Food & Wine Festival turning up the heat in 2012

SYLVIA SIMION
Staff Writer
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Over 400,000 people can claim residency to the Magic City. From attracting the National Basketball Association’s finest to ranking sixth on COED Magazine’s Top 10 “trashiest” by implication, the most coveted spring break sites, Miami is home to the world’s largest cruise passenger port and is situated with internationally renowned fine arts venues and year-round outdoor entertainment.

It’s only getting hotter—literally.

The Food Network’s South Beach Wine & Food Festival, also known as the Sobe Fest, will open from Feb. 23 to the 26 for a weekend filled with events showcasing the talents of globally acclaimed chefs, culinary personalities and wine and spirits experts.

More than 200 sponsors will find the event, including Whole Foods Market, Bank of America, Southern Wine & Spirits of Florida and the University’s own Chaplin School of Hospitality & Tourism Management.

The festival will kick off beach side on Thursday with Moto Hennessy’s “The Q”, an event hosted by industry giants Emeril Lagasse and Guy Fieri. “The Q” features a collection of prominent barbecue chefs preparing their ribs and brisket signature dishes.

Following Emeril’s “Bam!” catchphrase are 50 more flame-inducing events that will culminate on Saturday with “The Flavors of Flay,” celebrity restaurateur Bobby Flay’s sample tasting function that will introduce guests to his trademark southwestern cuisine.

Since its debut in 2000 as the Florida Extravaganza, the festival has grown exponentially in terms of attendance and profit.

SEE FEST, PAGE 3

Professor breaks down love in light of Valentine’s

LAUREN ROVIRA
Asst. News Director
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Just in time for Valentine’s Day, William Berry, professor of psychology, dished out the truths about the L-word.

He delivered a lecture to a full room on “Love, sex, and relationships: Expectations and truths about the L-word.”

Room 243 of the Graham Center was packed past carrying capacity on Monday Feb. 13 at 6 p.m. There were 108 seats set up, and more guests continued to arrive during the lecture.

The lecture was sponsored by Student Government Council at Modesto Maidique Campus, and organized by Laura Farinas, the SGC-MMC lectures coordinator.

“This event is meant to commemorate Valentine’s Day,” Farinas said. “We wanted to lighten the mood.

Several students in the audience took classes with Berry in the past.

Ariel Clark, a sophomore studying physical education, who had taken Berry for Introduction to Psychology, came together with his friend.

“She’s funny,” she said. Her friend, Mary ho, sophomore in psychology said, “He told us in class (Personal Adjustment) about this lecture and I wanted to come. He usually tells us stories in class about his love life, so why not hear some more?”

Natalie Leal, sophomore student of nursing, said, “I have him and find him really interesting.”

“I know it’s not going to be all positive, but it will definitely be an interesting presentation,” she said.

Berry began the lecture by explaining that the bleak message was followed by some luminous light.

“A common topic in love literature nowadays is the subject of couples assuming parent-child roles,” he said. "Women become mothers and men become like little boys. A lot of people can relate to a tumultuous relationship. The bleak message was followed by some luminous light.

Berry explained, “Life is about balance,” he explained. “One should be more honest than not, though. Honesty is what makes a good relationship.” He also warned against false expectations.

According to a survey Berry conducted with the co-author to his new book on love, 75 percent of people believe in a soul mate. This was predominantly the case with college girls.

Berry explained, “realistic expectations, including the expectation of a ‘super relationship’, [when] we think they should just know. These are unhealthy.”

“You should have realistic expectations for the relationship and your partner. Remain present in the relationship.”

“I’m very existential...you have to ‘be’,” he said.

Berry also said that couples should not become too secure.

“This is pivotal,” he said. “[You] need to commit to working on things. Relationships take work and patience.”

A common topic in love literature nowadays is the subject of couples assuming parent-child relationships. Women become mothers and men become like little boys.

Berry said, “[You] must avoid falling into parental roles, but there has to be a way to get back to closeness sometimes.”

Berry discussed some different theories of love.

See Love, Page 2
Threatened butterfly vanishes from Florida refuge
For more than a year, Bahia Honda State Park biologist Jim Douglass traveled the nature sanctuary with two hopes. He wanted to see a Miami blue butterfly and rid the Florida Keys outpost of as many iquanas as he could. The problem: The central American invader may be driving the Miami blue into extinction by eating the leaves where it lays its eggs — a bit of butterfly caviar in every bite.
No confirmed Miami blues have been seen on Bahia Honda since July 2010, and with each passing day it becomes less likely any exist there. The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service last August issued an emergency listing of the Miami blue as an endangered species and three similar butterflies as threatened.

