Bill to make student BOG representative governor-appointed

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A Florida Senate bill to make the student member of the Florida Board of Governors a position appointed by the governor was approved by a higher education committee on Feb. 9.

Several members of the Florida Student Association showed opposition to SB 1908 because it would eliminate the ability for the organization to elect their student leader through democratic voting.

The approved bill would give the appointment power to Gov. Rick Scott.

"The student seat on the board is the most important member," said Sen. Bill Montford, one of the sponsors of the bill. "What is the concern is how that member is selected."

Patrick O’Keefe, Student Government Council at Modesto Muebaske Campus president, serves as FSA’s external vice chair and believed that having student body presidents elect their own leader gives more universities the opportunity for representation.

O’Keefe, along with eight other student body presidents, traveled to Tallahassee for the Thursday hearing to state their opposition.

“If it’s a gubernatorial [appointment]…you’re going to have political pressure to be making votes,” said O’Keefe, when he testified before the committee.

The Chairperson of the FSA, Michael Long, told the committee that FSA’s system “is a functional representative democracy.

Students select their own leaders with their own voice,” Long wrote in a letter to members of the Florida Senate that the bill favors students from Florida State University and University of Florida since they have the strongest power within the legislature.

“This proposed gubernatorial appointment would favor the largest schools with the most legislative influence,” said Long.

"The FSA changed its bylaws so that dues are not mandatory for membership," said O’Keefe to Student Media.

“If this becomes law, it is highly unlikely that someone like Mike will ever be chosen for the BOG seat ever again.”

Sen. Steve Olerich, the committee’s chair, was the only "no" vote.

"I squarely side with the students" and students stood under a tent, to continue the session.

Regarding freedom of assembly on campus, Rosenberg said he would "soon have a response to that."

Brian Peterson, a history professor and the only faculty member of the Occupy Fiu movement, also attended the event.

"The goal [of Occupy Fiu] is to create a democratic university that really cares for students," Peterson said.

As the final question, Sanchez also petitioned Rosenberg to drop the charges against the persons arrested on Jan. 12.

"The answer is no… because I don’t have a role in that…" said Rosenberg. "Whatever the state attorney decides, we will live with that.”

We believe in [academic freedom] as long as it’s exercised responsibly.

Mark Rosenberg  
President Fiu

"[Rosenberg] is saying it’s out of his hands, but he still has the power to condemn the arrests," said Victoria Aguilas, an alum. "He has to stop getting information from people that weren’t there."

Before leaving, Rosenberg told Student Media, “[the session] met my expectations. [The students] are doing what they should be doing."
**NEWS FLASH**

**LOCAL**

Teens, 17, critically injured in Miami shooting

Police say a gunman opened fire on a group of teens walking home from school in Miami’s Liberty City neighborhood.

Miami-Dade police say the gunman opened fire from a moving car Thursday afternoon, critically injuring 17-year-old Brandon Allen. Police say no other teens were injured in the attack.

The teen was taken to Jackson Memorial Hospital, where he underwent surgery Thursday night. Police say he remained in serious condition on Friday morning.

Detectives arrested 18-year-old Terry Joseph Darling. He is charged with one count of attempted first degree murder and three counts of aggravated assault.

It was the second shooting in less than a day in the area.

On Wednesday night, an officer in a multi-agency robbery detail, shot and killed a suspect following a confrontation.

**NATIONAL**

Sandusky stands over request for local jury

Former Penn State assistant coach Jerry Sandusky briefly testified at a pretrial hearing Friday, telling the judge overseeing his child sex abuse case that he believes a local jury would be as fair and unbiased as those from anywhere else in Pennsylvania.

Judge John Cleland wanted to hear directly from Sandusky on the jury question. Prosecutors want to seat an out-of-county jury in the high-profile case, given the widespread media attention and close ties many people in Centre County have to Penn State.

Cleland also set a tentative trial date of May 14.

**WORLD**

Syria says suicide bombers kill 28 in Aleppo

Two suicide car bombs struck Syrian security compounds in Aleppo on Friday, killing 28 people, Syrian officials said, bringing significant violence for the first time to a major city that has largely stood by President Bashar Assad in the 11-month-old uprising against his rule.

