the way to make sure that these become a reality.

It is up to us to ensure that SGA represents us, our interests and needs, by running for office, voting and holding our officials accountable. In order to make that a reality, the Coalition of Students for Reform is here to serve as the mechanism for students to engage with and lobby their student government, making sure all government officials represent the collective interests of our 44,000-strong student body.

This case, addressing the budget approval process is one way of reaching that goal.

The decision by the Supreme Court presents a SGA, and particularly the two Senates with an opportunity.

Let’s take advantage of that new potential, and adopt a process by which there is direct student input about the budget proposals. Both Senates should have their Operational Review Committees hold public hearings where students can directly express their thoughts on the draft budget for the following year. In order to make that a reality, the Coalition of Students for Reform is here to serve as the mechanism for students to engage with and lobby their student government, making sure all government officials represent the collective interests of our 44,000-strong student body.

The budget hearings and SGA Elections are right around the corner, so the timing is ideal for those who want to step up and shape our reality. If you want to change your student government, lead; if you want to change our university, lead. It’s time to take a stand, to take action.

-William-Jose Velez, President of FUU Coalition of Students for Reform

---

**Class Dismissed**

**Web-based sex education worthwhile**

The latest episode of "Tech Therapy" on The Chronicle of Higher Education’s website examines the use of the Internet in college sex education, which is an idea that is relatively new. According to the study cited in the episode, college students are using the Internet more than ever before for sex education, in both productive and destructive ways.

While some students are genuinely looking for factual information, others are turning to pornography, Wikipedia and other unreliable, unrealistic portrayals of sexual activity. In essence, when students take to the Internet to find out more about sexual health, they are subject to misinformation distributed by unqualified sources.

To alleviate the latter issue, colleges and universities should consider creating scholarly sex ed websites for their students. For example, the University of Indiana hosts kinseyconfidential.org, an online resource for sexual health research studies and articles regarding STD prevention, sexual health, and sexual assault. University of California-Berkeley and Columbia University have similar online programs.

Although this may be work for general research, demographic-specific information will offer a more specialized perspective, hence why colleges and universities should develop their own sex ed websites.

If the University were to develop such a website, campus- and city-specific information would most likely include a special focus on HIV/AIDS prevention, as Miami ranks number one in new HIV/AIDS cases in the nation. I would imagine a special focus in LGBT issues would be of interest as well. Even without a web-based presence, I applaud the University for not burying their heads under the sand in regards to sex education.

University Health Services and the Victim Advocacy Center offers presentations on sexual health, sexual assault and additional topics upon request. Furthermore, they host events with other campus offices such as Sex Carnival, World AIDS Day and Take Back The Night where students have access to well-researched information.

Additionally, several student-led clubs and organizations help raise awareness in regards to sexual health. Even so, I would imagine a sex ed website would be an easily attainable enhancement to these initiatives, especially with our in-house website-building department.

As I have lamented in past columns, sex education in America is severely lacking in the department of forthrightness.

With a majority of students implementing abortion-only curricula in their elementary and secondary schools, students enter college ignorant of sexual health in regards to sexually-transmitted diseases and sexual disorders.

Oftentimes, the only access to a comprehensive sex education is through taking a course on the subject.

While these courses are necessary for their respective curricula, a college student shouldn’t have to visit the website of a sex ed website in order to receive crucial information. Instead, this information should be easily accessible to all students by way web-based sites of information provided by their respective colleges and universities, in addition to national sex ed resources.

Jasmyn Elliott

---

**Public Reason**

Gathering Opinions, Discussing Generations

Mondays and Wednesdays at 10 a.m.
95.3 FM, 88.1 FM, 96.9 FM and online at FIUSM.com

"Like" us on Facebook and follow us on Twitter @PublicReason

SEND US YOUR LETTERS

Have something on your mind? Send your thoughts (500 words maximum) to editorial@fiusm.com or drop by the offices at either G2 or WC 214. We appreciate you include your name, major and year. The Beacon reserves the right to print, edit and/or submit for use in the University community.

DISCLAIMER

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 for the University community.

EDITORIAL POLICY

The Beacon reserves the right to edit for space, accuracy and/or members of the University community. Views are separate from views of The Beacon and/or members of the University community. This case emphasized that any matters petitioned to the Court ultimately affect the entire University—not just one campus.

Therefore, the single Supreme Court will serve as a stepping stone towards a unified University by having it structured with four associate justices from both ABC and MMC, with SGC, being jointly recommended to both campus specific Senates as a means of having the Court’s leadership remaining neutral towards the campus specific-ego that Ex Parte Velez has brought forth to the public eye.