NATIONAL
Valentine’s gift blamed for Calif. power outage
A Valentine’s Day gift is being blamed for a power outage in Southern California.
Southern California Edison spokesman David Song says a helium-filled balloon scored a direct hit on the company’s Fontana substation Tuesday night, knocking out power to 15,099 customers.
Song told The Press-Enterprise the balloon was likely a Valentine’s gift. He says it dropped into the substation at about 9:41 p.m.
Song says a utility crew rushed to the station and had the power restored by 9:51 p.m.
The substation is the second to encounter problems in Southern California on Tuesday night.

CORRECTIONS
In Vol. 23, Issue 65 of The Beacon, in the Sports section, in the article titled “Tennis team swept; basketball hits road for UALR,” “Cougars” was mistakenly used instead of “Jaguars” when referring to South Alabama.

In the News section, in the article titled “New York Times writer speaks to University students,” John Stack was referenced as the Dean of the College of Arts and Sciences, when he is actually an Associate Dean.

The Beacon will gladly change any errors. Call our MMC office at 305-348-2709 or BBC at 305-919-4722.

Berry touts “being” in relationships

Love, Page 1

Berry also explained why people are so clingy.
It has to do with attachment styles…clinginess is part of the anxious attachment style. It also has to do with who has the ‘hand’ in the relationship…the one that loves more ‘feels they are giving more.’

BARRY LAW Makes its Case

BARRY UNIVERSITY SCHOOL OF LAW ORLANDO, FLORIDA
www.barry.edu/FIU

The University’s environmental impact was also addressed in regards to providing more energy efficient technologies to the facilities at the University. This was addressed by John M. Cal, assistant vice president of Facilities and Management, informing those in attendance that the University ranks first in the state in terms of energy efficiency, a point that Rosenberg reluctantly acknowledged due to his dislike of number rankings.

The question and answer session ended up running about 20 minutes longer than expected, at which point Rosenberg allowed those in attendance with remaining questions to pose them and he will direct them to the appropriate administrator for the department which the questions concerned.

Rosenberg focuses on campus expansion at town hall meeting

April 14 Strategic Plan Town hall meeting, public safety and access to the campus are critical for its growth.
Rosenberg acknowledged at this town hall was that if a second entrance into Barry is not automated, that he will place an enrollment cap on the three schools for the sake of preventing the overcrowding on the campus.
Goal for the campus are a joint use facility with Alonso and Tracy Mourning High School and Miami-Dade College, a possible training facility with the private sector for the School of Architecture, and the hopes of a partnership with the Scripps Howard Foundation, who was represented by their President and CEO Mike Phillips.

Students who had concerns with the conditions of Bay Vista Housing, or if there are any planned renovations were pleased to hear that there are plans to create replacement housing for Bay Vista, to be realized within the next two years, according to Molli. Pablo Haspel, SGC-BBC speaker of the Senate, brought up the online course fee that is required for every online course a student is enrolled in, questioning what those fees are used for, since his constituents have been bringing this up to him.
“The fee will continue, although we will continue to drop it as the number of students that enroll [increases],” said Wartko. “This isn’t a way of adding additional revenue; it’s the necessity of meeting the costs that are necessitated for providing online courses.”

We tell little boys to hold their feelings, but we feel just like everyone else.
Berry also explained why people are so clingy.

It has to do with attachment styles…clinging is part of the anxious attachment style. It also has to do with who has the ‘hand’ in the relationship…the one that loves more ‘feels they are giving more.’

Berry touts ‘being’ in relationships

At the end of the event, Clark said, “I feel that it was very insightful. He broke things down, love, sex and relationships.
‘He gave us the good and the bad,’” she said. “You can take whatever you feel is best [for you].”


**LOCAL PERFORMANCE**

Broadway hit to be performed across the street

ESRA ERODOGAN  Life Editor  ereodogan@fiu.edu

Across the street from the Modesto Maidique Campus is The Roxy Performing Arts Center. It is home to The Roxy Theatre Group, a non-profit organization that aims to enrich the lives of students of all ages, from elementary school to college, through the performing arts.