State media touted the blasts as proof that the regime faces a campaign by terrorists, not a popular uprising against Assad's rule. The opposition, in turn, accused the government forces of trying to crush rebels in one of their main strongholds.

Homs that has reportedly killed hundreds over the last week.

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**FACULTY**

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Researchers at the University are taking a stand against one of the world’s largest scientific journal publishers.

The nation-wide boycott, which has been gaining momentum over the last couple weeks, is encouraging researchers from all fields to refrain from publishing, refereeing, and doing editorial work for journal publisher, Elsevier, until the company “radically changes how they operate.”

As of Feb. 8, 4,690 pledges by researchers were posted on the pages of thecostofknowledge.com as part of the boycott.

Stephen Charman, professor at the University and member of the editorial board of The Journal of Applied Research in Memory and Cognition, published by Elsevier, said he fully supports the boycott, in part because of the high prices, which limit availability.

“Many of these publishers make it difficult to gain access to this work, and charge a substantial fee in order to do so,” Charman said. “In fact, unless you are at a university that pays a very large amount of money for access to these journals, the cost can be virtually prohibiting for tax payers to access the very studies they pay to fund in the first place.”

The homepage of the boycott lists three objections against the publisher’s practices: High prices for individual journals, journal bundles that do not benefit university libraries, and Elsevier’s support of legislation such as SOPA, PIPA and the Research Works Act which aim to restrict the free exchange of information.

Philip Boston, electronic theses and dissertations coordinator for the University Graduate School, is among the FIU faculty who pledged to “Won’t Publish” and shares this view.

“As a public university, public money is used to fund research and that research isn’t always available to the people who fund the research, the taxpayers,” Bolton said.

Another objection Charman and other researchers have against Elsevier is that it limits the free flow of information through their pay wall.

“It is my, and most scientists’ beliefs, that science should be as open and transparent as possible; science works best when there is a free flow of information,” Charman said. “Elsevier is directly opposed to this goal: they want to make money, and they do that by making it difficult to gain access to journals unless you pay for them.”

Despite the thousands of pledges, both Charman and Bolton agreed that for the boycott to bring changes, there needs to be much more support from researchers, librarians and students.

“Unless there is substantial support from the research community, I’m not sure if they would respond at all,” Charman said.

Bolton also noted that although the boycott is research-led, students play a key role that begins with understanding where their information comes from and the costs incurred by the University to acquire it.

“Elsevier is aware of the issue and until they experience true loss from faculty boycotts, I doubt they’ll make concessions,” Bolton said. “Students should be aware of where their information comes from. Students should understand the issue and support their faculty and librarians.”

Associate professor for the department of mathematics, Thomas Leness showed his support to the boycott by pledging “Won’t Publish, Won’t Refer, Won’t do Editorial Work” and while he supports the cause he is also aware of the changes this will bring to his research.

“No publishing in Elsevier journals means I have to find other journals in which to publish. I have published in Elsevier journals in the past so this does present an inconvenience,” Leness said.

“I think that will be difficult to do (since) helping other mathematicians edit and improve their work is an important professional responsibility.”

Researchers believe this boycott will also shine a light on the publishing industry as whole and bring about awaited changes.

“I think it is encouraging researchers to take a hard look at academic publishing models. Elsevier is considered to be particularly egregious, compared to other publishers, in terms of cost, but I think there is a more general trend for publishers to question the necessity of the current publishing models,” Charman said.

Growing continuously, the Elsevier boycott is a demonstration that argues for a reformation of a publishing model that many say is outdated.

“The boycott represents a realization that we do not need outdated publishing models and as the people who ultimately control the commodity that Elsevier is selling, we have some control over this situation, and we are in a position to decide what we do with it,” Charman said.

“Elsevier needs researchers; researchers do not need Elsevier. And we are now considering other options.”

Furthermore, Bolton added that a move towards the Open Access type of publishing would benefit both researchers and students.

