Electing week kicks off with candidate events

MELISSA CACERES
News Director
melissa.caceres@fiusm.com

Today begins the Student Government campaign season and this year is anyone’s game.

The 2012-2013 Modesto Maidique Campus elections are the first to bring in around 50 senatorial candidates.

This is more than any other previous year, according to Alessa Torres, student government elections commissioner.

With a full week of events, students will have the several opportunities to get to know the candidates and their opinion on student and University issues.

During the Meet & Greet event at the Lakeview North Lounge on March 29, candidates will be able to share their platforms and listen to student concerns. Senate and presidential debates take place on April 2 in GC 140, with candidates getting a chance to state their platforms in a public setting.

Voting will continue for two days on April 3 and 4, with candidates allowed to campaign until the last day of voting.

Students place their ballots through their my.fiu.edu accounts and vote for the respective candidates from the campus where they take the majority of their classes.

The official announcement of the election results is set for April 5.

See page four for full coverage of this year’s candidates.

Law school moves up in US News Report ranking

AURA ALTAMIRANDA
Staff Writer
aura.altamiranda@fiusm.com

In a recent graduate school update by the US News & World Report, the FIU College of Law made a significant jump in the rankings, rising 19 spots.

Out of 195 spots, the University went from 132nd to 113th.

The jump was celebrated by the dean and faculty as it gave merit to the University as a growing institution for law students.

The jump in ranking, however, gave attention to the University for its other offerings.

The decade-old college ranked first in Florida bar passage last year, organized law clinics for well-versed students to offer legal counseling to members of the community, and performed well in several community, and performed well in several courtroom competitions, one of which was judged by Supreme Court Justice Samuel Alito.

“The rankings are not my top factor but they’re definitely a factor in the back of my head because it is really unheard of for a school that’s 10 years old, or any school for that matter, to jump 19 spots in the rankings,” said Nahmias.

Law professor Noah Weisbord acknowledged FIU’s accomplishments since he began teaching at the University in August 2010, praising the management and the motivation within the college to further its reach.

The US News & World Report rankings are made through what the US News calls “input and output measures” of all universities with accreditation, in this case, by the American Bar Association.

“These rankings are a function of many schools to rise to the top however, comes skepticism in the ranking process. Despite criticism, schools continue to strive to work their way up.”

People always criticize the ranking system, but for some reason, there’s some sort of social desire to end up at the top,” Weisbord said. “We know reasonably that these rankings miss many important factors, but it is human nature. I take it with a grain of salt.”

He continued, “The institution is important and even though FIU isn’t ranked among the top 10, they are certainly advancing.”

COMING UP | News

Check out Monday’s issue for “The Beacon Recommends…” a student voter guide for the 2012-2013 Student Government Elections.

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Panthers take first place over Stetson in UC Invitational

RICO ALBARRACIN
Asst. Sports Director
rico.albarracin@fiusm.com

After finishing seventh at the Clover Cup, hosted by Notre Dame on March 16-18, the Panthers looked to shake off the rough weekend with something positive. Sophomore Shelby Coyle gave them just that.

The FIU women’s golf team came in first place at the 2012 University of Cincinnati Spring Invitational at the Plantation Golf Resort on March 23-25.

The Panthers, who led the competition in all of the event’s three rounds, finished the weekend 14-over-par and 24 strokes ahead of second-place Stetson. Morehead State finished in third with a score of 59-over-par.

Coyle led the way for FIU, finishing in first place on the individual leaderboard with a score of 7-under-par and being the only golfer to finish under par for the weekend. After shooting a score of 69 on the first day of competition, Coyle stayed on par with scores of 72 on both the second and third day to finish with an overall score of 213.

Senior Katie Mundy finished the weekend 2-over-par for a third place tie in the individual leaderboard with Mallory Viera of Stetson, with her best score coming on the final day of the invitational when she scored a 72.

Junior Tania Tare finished tied seventh with a 7-over-par, along with Mary Alice Murphy of Mercer University and Alex Euelow of Stetson. Senior Monica Miller finished the event tied for 11th with a 11-over-par score with Sun Belt Conference rival Anna Wiklund of Florida Atlantic.

Junior Yolecci Jimenez finished off FIU’s scores, shooting a 15-over-par to tie for 25th in the standings.

The Panthers will next take part in the Knights ‘n Pirates Invitational April 9-10 in Melbourne, FL, hosted by the University of Central Florida. Notable schools attending the invitational will be the University of Illinois, Texas Tech and Michigan.