Opening this weekend at The Roxy PAC is the Broadway show “How to Succeed in Business Without Really Trying,” a romantic comedy musical popularized by actor DanielRadcliffe.

The show will run from Feb. 17 through March 3. Tickets are $20 at the door, however, there is a limited number of $5 tickets available on www.cultureshockmiami.com.

“We are always looking for shows with a lot of character actors because of our high audition population,” said Ana Andreu, programs director and alumna. The Theatre held open auditions that attracted around 170 prospective actors from over 30 high schools for “How to Succeed.”

After callbacks and deliberations, the show will feature 70 students as actors and musicians, ranging from middle to high school students, including some of the instructors.

Rehearsals for leading actors can be rigorous. As it gets closer to opening night, both leading and ensemble casts must attend and practice more often during after school hours and on weekends.

“They’re dedicated. Sometimes, we tell them to ‘leave,’ said Charles Sothers, the Theatre’s arts director and alum. Because they are a non-profit organization, they considered how difficult it would be to procure the costumes and set the design when picking shows. “We’re very creative when it comes to producing shows,” said Andreu.

Andreu, who has a degree in theater, remembers the days of scavenging through Goodwill for costumes as a student at the University.

Sharing equipment and costumes with other theater groups and finding set props from Ikea and thrift stores allowed them to take on shows that would otherwise be very expensive to produce.

Everyone involved is an expert in multitasking.

“We’re a small crew. We all do a lot of things,” said alum Charles Sothers, theater arts director and acting teacher.

“We usually try to feature our teachers in the shows because it’s important for the kids to relate to professional actors. They’ve seen them in movies, so that’s how they’ll be on stage with them so the kids can see how they act,” said Andreu. Senior Christopher Cuan, a liberal studies major and improvisation teacher, will be playing the role of the mailman and Sothers will be Bigby, the boss.

Since many of them are alumni, universities and students are usually involved in many of the shows.

“They’re not necessarily theater students. Sometimes, they are in other disciplines. [Gabriel Bonilla] was an FRI student when he auditioned for “Guys and Dolls” a few years ago and he got a lead [role],” said Andreu.

“The connection is we’re right across the street, so it’s accessible to them. They find out about the auditions more easily and we have some participants who are students so the wind gets around.

Since we still have a good connection with our department and Phillip Church, associate professor in the Department of Theatre, we always reach out to them,” said Sothers.

“To see the kids having so much fun on stage is the best part. They say ‘Don’t forget to email me when you have other auditions,’” said alumna Jessica Torres, stage director.

The Roxy Theatre Group provides enrichment for kids who are interested in the performing arts, outreach to the community for teachers and directors and entertainment for the rest of us.

Hospitality team looks forward to working SoBe Fest

FEST, PAGE 1

Over 55,000 guests attended in 2011 to a cause and $14 million have been raised toward the Chaplin School’s physical and academic expansion.

Revenue is currently invested in the renovation of the Southern Wine & Spirits Beverage Management Center, a 4,500 square-foot facility that features the latest technology for beverage tasting and analysis at the Biscayne Bay Campus.

This year, funds are expected to aid in the development of the hospitality management building’s dining room into a state-of-the-art full service teaching restaurant that will be managed by hospitality students.

“Solfe Fest requires a tremendous amount of student involvement,” stated Richard Lopez, program manager.

“It’s also something that is inherently ‘FIU’ and sometimes that’s not in the limelight [to the Modesto Maidique campus].”

“The process is yearlong; we never have downtime. We always have people coming into our office.

These celebrity icons and personalities are just regular people who our students can work with.”

Over 900 students of management and other fields fill positions in sponsorship activation, operations, logistics, public relations, marketing and auction coordination.

Together, they build the backbone to the production of the Festival. “It’s not just a kitchen,” said Lopez about the hospitality industry.

“We are hospitality managers. We are here for tourism, gaming, events and fine dining trade. University planning community is on the rise right now and hospitality is creating jobs.”

The University’s SoBe Fest committee has likened the Festival to a career fair for its students. “After participating in the Festival, we have so many more profiles on our clientele.”

Celebrities aren’t the only key to potential job opportunities.

Lopez stressed that, “You may not know the person’s name but he or she owns several companies or know who you’re going to meet on site.”

As a 2012 exclusive, the Festival will be offering the public its first sneak peek at the new Miami Marlins Ballpark in the “Diamond District” event that will be hosted by Julie Loria, cookbook author and wife of the Marlins owner, Jeffrey Loria.