“Faculty members and researchers are working hard to beat cancer, to overcome racism, to understand the universe, and if that information is locked behind high subscription prices, said Bolton. “It’s severely obvious that this impedes the progress of science.”
**TEAM EFFORT**

Three Panthers reach double figures in 58-42 win

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If there is a lesson to be learned after the Panthers 58-42 defeat of Denver on Feb. 11 it’s this—they are much deeper than just Jerica Coley. The Panthers have been dependent on the skills of Coley to carry them through most games this season, win or loss. Against Denver, however, Coley scored just 18 points, four in the second half.

But, the Panthers picked up contributions from nearly every other player that saw action on Saturday in their victory. Head coach Cindy Russo was pleased to see it.

“It was an awesome game,” Russo said. “Our defense was just incredible. We rebounded well. We stuck most of the time with our strategy. They were just not able to handle our post game.”

That post game combined for 22 points between Finda Mansare and Diamond Ashmore. The Panthers also out-rebounded the Pioneers 43-34 in the paint, the third time in their last four that they have done so.

“It’s something we’ve emphasized lately,” Russo said.

This was the first game that Ashmore, a junior, saw significant playing time as a Panther since transferring from Tallahassee Community College last season. She scored eight points and pulled down three rebounds. Ashmore could not have been more ecstatic for her opportunity.

“Just hopefully I can continue to help my teammates and our progress to make it further,” Ashmore said with a laugh. “That felt good.”

Coach Russo is expecting her to keep contributing like this rest of the way.

“Diamond [Ashmore] did a great job defensively tonight,” Russo said. “She helped everybody. I think that was a real turning point in our game. She’s going to continue to play well.”

Not only were the Panthers able to shoot well (38 percent), but they locked down Denver shooters, holding them as a team to shoot just 28 percent from the field and 18 percent from three-point range.

The Pioneers were held to just 42 points, their second lowest scoring output of the season.

Other than Coley and Ashmore, Mansare bounced back after fouling out early in the second half in the Panthers last game against North Texas. She got a double-double, scoring 14 points and pulling down ten boards.

Fanni Hutlassa, who was injured in the first half and had to be helped off the floor with an ankle injury and did not return until the second half began, finished the game with ten points after only scoring two in the first half.

This marks the first time in the past seven games that three Panthers reached double figures in scoring.
Poor shooting leads to Panthers home loss against Mean Green

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With NBA scouts in the building, the Panthers could not show off their true talents. Phil Taylor led the Panthers with 16 points as they fell to the North Texas Mean Green 68-61. DeJuan Wright chipped in with 13 points, seven rebounds and a career-high five assists. It just wasn’t enough.

“It really came down to the little things,” head coach Isiah Thomas said. “In the second half, we had a couple of breaks down that they took advantage of.”

Neither the Panthers nor the Mean Green could connect on a consistent level shooting-wise, until the second half, where FIU shot 36.1 percent from the field compared to North Texas’ 39.1 percent.

The two teams were even in just about every statistical category except assists, where the Mean Green led 18-7, and rebounds, 44-40 advantage for North Texas.

FIU came flying out of the starting gate, with Taylor scoring nine of the Panthers’ first 11 points of the game.

The Panthers maintained the lead for the first 15 minutes of the game, until freshman forward Tony Mitchell threw down an emphatic dunk to give North Texas a 18-17 lead.

Even as they trailed, the deficit was never greater than three, as they went into halftime down 26-23.

Taylor and Wright came out of the break attacking the basket, giving the Panthers a 23-23 lead with 16:22 left in the game. North Texas tightened up the defense, forcing the Panthers to miss six of their next nine shots, giving way for the Mean Green to connect on two three-pointers, to build a comfortable 58-46 lead.

“Those three’s changed the game,” Wright said.

A late surge by the Panthers cut the lead down to six with one minute to go, but it was too little, too late, as North Texas held on for the win, 68-61.

“At the end of the game, we didn’t make plays and they did,” Thomas said.
Students weigh in on holiday

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Valentine’s Day has caught a lot of flak in recent years for celebrating materialism rather than love. Students are definitely using money this year to impress their loved ones, from making reservations at a favorite restaurant or buying roses.

On average, Americans spend more than $700 million on Valentine’s Day, according to Consumer Reports. But, the exchange of money doesn’t necessarily mean students have forgotten the true meaning of Valentine’s Day.