FIU snaps longest losing streak of season against WKU

EDUARDO ALMAGUER
Staff Writer
eduardoalmague@fiusm.com

On March 21, the Panthers took a tie game into the ninth inning and could not come away with a win. Two days later, they found themselves in the same exact position. This time, they made sure to capture the win.

Despite committing a season-high six errors, FIU (9-11, 1-3 SBC) snapped its longest losing streak of the season on March 23 after defeating Conference rival Western Kentucky University (9-13, 1-3 SBC) 6-5.

The first eight runs of the game were scored in the first two innings, as both teams got off to a fast start. After leading the game off with a single, Burns came around to score on senior Pablo Bermudez’ first sacri- fice fly of the game. Shantz, who hit a single after Burns, scored on Martinez’ hard-hit double off the wall one batter later.

Sloppy defense got the better of the Panthers in the bottom of the first inning, as errors by Shantz in left field, Kirsch at first base and freshman Aramis Garcia at the plate, Garcia drove one out to the warning track, however, and ended the inning with no runs. A lengthy rain delay halted the game in the top of the sixth inning, where Hageman was substituted for Tate Glasscock.

In the eighth inning, Shantz led off with a single and eventually stole his team-leading sixth base and ended up at third base by tagging up. Martinez then drove him in to take a 5-4 lead.

The theme of the match continued, however, with WKU tying the game back up after a bases loaded walk in the bottom of the eighth.

With a tie in the game in the top of the ninth inning, Burns drove in Kirsch with his second RBI of the game with a two-out single as his teammates roared from the dugout.

Closer Michael Gomez earned his first win as a Panther, securing the 6-5 victory.

The Panthers took two out of three games over the Hilltoppers, winning 5-3 in 11 innings on March 24 and losing 9-4 on March 25.

The win was FIU’s first in five games and the only win on the road this season. It was at the expense of WKU’s starting pitcher Justin Hageman, reigning Sun Belt Confer- ence Freshman of the Year.

Panthers Nathan Burns, Adam Kirsch and Roche Woodard all recorded three hits in the match with Mike Martinez and T.J. Shantz chipping in two hits each.

Redshirt junior left-hander Mason McVay pitched five innings, allowing one earned run, three walks and six walks.

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Sloppy defense got the better of the Panthers in the bottom of the first inning, as errors by Shantz in left field, Kirsch at first base and freshman Julian Gaines at shortstop allowed the Hill Toppers to tie the score 2-2.

Gaines was hit by a pitch in the second inning and moved to second base on Woodard’s single. With two men on base, Burns drove in Gaines on an RBI single.

After Hageman hit his second batter of the inning, Shantz, Bermudez followed with his second sacrifice fly to make it 4-2.

Once again, however, the Panthers could not hold steady in the field after a failed pick off attempt, and another error by Gaines allowed the Hill Toppers to score two more runs and tie it 4-4.

FIU had a chance to break the game open in the fourth inning when they had the bases loaded and freshman Aramis Garcia at the plate.

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Burri’s sacrifice fly hands
FIU series win over UNT

The Panthers have won four of their last five games dating back to March 14.

ANTHONY GUIVAS
Staff Writer
anthony.guivas@fiusm.com

With the Panthers splitting their double header against North Texas on Saturday, FIU was able to win the rubber game of a three-game series against the Mean Green – this time in an extra-inning affair.

FIU 15-14 (3-1, SBC) took care of North Texas in a tight 6-5 game on March 26 at home.

North Texas got off to a hot start, lacing a pair of home runs in the bottom half of the inning, scoring three runs, cutting the deficit to one. An Ashley McClain single that scored Kayla Burri from second and moved Beth Peller to third got the Panthers started.

With runners on first and second, the North Texas starter issued two bases and a sacrifice bunt, moving the runners over. Alex Casais then hit a shallow fly ball that scored McClain and moved Rojas to third. Grabia then followed up with a bloop-single, handing FIU a 5-4 lead entering the seventh inning.

But North Texas wouldn’t go away. In the seventh, Brooke Foster hit a home run to send the game to extra-innings.

In the eighth, Erik Arcuri led off with a double and was then moved to third thanks to a Megan Horn’s sacrifice bunt. The game then ended on a walk-off sacrifice fly in the top of the ninth inning to give FIU a 6-5 victory.