Attendants will participate in a walk-around dinner from South Florida’s finest chefs.

“There’s so much that’s directed into our backyard and we sometimes take it for granted.”

“We’re a very hip and fun-filled city,” remarked the Solfe Fest committee. “Take advantage of the fact that so many people want to come to Miami and be a part of it.”

For more information regarding the festival, visit HM 249 at the Biscayne Bay Campus or on the web at http://sobefest.fiu.edu.

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**After participating in the Festival, we have so many students that come again to volunteer because it’s something they get jobs out of.**

Richard Lopez  Program Manager

runs wineries and vineyards and is flying from Los Angeles and New York for this single event. Pretend like everyday is an interview because you never...
Panthers set to open season with a showdown against Rice Owls

EDUARDO ARAUJAO
Staff Writer

When asked what was best thing about this upcoming baseball season, senior outfielder and reigning Sun Belt Player of the Year Pablo Bermudez gave an odd answer.

“This team has no face,” Bermudez said.

If there was one player that was instantly recognizable in Florida International University’s baseball team in the last 2-3 years, it was probably Gaineal White. During his chase of Robin Ventura’s Division I home run record and reign as Florida International University’s best hitter in 2011, leading the conference in batting average, 10, the leagues head coaches also picked FIU to finish first in the SBC preseason poll. They picked them to win the conference and on Feb. 3, the league’s head coaches also picked FIU to finish first in the SBC preseason poll.

But there were a lot of other people that helped the whole team, and he did carry his weight, Bermudez said. “A lot of people thought that Garret carried the whole team, and he did carry his weight, but there were a lot of other people that helped Garret a long,” Bermudez said. “It’s not just about one player, it’s about the whole team.”

For a team with no face, however, they seem to be getting a lot of recognition. Coming off a 40-win season and its second-consecutive MACCA Regional appearance, FIU has been picked to finish first by a couple of organizations. Perfect Game and Baseball America picked them to win the conference and on Feb. 19, the league’s head coaches also picked FIU to finish first in the SBC preseason poll.

“It’s about putting it all together when the season starts. The sky’s the limit for this team,” Bermudez said.

R.J. Fondon (Right) will be the opening day starter for FIU on Feb. 17 as they take on Rice University. The Panthers will play a three-game series on the road against the Owls.

5 KEYS TO THE SEASON

Stop the walks! FIU pitchers issued 246 bases on balls, the third worst in the league.

They don’t need the freshmen to be superstars, solid seasons from Julius Gaines and Aramis Garcia would go a long way.

The errors have got to go. FIU shot themselves in the foot several times with conference-leading 98 errors in 2011.

Cut down on the strikeouts! The Panthers were one of only two teams in the conference to eclipse 400 Ks.

Repeat the offense! FIU led the conference in several offensive categories such as runs, home runs and RBIs among others in 2011. Another explosive season is key.

PHOTO GALLERY

The beacon – Friday, 17, 2012

RICE UNIVERSITY

Feb. 17-19

MIA MIRLANS

March 7-9

BOSTON COLLEGE

March 8-10

BROWN UNIVERSITY

March 2-4

Brown University

March 2-4 (Home)

FORDHAM UNIVERSITY

March 9-11 (Home)

FIU

March 10-12

Miami

March 1-3

RICE UNIVERSITY

Feb. 17-19

TUSCALOOSA

March 30-31

SOUTH FLORIDA

March 22-24

FLORIDA GULF COAST

March 28 (Home)

ROBERT MORRIS

March 16-18

EASTERN MICHIGAN

March 22-24

FIU H�ST ATLANTIC

March 13-14

UNIVERSITY OF NORTH FLORIDA

March 18-20

FORDHAM UNIVERSITY

March 2-4

FORDHAM UNIVERSITY

March 2-4

U OF LOUISIANA MONROE

March 30-April 1 (Home)

2012 First Half Schedule

2012 First Half Schedule

2012 First Half Schedule

2012 First Half Schedule

2012 First Half Schedule

2012 First Half Schedule
Shorts nominated for this year’s Academy Awards

**[FIVE ANIMATED SHORTS]**

**Dimanche AKA Sunday**

Patrick Doyon’s “Dimanche” is one of two Canadian short films in this year’s animated category. The short takes place on an average Sunday in a drab city and follows a boy whose only interest seems to be watching coins get run over by trains. After mass, he and his family gather at his grandparents’ house where he attempts to find entertain ment amidst the adults who can’t get money off of their minds.