Whether you are going to dinner with your loved one or simply going out with a bunch of your friends, it seems that Valentine’s Day is a lot more than a silly holiday.

Some students believe they owe it to themselves to spice up this day but every day.

“Love is certainly in the air for some couples around campus,” Bianca Perez, a journalism student, and Matthew Hanlon, a finance major, have been very much in love now for two years. While Hanlon plans to keep his date night schedule secret, Perez expressed what she believed Valentine’s Day is about. “I look forward to spending this day every year because it is not only a day to remind him how much I love him, but to also remind those around me, like my family and friends, how much I love them, too,” said Perez.

Cynthia Roig has different plans in mind. She and her girlfriend, who have been together for eight months now, will be laying low on Feb. 14. “Our money will be put to better use the weekend after when we fly out to New York City for our first vacation together. We look forward to five days of adventure and romance with no other distractions,” said Roig.

Save up for a vacation if it is certainly a unique way to relish the holiday. “The small thought is what matters the most,” said Kristy Mena, an alumna of the University. “Guys think they have to go above and beyond and spend their money. It but really, it’s the little details and thoughts that truly stick with you for a lifetime,” she said. “Sometimes, homemade things are unique and special than dinner and a movie.” She even recalls a time when her date cooked her dinner, made dessert and topped the night off with her favorite glass of wine.

“The night couldn’t have been better, especially since he cooked for me and had never done so before. He was a great cook, too,” said Mena. There are so many other ways to enjoy the holiday while keeping a decent budget in mind.

For anyone dating someone special, sending flowers or making your very own card can get you those brownie points you were hoping for. Whether you are laying low, heading out to a concert with friends, or simply going to dinner with your significant other, enjoy the holiday for its meaning—not only this day but every day.

### Unusual Date Ideas

#### Start off the day with romance

Wake up at 5 a.m. and watch the sunrise together at the beach. There is nothing more romantic than a sunrise on a deserted beach. Bring a blanket, breakfast, coffee and a camera to document your adventure. If you are more of an evening person, try to watch the sunset.

#### Go 50/50

Sometimes, it is overwhelming to plan the entire Valentine’s Day date night experience, so split the homework by planning half of the evening. One of you can pick the restaurant or bar, and the other can check out art galleries, concerts, plays, films or other activities.

#### Watch a double feature

Catch the Film Initiative Underground’s screening of “Before Sunrise” and “Before Sunset” on Feb. 14 at 8 p.m. in GC 150. “Before Sunrise” tells the love story of two strangers. The best part of the event is that it’s absolutely free, saving you cash to splurge on gifts.

#### Jazz in the gardens

Fairchild Tropical Botanical Gardens is hosting a jazz concert on Valentine’s Day. Walk around the gardens from dusk until the concert starts at 7 p.m. General admission is $60, but students with an ID get in for $25. You can purchase tickets by phone at 305-667-1651, ext. 3377.

#### Stay in

Pick up ingredients for dinner and dessert and rent a movie you have been meaning to watch. Agree that each of you picks one recipe and one movie in order to surprise each other with your choices. Then, pile down on the sofa, or in bed, and spend the night at home.

#### Mini Road Trip

Take the (sort of short) drive to West Palm Beach or Key West and do touristy things shamelessly. Eat at Hamburger Heaven and tour Clematis Street in West Palm Beach, or walk around Key West admiring all the historic districts and grab drinks by the water.

### What to wear: V-day Edition

#### Do not look at Valentine’s Day as a day to binge on chocolate from your significant other or conspicuous running over happy couples. Instead, look at it as an opportunity to get dressed up and go out. Here are a few suggestions of what to wear on the day which is reserved for proclaiming your feelings to your loved ones—or yourself.

#### ROMANTIC DINNER

I am sure you have been on a million dinner dates before, so spice it up with an atypical outfit.

Wide-leg pants made of silk with a funky print and a favorite tank top in a basic color is also an unexpected pick but comfortable and chic. A neutral-colored sandal would go well with prints, no matter the color combinations.

If you must wear a dress, try one with a peplum detail like those seen on Jason Wu’s Spring 2012 runway. A peachy or bright red color would definitely suit the holiday.