Jenn Gniadek got the start but only lasted two frames while giving up four earned runs on six hits. Maniah Dawson, who leads the Sun Belt in strikeouts, replaced Gniadek. Unlike the first game of the series where she pitched a complete game but got the loss, Dawson was able to control the tempo for FIU.

“I came in with the mindset that I’m not going to get mad no matter what happens. I’m just going to stay positive towards everyone and stay confident within myself,” Dawson said.

Dawson pitched six innings, allowing only two hits while giving up one run.

North Texas notched another run in the top of the third, extending their lead to 4-0. The FIU bats came out in the bottom half of the inning, scoring three runs, cutting the deficit to one. An Ashley McClain single that scored Kayla Burri from second and moved Beth Peller to third got the Panthers started.

With runners on first and second, the North Texas starter issued two bases on balls—one to Brie Rojas that loaded the bases and one to Jessy Alfonso giving FIU another run on the scoreboard. One out later, Kelsey Grabia laced an infield single to third base, scoring FIU’s third run.

FIU snatched their first lead of the game in the fifth inning as the Panthers played small ball. After getting back-to-back singles from McClain and Rojas, Alfonso laid down a sacrifice bunt, moving the runners over. Alex Casais then hit a shallow fly ball that scored McClain and moved Rojas to third. Grabia then followed up with a bloop-single, handing FIU a 5-4 lead entering the seventh inning.

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MELHOR LEONOR
Asst. News Director
melhor.leonor@fiusm.com
serves as chief of staff.

Samar Patel and Andrew W
sitting down and evaluating

can be heard. Fortune said.

Terese Petrosky*

Giovanni Castro

Nicole Buchely

Benjamin “Ben” Rosa

Giovanni Castro

Peter D. De Grazia Jr.

Benjamin “Ben” Rosa

Giovanni Castro

Peter D. De Grazia Jr.

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Giovanni Castro

Peter D. De Grazia Jr.

Benjamin “Ben” Rosa

Giovanni Castro

Peter D. De Grazia Jr.
New mural leaves a mark

KRISTY SHORE
Contributing Writer
kristy.shore@fiusm.com

Hope, love, and dominoes are just a few of the canvases painted by students, faculty and staff to help a local artist and University alumnus create a mural of health care professionals.

Aramis O’Reilly, a local artist and teacher of painting and drawing at the New World School of the Art, has begun a mural behind the Academic Health Center 3.

“The fact this is a green building designed for the environment and it’s the health and science building is my inspiration for this piece,” said O’Reilly.

The mural has nearby picnic tables and benches for students and faculty to sit while admiring the piece and taking a break from studies and just relax; painting is relaxing,” said Mary Lopez of the University’s Athletic Training Department.

“I get energy to the cell which gives energy to the tree,” said Rodriguez. “I’m excited to see the final project. Faculty and students interacting is a good way to get away from studies and just relax; painting is relaxing.”

The mural is of a tree with leaves like a body, or a system of organisms, necessary, which is why cells are being included on the piece as well,” said O’Reilly.

Over 25 students, faculty and staff have added their own taste to the mural.

Engie Rodriguez, a junior and nursing major, as she painted a mitochondria on one of her canvases.

“It gives energy to the cell which gives energy to the tree,” said Rodriguez. “I’m excited to see the final project. Faculty and students interacting is a good way to get away from studies and just relax; painting is relaxing.”

Mary Lopez of the University’s Athletic Training Department enjoyed making her domino to symbolize her Cuban culture. “We get to represent a little bit of everyone that works in the building.

I look forward to eating and relaxing outside by the mural—and to look for my piece,” she said.

O’Reilly offered his art expertise to the participants as they worked rigorously on their paintings.

“I started at FIU in 1981. There were only four buildings, and the campus wasn’t very large. I came back for their master of fine arts program in the late ‘90s. Almost my entire college life has been here at FIU, which makes me very privileged to be able to give back and be part of this project,” said O’Reilly. “I even met my wife 25 years ago at [Deuxieme Maison] DM!”

Many chose to paint more than one canvas, which was highly encouraged.

“In the health care department, everyone takes care of everyone. Everyone comes together to help each other to form a big family,” said Elizabeth Perez, a junior and psychology major. “It’s nice how everyone is coming together from different departments to decorate the building and leave their little mark.”

The finished product should be done as soon as possible, said O’Reilly.

“I am currently finishing the last layers of the piece. It will be there forever, you know, so anyone involved has been asked to make a leaf or cell as a contribution to the piece.”