There is something nostalgic about the animation of “Dimanche” that brings one back to their childhood. It reminds us that even though children and adults live in the same world, there’s something almost magical about the way a child sees it.

**Wild Life**

The little boy from “La Luna” gazes at the moon, surprised by his family’s extraordinary line of work. The animation makes everything look bubbly and bright and, if the animation gives the short its visually special to the competition.

**A Morning Stroll**

“A Morning Stroll” is an unconventional short about a man who stops dead in his tracks when he sees a chicken walk past him and knock on a door.

The short takes place over three time periods: the 1950s, the present day and closes in an apocalyptic world where zombies roam the earth.

Grant Orchard, director, tackles each of the time periods with a different form of animation that makes this an interesting short film.

Whether it is a simple moving cartoon picture or an eye-popping piece of computer generated images, “A Morning Stroll” really takes risks different form of narration.

Shifting between the townsfolk and the Englishman turned rancher, the film changes in tone from comedic to melancholy as we follow the struggles that this man goes through.

It is a short that will not appeal to everyone, but it is one that the most eccentric of viewers may find themselves entranced by.

**La Luna**

Pixar’s animated short this year is one that few will have seen at this time since it premieres before the feature film “Brave” later this year.

“La Luna,” directed by Enrico Casarosa, is a sentimental short about a little boy who is being instructed on how to sweep the moon of stars by his father and grandfather.

While this year marks the first time that a Pixar feature is released during the year it is not up for an Academy Award, “La Luna” somehow made its way into the animated short competition.

The short is polite and admirable, like every other thing Pixar makes, but it does not really bring anything special to the competition.

**The Fantastic Flying Books of Mr. Morris Lessmore**

There is always one short that really blows people away, and this year it is William Joyce and Brandon Oldenburg’s marvelous short film, “The Fantastic Flying Books of Mr. Morris Lessmore.” The film revolves around a Buster Keaton look-alike who is swept up during a hurricane, only to find himself in a magical land where he discovers his calling as a librarian.

The short film draws upon Hurricane Katrina and “The Wizard of Oz” heavily to establish itself, but avoids an overbearing aura of sentimentality.

It is a tribute to the importance and magic of literature. It is so full of genuine emotion that anyone who has ever really loved a book will begin to tear up.

Its use of miniatures, computer animation and two-dimensional animation gives the short its visually appealing style and the charming, old-fashioned feel of it might be enough to seal its place as the winner.

**[FIVE LIVE-ACTION SHORTS]**

Pentecost

“Pentecost” is a short dрамеди about Duman, an 11-year-old altar boy who, after knocking Father O’Toole off the altar by swinging the incense burner too high, has been banned from his greatest passion: soccer.

He is called back to serve last minute at an important mass with the archbishop, which becomes his only way to make amends and, more important, gain permission to watch his precious football matches again.

Peter McDonald does an amazing

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**NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARINGS**

The University Fee Committee will be holding public hearings on:

**Wednesday, February 22, 2012**

**WUC 155 at 3:30pm**

**Thursday, February 23, 2012**

**MMC GC 140 at 9:00am**

**FIU SCHOOL OF MUSIC AT THE ALLIANCE FRANCAISE SERIES: AMERNET STRING QUARTET**

WHEN: 7:30-9:30 p.m.

HOW MUCH: Free

WHERE: Alliance Francaise | 618 SW 8 St Miami, FL 33130

**NATURE PRESERVE VOLUNTEER DAY**

WHEN: 9 a.m.-12 p.m.

HOW MUCH: Free

WHERE: MMC-Nature Preserve

**FIU SOFTBALL VS. SOUTH CAROLINA**

WHEN: 5-11 p.m.

HOW MUCH: Free

WHERE: MMC FIU Softball Complex

**FIU SOFTBALL VS. JACKSONVILLE UNIVERSITY**

WHEN: 3-11 p.m.

HOW MUCH: Free

WHERE: MMC FIU Softball Complex

**ORCHESTRAL MASTERWORKS SERIES**

WHEN: 7:30-9:30 p.m.

HOW MUCH: $15.00 General Admission | $10.00 Seniors and FIU Faculty/Staff | $5.00 FIU Students and Alumni Association Members

WHERE: Herbert & Nicole Wertheim Performing Arts Center | Concert Hall | 10910 SW 17th Street, Miami, FL 33199

**FIU SOFTBALL VS. S. SOUTH CAROLINA**

WHEN: 5-11 p.m.