Guys, try a pair of beige or gray chinos with a plaid shirt and a navy sports coat in twill. Slip on a skinny tie to dress up the look.

Another option is to try a vest with a button-down underneath. Skip the tie for this setup to avoid looking outdated.

#### THEATER OR OPERA

If you are going to some sort of fancy performance where you will be the youngest couple in the audience, take cues from the spring pastel trends. Pastel-colored trousers paired with a breezy pastel blouse or button-down is both dusty and young, but also appropriate for the venue.

Do not forget about lace. White or pastel-colored lace tops go well with a pencil skirt.

Guys, this is your opportunity to break out that nice fitting suit. I know I would be
Casual sex more common, has its consequences

With Valentine’s Day just around the corner, it is easy to guess what anything on most students’ minds: sex. Casual sex has become more common among University students, raising the concerns and statistics of STDs and unplanned pregnancies, as well as the need to educate students.

For Nicole Billitz, a junior English major, casual sex is an equally casual subject as she openly admits her previous engagements. “This also depends on what exactly you consider ‘casual sex,’” she said. “In my case, when it happens, it’s with the same person—just around the corner, it is, or is not, practicing it.”

Casual sex more common, has its consequences

“[Students] may think it’s monogamous to practice casual sex with the same partner, but most students change partners within months,” said Katherine Chadwell, a clinical assistant professor at the University. “If you have sex with three people in one year, and they have sex with the same amount of people, you could be exposing up to seven people with diseases. When you have sex with one person, it’s like having sex with every partner that person has previously been with,” she said.

An online statistic released in 2010 showed that one in four college students have an STD, and 80 percent of those who are infected do not show symptoms. Among STDs, the three most common are chlamydia, genital herpes, and human papillomavirus (HPV), which cannot be cured once infected; this is partly due to the lack of condom use. Only 54 percent of students use condoms during vaginal intercourse on a daily basis, 29 percent during anal sex and only 4 percent during oral sex. If STDs were not frightening enough, the rate of pregnancy among college women is much higher. According to the National Campaign to Prevent Unplanned Pregnancy, the majority of unplanned pregnancies actually happen to women in their 20s—not teenagers. And although casual sex meets a need that comes without the consequences of a relationship, like in the case of Billitz, and may even be an outlet for the relief of stress, there are even greater consequences to consider.

“There could also definitely be some emotional damage to certain people,” said Samantha Dubarry, a psychology graduate student. “Sometimes, people will go into it expecting more from the other person, and become devastated once those expectations are not met.”

For some students, the act of casually hooking up is not worth the heavy consequences. Enrique Ponte, a business major, stresses that because of casual sex, “students and people our age have lost respect for relationships.”

Others, like Christopher Dohmen, see the media as somewhat responsible for the increase in college students’ openness to casual sex. “Reality shows, like ‘Jersey Shore’ and ‘The Real World,’ make hooking up seem normal,” he said. Chadwell also pointed out that, despite the information regarding unsafe sex and its consequences being readily available to students, “their feelings of invincibility may prevent them from taking any precautions.”

“Young women also have a problem negotiating condom use, and a considerable amount of students reported the withdrawal method as their way to prevent pregnancy and contracting any STDs. Believe sexual education is still something that is necessary for college students,” said Chadwell.

As a part of Valentine’s Day week, University Health Services is having a sex carnival between Feb. 13 to 15 for students to ask questions and learn interesting facts about sex and more.

Dress up for your holiday plans

WEAR, PAGE 5

impressed by someone who wears a suit to a performing arts center. Just saying.

THE DRAKE CONCERT

First, kiss your significant other hard for getting you tickets to see Drake. My concert philosophy is always to wear something casual but cool. Girls, a blazer, T-shirt and shorts with flats or oxfords is comfortable and stylish. Switch out the shorts for a miniskirt and you will still look great.

Boys, an oxford in blue or white with tapered chinos is also comfortable and stylish. Neither of you should be caught in a Drake T-shirt.

BRUNCH WITH THE GIRLS

Celebrate “Galentine’s Day” (Feb. 13) with a glamorous and indulgent brunch. We all know brunch is about wearing your chicest outfit with your newest clutch and heels. Wide-leg trousers in a bright color are still in, so pair them with a silk or lace crop top.