Ultra electrified Miami

For more coverage on the Ultra music festival checkout FIUSM.com/Life

FLORIDA INTERNATIONAL UNIVERSITY

SGA ELECTIONS 2012

CAMPAIGN WEEK • 3/28 - 4/4

WEDNESDAY 3/28 • KICKOFF
GC PIT • 12 NOON

THURSDAY 3/29 • MEET & GREET
LAKEVIEW NORTH LOUNGE • 5PM-6PM

MONDAY 4/2 • SENATE DEBATE
GC PIT • 11AM

MONDAY 4/2 • PRESIDENTIAL DEBATE
GC PIT • 12 NOON

TUESDAY 4/3 - 4/4 • FIU ELECTIONS

THURSDAY 4/5 • ANNOUNCEMENT

VISIT OUR WEB SITE FOR MORE CONTENT, VISIT OUR WEB SITE FOR MORE CONTENT, VISIT OUR WEBSITE.
CLASS DISMISSED

Prayer makes its way into the pep rally

On March 23, State Bill 98 was quietly signed into law by our very own Gov. Rick Scott, which will allow students to give “inspirational messages” during school assemblies as of July 1.

This includes leading classmates in prayer. Teachers, however, are still not allowed to do so.

As a Christian, I should be excited about this. I should be glad that students finally have a safe forum to share their beliefs with their peers en masse.

Admittedly, I am cautiously optimistic at best.

This law could indeed be great for students who wish to proselytize and serve as an open forum for the free exercise of their religious freedom and expression. However, I cannot ignore the risk this may pose for students that don’t share the religious beliefs of the majority.

To be more specific, I am not confident that a student who wants to share a passage from the Quran or the Bhagavad Gita will feel comfortable doing so.

We would have appreciated it if we were given a choice to stay behind and remove ourselves from this uncomfortable situation.

Likewise, if a student is to deliver a religiously-charged message under the protection of this law, then students and teachers should be notified beforehand so students can choose to attend rather than being blindsided as we were.

I am all for freedom of religion and religious expression. In fact, I encourage it. However, if this law is going to be of any benefit, schools must honor all sides by allowing freedom for both the devout and the devoid.

Just as these students now have a right to share their message, other students should maintain their right to not listen. In theory, this law is right in lines with our principles; now, let’s see if these principles are either upheld or challenged in practice.

If this law is going to be of any benefit, schools must honor all sides by allowing freedom for both the devout and the devoid.

Response To Letter To The Editor

Student Government needs to focus on responsibilities

To the Student Body,

On March 23, 2012, FIU Student Media published a letter on behalf of SGC-MMC President William O’Keefe responding to Samir Patel. This letter seeks to clarify many of the allegations made in the O’Keefe letter.

It goes without saying that transparency is the cornerstone of good governance. Without transparency, the Student Body cannot know how its resources are being utilized by SGA.

Thus proper implementation of regulations regarding transparency are crucial and, of course, mandatory. Though it appears as if the SGC-MMC has forgotten about the crucial and mandatory point.

The letter written on behalf of O’Keefe is overflowing with political grand-standing and outright lies.

In the letter, the Student Body is told that the current Administration’s prosecution attempts against the Coalition of Students for Reform and its members is nothing more than an attempt at greater transparency.

Without evidence, sans a few sarcastic remarks from a Facebook post, the O’Keefe administration filed its baseless writ. The sole purpose of the writ was for political gain.

This act greatly compromised the integrity of SGA and is an appalling use of our government’s resources and time.

As a testament to the ludicrous nature of the grievance filed against Samir Patel and Carlos Rodriguez, during the Supreme Court hearing the Attorney General uttered statements such as “CSO [Council for Student Organizations] governs SGA, I think…”

This shows a shocking lack of knowledge of how our SGA is structured and a disrespectful lack of preparation to discuss the issues at hand.

Statements showing the complete ignorance of SGA structure were not the only outlandish things stated.

President O’Keefe went on to lie to the court, stating how he had requested minutes from CSR.

If, indeed, had happened, O’Keefe, his administration, and those advising them would have clearly seen that the secretive meetings they alleged took place, had never occurred.

Furthermore, in their attempt to discredit CSR, they point out how they do not know how the finances and membership of the organization work.

Again, had they asked, they could have seen how CSR does not have finances, operating on a budget of $0.

As to our membership, it is clearly displayed on the very same website they used to file the case that membership is open to all FIU students.

Had O’Keefe and his administration bothered to actually ask questions about CSR, perhaps they would not have written the writ, unless of course it was done so for political gain, which is the CSR’s contention.