HOW MUCH: Free

WHERE: MMC FIU Softball Complex

**FIU BASKETBALL**

WHEN: 6-7:30 p.m.

HOW MUCH: Free

WHERE: MMC FIU Softball Complex

**SONIC THE HEDGEHOG**

WHEN: 7-8 p.m.

HOW MUCH: Free

WHERE: MMC FIU Softball Complex

**FIU SOFTBALL**

WHEN: 5-11 p.m.

HOW MUCH: Free

WHERE: MMC FIU Softball Complex

**FIU SOFTBALL VS. JACKSONVILLE UNIVERSITY**

WHEN: 3:11 p.m.

HOW MUCH: Free

WHERE: MMC FIU Softball Complex

**MIAMI HEAT VS. ORLANDO MAGIC**

WHEN: 7-10 p.m.

HOW MUCH: $10.00-400.00

WHERE: American Airlines Arena

**FIU SOFTBALL VS. S. SOUTH CAROLINA**

WHEN: 5-11 p.m.

HOW MUCH: Free

WHERE: MMC FIU Softball Complex

**FIU BASKETBALL**

WHEN: 6-7:30 p.m.

HOW MUCH: Free

WHERE: MMC FIU Softball Complex

**FIU BASKETBALL VS. MARQUETTE UNIVERSITY**

WHEN: 4-6 p.m.

HOW MUCH: Free

WHERE: MMC FIU Softball Complex

**FIU BASKETBALL VS. SOUTH CAROLINA**

WHEN: 5-11 p.m.

HOW MUCH: Free

WHERE: MMC FIU Softball Complex

**FIU BASKETBALL VS. JACKSONVILLE UNIVERSITY**

WHEN: 3-11 p.m.

HOW MUCH: Free

WHERE: MMC FIU Softball Complex

**FIU BASKETBALL VS. UCF**

WHEN: 4-6 p.m.

HOW MUCH: Free

WHERE: MMC FIU Softball Complex

**FIU BASKETBALL VS. MICHIGAN STATE**

WHEN: 4-6 p.m.

HOW MUCH: Free

WHERE: MMC FIU Softball Complex

**FIU BASKETBALL VS. SOUTH CAROLINA**

WHEN: 5-11 p.m.

HOW MUCH: Free

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HOW MUCH: Free

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WHEN: 3-11 p.m.

HOW MUCH: Free

WHERE: MMC FIU Softball Complex
Graham Center solicitation turns student haven into hell

ALEX SORONDO  
Staff Writer  
alex.sorondo@fiusm.com  

I am so absolutely terrified of everything around me, so blatantly freaked out by loud noises and suspicious peripheral movements, that I have, since coming to college, just abandoned all hope of ever looking cool at anything because it’s just not possible.

Everything makes me flinch. I recoil constantly. At least 10 percent of my daily oxygen intake is composed of petrified gasps and, frankly, it’s rare that a waiter or waitress appears beside me without eliciting a legitimate scream these days (after which, depending on my mood, I either apologize or berate them for sneaking up on me).

Being so perpetually alert (because it’s really not so much paranoia as it is a constant preparedness to run from danger) makes a lot of daily activities almost overwhelmingly anxious: driving, shopping, standing outside — everything becomes a Lovecraftian stress test.

Exceptionally grueling is having to walk everyday through the Graham Center at some point between 10 a.m. and 3 p.m., when the nightmarish tabling circus is in full swing like some haunted midnight gypsy carnival with its baked goods, room-temperature pizza, sign-up sheets, discount jewelry, cell phone cases, perfumes and Bibles.

Meanwhile, hordes of fraternity and sorority members distribute flyers and pamphlets, asking you to join this or that group’s cause. There are Regret Tomorrow “No…no…” cards, “Dance and Get Wasted and Do Stuff in Public You’ll Regret Tomorrow” cards. People hand them to you, sometimes frowning, sometimes with a smile, but always with that obvious, petrified gasp that so charitably covers my multitude of sins.

These flyer-people hurt themselves shamelessly at you to take, read and relish their glossy cards with their dagger-like corners, as though the stack is going to explode if it doesn’t get thinner.