Alternately, try a pair of skinny jeans and an oversized striped sweater; belt it for some definition. Grab a clutch in leopard print and your trusty platform heels in a fun color or print. Also, sunglasses are a must.

Haute Topic is a weekly fashion column. Email estra.erdogan@fuism.com.
Police presence reassesses safety on campus

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The number of police officers present on both the Biscayne Bay Campus and the Modesto Maidique Campus has been steadily increasing; we are now up to 49 officers. While this may seem like a tiny number when compared to a student body of over 40,000, it seems to me that it has managed to keep us safe without the need for an officer at every corner. In fact, most offenses at BBC have been steadily falling in number: two vehicle thefts in 2010, down from five in 2008. Robberies on the other hand have increased to a somewhat significant six in 2010, up from only three in 2008. Oddly, some students believe police presence has not increased in the past year to match this trend. Veronique Buteau, a Pre-Med student, said, “There’s not a lot of activity. I rarely see any police.”

Lindsie Cohen, an English major, said, “I feel like they’re gone in the evening. There’s a lot more of them around Academic Hall and the parking lot. He said, “I welcome the police presence on campus. The surrounding area has a lot of crime, and I’m glad it hasn’t spread.”

Others shared slightly different views, such as Troy Bishop, who has seen a decent number of police patrols in the parking lot. He said, “There’s not a lot of crime, and I’m glad it hasn’t spread.”

I, too, am reassured by the proximity. BBC has seen extremely little in comparison, which I find quite astounding. Hopefully, this already low number of crimes will continue to sink with new additions to the police team. Captain Alphonse Anniello of the FIU Police force noted that as planned, up to 10 new officers would be hired every year for the next three years – of which BBC should see some.

His reasoning on the matter was that these new hires will enable the police force “to deter crime and better serve the community.”

Prepare and prevent, in a manner of speaking – a policy which has so far proven quite effective for our relatively large BBC environment of 7,000 students.

While some may have their misgivings with the police force, it is apparent to me they do not want to draw much attention to themselves. And yet, much of the feedback on the campus police was rather positive or at the very least mild, with just a few instances of open dislike for their conduct.

This would definitely not be the case if they were mingling inside every building on campus.

Despite the fact that they are mostly lurking in the shadows of the parking lot lights and only vaguely seen anywhere else, whatever they may be up to seems to be doing the job. As a student, I welcome this level of security. After all, safety doesn’t happen by accident.

Involvement develops life-long relationships

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In no way do I profess to be any smarter than I really am. Most of what I know today comes from a wealth of knowledge I have acquired through the mere act of getting involved.

In 2009, I volunteered as a photographer for SAVE DADE, a Miami-Dade County-based equal rights organization. Thanks to working with an accomplished photographer and his team, I learned about all the challenges LGBT (Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, and Transgender) citizens face. Later in 2010, they asked me to volunteer again helping with a fundraiser event, where I got to meet and talk with Ileana Ross Lehtinen.

The event proved satisfying as I got to express my concerns, and learn about changes taking place through conversations with other prominent Miami political figures. Students can benefit by building their social network now, through becoming engaged in civic life.

If you are like me, you probably get at least three different invitations to go out on the week-ends with friends. Fantastic! Make lasting relationships now; you might not have as much free time when your in the work field. What you are doing with friends can make the difference between getting a mediocre job and a lasting difference in your community.

When I volunteered for Alternative Breaks- Environmental Causes in 2009-2010, I got to help out surveying fishermen in the Dominican Republic, and make a significant contribution to the monitoring of marine life in that specific region. A University of Miami researcher led the study in conjunction with Jennifer Grimm, an environmental science professor here at FIU.

On transferring, I became so obsessed with joining every club, and being sure everyone had to like me. In turn, I lost sight of pursuing the training that I really needed. Speaking up to an organization in charge of allocating funds to students organizations might help students get what they want out of FIU.

When you care about an issue enough to get involved with organizations and other groups that share a common interest, you begin to expand your lasting social network for life that you may later need in life to make a mark on your resume and in your career.