William Rose Velazquez, President of the Student Government

To read the rest of this article, visit www.fiu.com
2012 SGC-BBC candidates all run unopposed

NADRA MABROUK  
Asst. News Director  
nadra.mabrouk@fiusm.com

It’s election season once again at the Biscayne Bay Campus and students can be ready to receive slices of pizza in exchange for their vote in an across the board, uncontested election.

Campaigning is set to commence today and will run until the opening of voting polls.

Elections for the 2012-2013 Student Government Council at BBC will be occurring on April 3 to 4 with voting polls opening from 9 a.m. to 7 p.m. in Academic One in front of the Financial Aid office.

Students may vote in person or from any computer through my.fiu.edu or through the Student Government Association’s website at sga.fiu.edu under the “Get Involved” tab.

Although there have been two petitions filed through the SGC-BBC Supreme Court pertaining to certain candidates eligibility to run for office, all positions in the 2012 election are uncontested.

A total of 12 senate seats are left vacant, including an Arts & Science, School of Education, Honors College, Hospitality Management, Journalism and Mass Communication, Nursing and Health Science, House, Broward Pines Center, Graduate, and three Lower Division seats.

All but one candidate, Ertha Jean-Francois, will be running as incumbents, with current SGC-BBC Speaker of the Senate Pablo Haspel and current SGC-BBC Senator at Large Oluwatobi Adebayo making the jump from the legislative branch into the executive as president and vice president, respectively.

This is the second year in a row that the SGC-BBC presidential ticket will remain uncontested.

According to Rafael Zapata, Assistant Director of Campus Life and SGA advisor, mass emails will be sent out to the student body urging those eligible to apply for the senator positions still left vacant.

Students may apply starting May 7, the first week of the Summer A term.

According to Zapata, some of the issues that the SGC-BBC will deal with in the 2012-2013 school year will be the plan for Bay Vista Housing in terms of renovating or creating a new building and the expansion that both campuses are undergoing.

In addition, the new green fee initiative, a one dollar per credit hour fee that would be used towards renewable energy and environmental initiatives on campus, will also be a factor in the upcoming academic year’s agenda.

Election results will be announced on April 5.

HEALTH

CAPS to host series of events over the week

DELIAMARY RIVERA  
Contributing Writer  
bbc@fiusm.com

Biscayne Bay Campus Counseling and Psychological Services will hold a Mental Awareness week from March 26-30.

The CAPS Body Image lecture will occur in Bay Vista Housing today from 5 p.m. followed by a CAPS emotional awareness lecture on March 30 at 8 p.m. The lectures hope to aid students in better health.

The first lecture will focus on body image satisfaction with discussions on body esteem as well as male body image.

“A lecture on body image would help me understand that a perfect body does not exist while still helping me expand my knowledge for personal gain and getting my ideal image in a more effective way,” sophomore Alyssa Cardona said.

The residents at Bay Vista, the resident assistant coordinators and CAPS staff will coordinate together for both discussions. This is the second year they will take place in Bay Vista.

“Body Image is everything these days to young people,” sophomore Paolo Ramos said. “We were born in an age of digital enhancement which has made a lot of us have unrealistic expectations on what we should look like. I think that being reminded that it is so much more than that is always a good thing.

2012 CANDIDATES

President  
Pablo Haspel

Vice President  
Oluwatobi Adebayo

Arts and Science  
Senator*

Desir Nonhomme

Communication Senator*  
Ertha Jean-Francois

Business Administration  
Senator  
Ami Nakagawa

Journalism and Mass  
Senator*  
Xue Yan

Communication Senator*  
Kevin Houston

Hospitality Mgmt. Senator*  
Sohrad Omidayo

Senate at Large Senator  
Olivia Dehante

Education Senator  
Abeil Ramos Taype

Vacant

Senior Senator  
Christopher Morisset

Honors College Senator  
Vacant

Vocant  
Nursing and Health  
Sciences Senator  
Vacant

Vocant  
Housing Senator  
Vacant

Vocant  
Broward Pines Center  
Senator  
Vacant

Graduate Senator  
Vacant

*Vacant positions remain

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www.fiusm.com  Wednesday, March 28, 2012

SOUTH FLORIDA UNIVERSITY SCHOOL OF MEDICINE

THE BEACON – 8

Contact Us
Jonathan Sayillo  
BBC Managing Editor  
jonathan.sayillo@fiusm.com

See Notes