The music is unnervingly loud, overplayed if not outdated, and the bass makes me feel like I have spiders in my larynx. When two frat boys approach me in unison with their arms outstretched:

I don’t say that just to be a curmudgeon, or because I’m repelled by their energy; I say this because it’s invasive.

1) There’s a jarring few seconds where I haven’t registered their motives.
2) I don’t have the nerve to just say “No, thank you” to either one because, frustrating though they are, I feel guilty to just shoot them down off the bat.
3) I don’t want to take their pamphlets because, in that regard, I’m just like everybody else on campus.

And so I just end up standing there stammering, my hands raised palm-up by my head, non-compliant, sounding like Consuela from “Family Guy” saying, “No…no…no…” These flyer-people hurt themselves shamelessly at you to take, read and relish their glossy cards with their dagger-like corners, as though the stack is going to explode if it doesn’t get thinner.

After years of this, they all seem completely undaunted by the indifference and consistency with which so many people take these flyers and just throw them in the nearest garbage can.

The late comedian Mitch Hedberg pointed out that, when somebody hands you a flyer, it’s essentially like they’re saying, “Here, you throw this away.”

There is no point to the flyers. Nobody likes them, and I will guess with total confidence that the majority of them are handed off to people who then discard them without reading.

Even worse than the flyers is the nuisance of being presented with them by overeager solicitors. As often as I can, I now circle around GC rather than walk through it, just to avoid the plague of glossy “Dance and Get Wasted and Do Stuff in Public You’ll Regret Tomorrow” cards.

Wolfsonian Art Museum a source of ingenuity, knowledge

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The Wolfsonian Art Museum, located in Miami Beach, provides a wonderful experience for FIU students.

Mitchell Wolfson Jr. founded the Wolfsonian in 1986 to preserve his collection of paintings, unique books, sculpture, furniture, and other artifacts.

In 1997, Wolfson donated his museum and his Collection of Decorative and Propaganda Arts to FIU, “the largest gift ever contributed to a public university in Florida.”

In addition to amazing its patrons with its collection of paintings, sculpture, and other artworks, the Wolfsonian allows them to think more critically.

Visitors to the museum will gain an insight on how people have achieved various creative methods to advertise a specific goal.

Partaking in this worthwhile, pleasant outing trained me to contemplate deeply and take a single idea and explore it in multiple levels and dimensions.

For example, the marquette entitled “La Barre à Mine” (English: “The Crowbar”) by Arthur Dupagne, which is molded in shape of a muscular man at work, could propagate the ideas of racial inequality, human bondage, inequality, and other similar factors.

One of the memorable pieces that I like is Harry Clarke’s stained glass window, which was designed to be a gift to the League of Nations in Geneva in 1926.

The beautiful array of color of the eight-panel stained glass window glazed and glistened like ethereal lights.

I was also impressed with how the stain glass windows presented different stories based on Irish folklore.

The astounding details of the clothing worn by the different bearers astounded me.

Another one of my favorites was the oil on canvas painting called “Woman Suffrage” by Evelyn Rumsey Carey.

The soft pale lighting surrounding the goddess-like figure embodies delicate femininity and glamour, combined with a romantic picturesque feel.

The exquisite strokes and alluring illumination immediately attracted me.

My tour guide, Dr. Regina Bailey, pointed out the reason why this woman was portrayed as non-maturing. She said it was in the effort to increase popularity for women’s suffrage.

Going to the Wolfsonian leaves upon its visitors a memorable experience since the moment they enter this mystifying place.

They will become better-rounded scholars because they will have stretched their imagination, explored their analyzing skills, and achieved a reverence and appreciation for the humanities.
**FIU One Card reader causes more trouble than expected**

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Students who use the FIU One Card to board the shuttle bus have encountered problems with the handheld device that deducts the shuttle fare of $2.50 from their One Card account between the two University campuses.

The transition in Fall 2011 from Golden Panther Express tickets to the device has created delays for some students and drivers—and resulted in complaints to the Department of Parking and Transportation department.

When students switched to the FIU One Card, some presented their card to shuttle drivers without any funds. The Panther-Card account is linked to Wells Fargo, and can receive funds from the Wells Fargo ATMs on any FIU campus. The money deposited into the accounts will be available for use almost immediately.

According to Senior Clerk of the Parking and Transportation department Kerssy Ciceen, students don’t know that they must activate their cards online at shop.fiu.edu to add funds.

“It’s not a perfect system yet. Of course there will be glitches,” Ciceen said. “It should be getting fixed in the next year or so.”