In no way does this mean that you are missing out on the fun. In fact, most places you volunteer for will give you incentives to take advantage of the service they provide.

Adrienne Ashbel Center gives four theatre and opera tickets to their volunteers for every 70 hours they put in as ushers. Save Dade lets you help out surveying fishermen in the Dominican Republic, and make a significant contribute to the monitoring of marine life in that specific region. A University of Miami researcher led the study in conjunction with Jennifer Grimm, an environmental science professor here at FIU.

The probability of meeting quality people will most likely improve from anyone you might meet in a bar.

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Students play the piano for release and entertainment

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Thanks to student pianists, others are able to break away from school stress and get lost in the musical notes while they relax and take advantage of their free time between classes. They are the students who play piano during their leisure time at the University.

Playing piano helps students relax and pass time. Current senior and hospitality and tourism management major, Conrad Gongor, is a self-taught piano player who plays as a hobby and finds that it calms him down during his long breaks between classes.

Other students such as Sophomore Gene Yllanes, wanted to learn how to play piano last semester and now practices on campus because he doesn’t have one at home.

Some students have been playing since their childhood but have stopped along the way and want to rekindle their relationship with the piano. This is the case for freshman and English major, Brittany Owens, who is currently getting reacquainted with the instrument.

Sometimes playing music is all about moving other people and grabbing their attention and praises. Current junior and English major Gabriel Vazquez, said, “You need an audience.”

Vazquez also said that what inspires him to play is the pleasure he gets from serenading himself and others.

These students are influenced by many great musicians of both the past and modern time, from Bach and Mozart, to Elton John, Billy Joel and The Fray.

Besides the famous artists, everyday people in these students’ lives also stimulate their curiosity for piano.

Vazquez, who aspires to become a teacher some day, learned to play from his uncle who used to play for his church.

Yllanes, on the other hand, gets excited about playing music when he sees others play and enjoys jamming with different people who play other instruments like guitar, and drums.

Besides getting inspired and learning from others like him, he also stated “the best way to learn music is to learn classical music.”

Some of the students who play piano also enjoy playing other instruments. Yllanes, who is a guitarist and is also interested in learning how to play drums, finds that the guitar and piano are “two completely separate things.” He also feels that the piano combines the two music fields that he is interested in so he wants to learn more.

Vazquez also knows how to play some guitar but says he prefers to play piano because it’s nicer on his fingers, unlike the guitar strings.

While playing piano for all to hear, these students have experienced some pretty memorable moments that they will never forget.

Gongor said that one day while he was playing a woman burst through the doors next him, stopped to listen and told him that he had made her day.

“It made me feel like that’s the reason why I play piano,” Gongor said. “It calms me down so I’m glad it did something for her.”

Owens stated that one of her highlight moments was being asked if she gave piano lessons. One thing is for certain, whether they were self taught, or trained as a child, they all have one thing in common. They all play for themselves and for the joy and satisfaction that playing piano brings. Vazquez had a more emotional encounter at Modesto Maidique Campus when a woman approached him while playing and with tears in her eyes told him that he had a gift. He said that made him feel good.

“It’s nice that something I do can touch someone, it moves me, so it was nice to hear that,” Vazquez said.

It’s time for the sex talk in Panther Square

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Sex at a carnival? FIU’s Biscayne Bay campuses will be having a sex carnival in Panther Square on Feb. 15 at 10 a.m.

BBC’s Wellness Center will be teaming up with other organizations such as Planned Parenthood, co-sponsoring the event with the Student Government Association and the Black Student Union.

After the event, best-selling authors and sexologists Dr. Joni Frater and Esther Lastique will be having a Sex & Relationship Boot Camp at the Mary Ann Wolfe University Center, from 1 p.m. to 3 p.m.

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There will be also be a nurse available at the same event on Feb. 13, minus the candy and games, as part of the Sex Ed Boot Camp, is to inform the FIU community about safe sex practices, as well as of the Sex Ed Boot Camp, is to inform the FIU community about safe sex practices, as well as of the Sex Ed Boot Camp, is to inform the FIU community about safe sex practices.