A single Supreme Court, with knowledge of both campuses’ unique characteristics, would be the needed impartial presence in legal matters.

Even though the University is divided into two campuses and multiple cities, they still form FIU. Court rulings should be handled in the same way; as a unified voice.
Shoppers weigh in on the possibility of a state online sales tax

SEBASTIAN LEON
Contributing Writer
bbc@fiusm.com

According to a global report by the Nielsen Company in 2010, 85 percent of Americans have shopped online before.

In most states in America, there is no taxing on online purchases, as opposed to going to a physical store and buying the same product. Customers are usually looking for the better bargain.

“I’ve bought a few things online, mostly books, usually because they’re hard to find,” said Dr. Charles G. Macdonald, a professor of International Relations.

But this could change this year, as Florida State officials are considering adding a six percent tax on online transactions in the state of Florida, hoping to help small businesses compete with larger retailers that have a bigger selection of goods online.

Online shopping has gained popularity due to the convenience and the bigger selection of products. Using the Internet to shop is a trend which could become the de facto way to do shopping.

Gena Zapata, a sophomore and psychology major at FIU, is one of those who prefer doing her shopping online.

“I hate shopping malls. I hate going in crowded places,” Zapata said. “It helps media coverage because when Dwyane Wade is playing watching,” said Jesus Cruz, a junior biology major. “When Dwyane Wade is playing popular. “I would rather play fantasy basketball because [The Heat] are better than the Dolphins.”

Langston ‘Stone’ Teijeiro, Senior Criminal Justice major.

Although Florida is known for its sports, such as LeBron James and Dwyane Wade on my team. I’d rather play fantasy basketball because [The Heat] are better than the Dolphins.

Perks to being an owner in a fantasy football league is time.

“I’m not really an Internet person, so I don’t do my shopping online,” said Danny Munoz, a freshman, Music major. “However, I wouldn’t want the bill passed, because there are many small businesses that are online, and putting taxes on their stuff would probably drive customers away from them.”

Now, the question remains, would this tax drive customers away if it is indeed passed?

“In a way, yes, unless of course they come up with better deals,” Abreu said. “But we’ll have to see what happens.”

Whether the bill passes or not remains to be seen, but a bill like this has been proposed for years, slowly gaining more momentum, and if it does get passed, it would make choosing that birthday gift for that friend or family member a little more difficult.

Although their legal status might have been in limbo, members of the Student Government Council at the Biscayne Bay Campus posed for their annual portrait pictures in the Wolfe University Center’s Panther Square.

Professional sports have an effect on students, even in their fantasies

According to a global report by the Nielsen Company in 2010, 85 percent of Americans have shopped online before.

In most states in America, there is no taxing on online purchases, as opposed to going to a physical store and buying the same product. Customers are usually looking for the better bargain.

“I’ve bought a few things online, mostly books, usually because they’re hard to find,” said Dr. Charles G. Macdonald, a professor of International Relations.

But this could change this year, as Florida State officials are considering adding a six percent tax on online transactions in the state of Florida, hoping to help small businesses compete with larger retailers that have a bigger selection of goods online.

Online shopping has gained popularity due to the convenience and the bigger selection of products. Using the Internet to shop is a trend which could become the de facto way to do shopping.

Gena Zapata, a sophomore and psychology major at FIU, is one of those who prefer doing her shopping online.

“I hate shopping malls. I hate going in crowded places,” Zapata said. “It helps media coverage because when Dwyane Wade is playing watching,” said Jesus Cruz, a junior biology major. “When Dwyane Wade is playing popular. “I would rather play fantasy basketball because [The Heat] are better than the Dolphins.”

Langston ‘Stone’ Teijeiro, Senior Criminal Justice major.

Although Florida is known for its sports, such as LeBron James and Dwyane Wade on my team. I’d rather play fantasy basketball because [The Heat] are better than the Dolphins.

Perks to being an owner in a fantasy football league is time.

“I’m not really an Internet person, so I don’t do my shopping online,” said Danny Munoz, a freshman, Music major. “However, I wouldn’t want the bill passed, because there are many small businesses that are online, and putting taxes on their stuff would probably drive customers away from them.”

Now, the question remains, would this tax drive customers away if it is indeed passed?

“In a way, yes, unless of course they come up with better deals,” Abreu said. “But we’ll have to see what happens.”

Whether the bill passes or not remains to be seen, but a bill like this has been proposed for years, slowly gaining more momentum, and if it does get passed, it would make choosing that birthday gift for that friend or family member a little more difficult.

Although their legal status might have been in limbo, members of the Student Government Council at the Biscayne Bay Campus posed for their annual portrait pictures in the Wolfe University Center’s Panther Square.