The problem started in August 2011 when the transition from GPE tickets to a hand held device that deducts the shuttle fare from students’ accounts has been experiencing malfunctions. The device automatically activates and deactivates through electronic signals on campus. In some instances, the reader remains deactivated.

The transition to electronic account withdrawals confused students. For a couple of weeks GPE tickets were still accepted at the beginning of the Fall 2011 semester.

Lisette Hernandez, Assistant Director of Parking and Transportation, recognizes that any new software will have issues when a new system is implemented.

“We know of one particular issue, mainly an operator issue, but our office solved it and continues to support the drivers as needed to ensure that it does not happen again,” Hernandez said. “Our office is in constant communication with the drivers and helps them if there is an issue or concern in order to solve it immediately.”

American Coach bus driver Donald Hill recounts the training he received for handling the readers.

“It’s pretty simple once you learn how to handle it. Now I always know how to get it to work,” Hill said.

After orientations on how to work the card readers, Hill said that on a few occasions, the device would not read students’ One Cards because it automatically activates and deactivates through electronic signals on the campus. When a shuttle bus leaves the FIU campus, the device shuts down. When the bus arrives on a campus, the reader self-activates, allowing the drivers to use it and swipe the cards. In some instances, the card reader remained deactivated and delayed shuttle drivers from being able to swipe students’ cards and board the bus.

Despite some of the problems, the Parking and Transportation department has encountered, students like John Irizarry, a junior accounting major, knew nothing about the issue.

“I’ve ridden the shuttle multiple times this semester and never had a problem,” Irizarry said.

Hernandez said, “As far as we understand, there has been no glitch as of late. Training and support will continue to be provided to the drivers as well as monitoring on our side to help minimize the issues.”

Hill is sympathetic. Despite the occasional problem with the card reader, he never denies students a ride.

“Let’s face it; You’re going to school and trying to get an education,” Hill said. “I’m not going to stop that.”

**Rosenberg fields questions and concerns from the folks at BBC**

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The Student Government Council at the Biscayne Bay Campus hosted a town hall meeting giving the BBC community the chance to share their questions, comments, and concerns regarding the University, and more particularly, BBC, with University President Mark Rosenberg.

Questions ranged from the expansion of course offerings at BBC, the hopeful growth of enrollment and support, to the maintenance of invasive plant species.

Rosenberg, Provost Douglas Wattzok and Vice Provost Steven Moll were introduced by SGC-BBC President and Vice President Denise Halpin and Emilio Collyer, respectively.

Then Rosenberg dove into business, discussing the campus and its administration for improvements to academic programs and facilities that have occurred over the past two years, including the recent renovations to the Glenn Hubert Library, the Chaplin School of Hospitality and Tourism Management’s expansion of their teaching kitchens and fundraising, and plans that are in the works for converting the Mary Anne Wolfe Theatre into a “smart classroom.”

According to Rosenberg, his vision for the next 10 years at BBC is to increase enrollment at the campus’ three anchor programs, by doubling CSHTM, 80 to 90 percent at the School of Journalism and Mass Communication, and the School of Environment, Arts and Society by 500 percent.

According to the University’s Office of Institutional Research, CSHTM has 1,990 students enrolled, SMC has 1,565 while

**A sorcerer’s apprentice to unveil tricks in WUC**

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Famous magicians have grabbed people’s attention by performing their most daring tricks in front of large audiences. Biscayne Bay Campus will have the opportunity to witness its own magic show with Jason Bishop on Feb. 20 at 12 p.m. in the Mary Ann Wolfe Theatre.

Some tricks students can look forward to are levitating, slide of hands, and a dollar bill transformed into a $100 bill.

Jason Bishop has been awarded the “Jack Gwynne award for Excellence in Presentation.” He was the youngest person to win the Magicians’ Alliance of Eastern States Stage Award. “It’s going to be an exciting show,” said Catherine Vega, BBC Student Programming Council president.

Vega also said that what attracted them most to Bishop is levitating. This will be the first time Bishop performs at FIU.

As a national winning illusionist, Bishop has entertained large audiences across the country, including Norwegian Cruise lines and the Tropicana Hotel in Atlantic City. He has also performed for celebrities like Bam Margera and Chris Penn.

Costume changes, lighting and his way of engaging with the audience give his show a modern energy.

The act will last until approximately 1 p.m.