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Some students have been playing since their childhood but have stopped along the way and want to rekindle their relationship with the instrument. This is the case for freshman and English major, Brittany Owens, who is currently getting reacquainted with the instrument.

Brittany Owens, freshman English major, plays the piano near the Wolfe University Center lounge in between class time. Owens used to play as a child and uses the lounge piano to rekindle her relationship with the instrument.

Vazquez also said that what inspires him to play is the pleasure he gets from serenading himself and others.

These students are influenced by many great musicians of both the past and modern time, from Bach and Mozart, to Elton John, Billy Joel and The Fray.

Besides the famous artists, everyday people in these students’ lives also stimulate their curiosity for piano.

Vazquez, who aspires to become a teacher some day, learned to play from his uncle who used to play for his church.

Yllanes, on the other hand, gets excited about playing music when he sees others play and enjoys jamming with different people who play other instruments like guitar, and drums.

Besides getting inspired and learning from others like him, he also stated “the best way to learn music is to learn classical music.”

Some of the students who play piano also enjoy playing other instruments. Yllanes, who is a guitarist and is also interested in learning how to play drums, finds that the guitar and piano are “two completely separate things.” He also feels that the piano combines the two music fields that he is interested in so he wants to learn more.

Vazquez also knows how to play some guitar but says he prefers to play piano because it’s nicer on his fingers, unlike the guitar strings.

While playing piano for all to hear, these students have experienced some pretty memorable moments that they will never forget.

Gongor said that one day while he was playing a woman burst through the doors next him, stopped to listen and told him that he had made her day.

“It made me feel like that’s the reason why I play piano,” Gongor said. “It calms me down so I’m glad it did something for her.”

Owens stated that one of her highlight moments was being asked if she gave piano lessons. One thing is for certain, whether they were self taught, or trained as a child, they all have one thing in common. They all play for themselves and for the joy and satisfaction that playing piano brings.

Vazquez had a more emotional encounter at Modesto Maidique Campus when a woman approached him while playing and with tears in her eyes told him that he had a gift. He said that made him feel good.

“It’s nice that something I do can touch someone, it moves me, so it was nice to hear that,” Vazquez said.

Career Fair to provide students with possible connections to employers

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Employers from all parts of the United States will gather at Biscayne Bay Campuses to make themselves available for FIU students interested in finding a job or internship.

The Career Services Office hosts two career fairs per year, one during the fall and the other during the spring. This semester, the Career Fair will be on Feb. 15, at the Wolfe University Ballroom from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m.

There will be approximately 40 employers from multiple industries attending the BBC Career Fair,” said Harold Clayton, associate director of Career Services.

According to Clayton, among the employers attending the fair, there will be NBC Universal, Trump International, PepsiCo, and the U.S. Department of State and Thyssen-Krupp Elevator.

“Are we experiencing a significant increase in the number of students attending specifically within the past two years,” said Clayton. Career Services Office also offers several workshops to help students prepare to the fair, such as resume writing and interviewing skills.

According to Clayton, students who attend career fairs on their respective campuses often get to meet employers in person, which helps them to network with professionals outside of their academic field.

“Career fairs present an opportunity for students to learn about potential industries and job opportunities they may not have considered before,” Clayton said.

At the fair, students can also learn about available positions, such as full-time, part-time, or internship opportunities.

“Some will be providing information only, and others will be looking for actual candidates to interview immediately or later for varied openings,” Clayton said.

Clayton encourages students to research employers that are attending on the Career Services website and find out which one interests them the most.

“The attitude is required. Attendees should bring their Panther One Card and an updated resume,” Clayton said.

The Career Services Office also offers several workshops to help students prepare for the fair, such as resume writing and interviewing skills.

According to Clayton, students who attend career fairs on their respective campuses often get to meet employers in person, which helps them to network with professionals outside of their academic field.

“At our last event, over 300 students attended.”

The fair is open for undergraduate, graduate students, and alumni, who will have the chance to look for part-time, full-time, summer jobs and internships available locally, nationally and internationally.

“Some will be providing information only, and others will be looking for actual candidates to interview immediately or later for varied openings,” Clayton said.

Clayton encourages students to research employers that are attending on the Career Services website and find out which one interests them the most.